

August 29, 2019

Dear 12th Grade Families,

I hope you had a wonderful summer! After having the chance to reconnect with so many of the seniors at Drey Land, it's been great welcoming all the students back to campus this week and seeing the seniors bonding in the Senior Lounge, especially from my office located up above the Commons. This newsletter will keep you apprised of recent events as well as what's on the horizon for the 12th graders over the course of the year.

IMPORTANT DATES AND LINKS

Please bookmark the class calendar on your browser

(<https://sites.google.com/a/jburroughs.org/jbs-calendar-index/home/calendars/2020-class-calendar>), as it will have the most current information about upcoming events. Google Calendar users can subscribe to the calendar from that page as well. Past *Principal Links* as well as other useful information and handouts will be shared on the Principal Page for the Class of 2020 (<https://jburroughs.org/academics/principals-pages/class-of-2020>), so be sure to add it to your bookmarks as well.

Every fall, the Abbotts host a **family picnic** (for you, your students and their siblings, grandparents, faculty and staff). There is no program – it's just a low key buffet lunch in the Quad from 11:30 am to 1 pm on **Saturday, September 7**. If you can make it, please contact [Cindy Schnabel](#).

Mini School for 11th and 12th grade begins at 7 pm on **Monday, September 16**. For the first time, we'll be holding a combined mini school for Grades 9-12. Parents/guardians of students in grades 11 and 12 will gather at 7 pm in the Commons (note this different location) for refreshments and to pick up their schedule for the evening while parents/guardians of students in grades 9 and 10 assemble in Haertter Hall for a 15-minute meeting led by their principal. Once they've been dismissed at 7:15 pm, parents/guardians of juniors and seniors will move to Haertter Hall where I will lead a short meeting. At 7:35 pm, all parents/guardians will head to their child's advisory.

Blue and Gold Week begins on Monday, September 23. The week culminates with the pep rally and bonfire on Friday night and numerous contests between Burroughs and MICDS on Saturday, September 28.

On **Wednesday, October 2**, there will be **no classes for seniors**. We recognize that October is an especially busy month for seniors as they work on their college applications. We also know that our 7th Grade Drey Land program couldn't run without the leadership of our senior counselors, so setting aside this day as a work day for seniors (which means senior counselors will at most miss two rather than three days of school) just seemed to make good sense as we continue to focus on balance in the student experience. Seniors not serving as counselors at Drey Land are encouraged to use this day to continue to revise their application essays and supplements. College counselors will of course be available at school that day.

PARKING AND SENIOR SIGN-OUTS: SAFETY AND SECURITY

Over the summer you should have received a questionnaire requesting information about cars your family members park on campus. We are requesting this for safety and security reasons (i.e., if we need to ask drivers to move their cars to make way for emergency vehicles or to let them know they've left their lights on). If you haven't already, please respond to the brief survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RVSWWSM>. Please note that students who currently drive themselves to school also need to get a parking sticker for their cars. These can be obtained from the front desk. (These are two separate processes.)

Just like last year, we're requiring all seniors who are exercising their privilege of leaving campus when they don't have any obligations to sign in and out. As I explained to the seniors, it's important we know who's on campus in the unlikely event of an emergency.

AP EXAM REGISTRATION

The College Board has revamped the sign-up procedures, deadlines and fee structure for Advanced Placement (AP) exams. Students must now sign up for AP exams in the fall instead of the spring. Students enrolled in an AP class are required to sit for the exam and will sign up in their AP class in September. Students enrolled in a non-AP class for which JBS offers an exam (i.e., Macroeconomics or Statistics) have the option of taking that exam. If they want to take the exam, they will sign-up in class near the end of October. To avoid a \$40 late fee, students must sign up by **Friday, November 1**. Teachers will remind students about the deadline, but ultimately it is the student's responsibility to complete the sign-up by November 1. The cost of each exam, which is storecarded in the spring, remains \$94, but the new cancellation fee is \$40, so students and parents should carefully weigh the decision when ordering any optional exams.

Regardless of whether a student is signing up for a required or an optional exam, they will need to know their College Board user name and password. All students should already have an account from earlier College Board testing (e.g., PSAT, SAT, and/or SAT subject tests). Students will not be able to sign up for exams without access to their account. Students who cannot access their account should visit the College Counseling Office for help. Should you have any questions about the registration process, please contact [Johanna Nicholas](#), our AP coordinator.

TAKING OVER THE HELM

The seniors did a great job planning and running Senior Drey Land. Ninety-six of the 101 seniors attended, and the weather largely cooperated. We managed to escape before the rain arrived on Sunday! While it's true it might have been a bit hot on Saturday, the heat too served its purpose, inspiring the seniors to take their time enjoying the refreshing water of the swimming hole after our float trip. Many seniors took turns on the trapeze trust jump, and it was wonderful to see how the group came together both to celebrate those who made the leap and to encourage (and catch) those who didn't quite make it (including me!). Seniors played cards, games and volleyball, laughed and joked by the campfire, and a handful even painted watercolors with Ms. Allison. Setting the stage for reminiscing and bonding during the weekend was Ms. Bahe's wonderful slideshow of pictures from 7th Grade and Bio Drey Land. The seniors

have come so far from their days as 7th and 9th graders, and it was great fun to see just how small they were back then.

At our first class meeting, Mr. Abbott spoke to the senior class, encouraging them to try new things and to embrace their roles as the new leaders of the school. I shared my hope that the camaraderie that was evident at Senior Drey Land would continue into the school year and reminded them that the legacy of the class of 2020 has yet to be written. I asked them to contemplate what they will be able to achieve this year when they combine commitment and disciplined practice with a focused willingness to notice and observe, to delight in the small things around them each day. This year is going to go fast – of that I’m sure – and I wished them the delight and gift of the ability to savor and appreciate each small moment as it happens.

LOOKING AHEAD

Many seniors will be visiting college campuses over the course of the year. Seniors are allowed three excused absences for college visits. After getting a “green slip” from me well in advance of the absence, they should speak to each of their teachers about their plans for making up missed work, get a parent or guardian’s signature, and return the form to me.

While it is still a long way off, I want to give everyone plenty of warning: May Projects will begin on **Tuesday, April 28**. Seniors will need the *entire month* of May to devote to their projects. Students should not take on any outside commitments for weekdays during May, and families should not plan vacations during that period. The May Project is a graduation requirement, and students will *not* be excused from hours for travel or outside commitments (excepting those that fulfill graduation requirements, such AP exams and Burroughs athletics). In the meantime, students don’t need to worry about their May Projects. I will explain the May Project and provide more details at the January parent meeting.

Thanks to all for helping to get this year off to a great start! See you at Mini School on September 16.

[Jennifer Salrin](#)

Principal, Grades 11 & 12

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