

August 29, 2019

Dear 11th Grade Families,

I hope you had a wonderful summer! It's been great having students back on campus this week and seeing the campus abuzz. This monthly newsletter will keep you apprised of recent events as well as what's on the horizon for the 11th graders over the course of the year.

I've heard so many great things about the members of the class of 2021 from Scott Deken and look forward to getting to know all of them this year. To that end, I plan on sitting in on as many junior classes as I can this term, and of course I also look forward to chatting informally with juniors in the Commons over the course of the year. I hope that I'll get to know all of you this year as well. If you see me at a Burroughs event or wandering the halls, please introduce yourself. And I hope that it goes without saying that you should never hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

IMPORTANT DATES AND LINKS

Please bookmark the class calendar on your browser

(<https://sites.google.com/a/jburroughs.org/jbs-calendar-index/home/calendars/2021-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 2021 (<https://jburroughs.org/academics/principals-pages/class-of-2021>), so 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 16**, all juniors will take the **PSAT** at school in the morning. Students are automatically registered for the exam. Although the exam is not used directly in college

admissions, the PSAT score from the junior year is used to determine who qualifies for the National Merit Scholarship Competition. Therefore, it's recommended that all juniors spend some time preparing for the PSAT. Typically, preparation consists of completing practice exams. Students will receive an informational booklet with practice PSAT questions in late September. Following the PSAT exam in October, juniors will spend the afternoon off campus participating in **Junior Health Day**, which is organized by the Counseling & Wellness Department. Attendance is mandatory. You will receive a mailing with more details about this event closer to the date.

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., Statistics, Economics, or Latin) 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. Students wishing to take the AP English Language exam and/or AP US History exam must log in to their College Board account to sign up for these exams by November 1. Historically, 90% of our juniors typically elect to sit for the AP English Language exam while some 65% choose to take the US History exam.

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.

PARKING: 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 have not done so already, please take a few minutes to respond. The survey can be accessed 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.)

DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGY

A quick reminder: please don't text or e-mail your child during the day. If you need to get your child a message, the front desk is happy to deliver it for you. Students are welcome to use the

phone at the front desk or in the bookstore if they need to speak to you directly during the school day.

Evidence continues to mount suggesting that technological distractions make our daily tasks more challenging. Recent studies have demonstrated that the time it takes to refocus after unplanned interruptions is substantial. In fact, see this NPR [story](#) from July 2018 for analysis of a study that has revealed the troubling ways in which more screen time for adolescents has been linked to ADHD symptoms. What can we do in response? Here's one thing we know for sure: simply disconnecting and unplugging while studying and saving social media for study breaks is the easiest way to reduce homework time and increase the efficiency of studying. In, then, the spirit of prompting new (or perhaps just renewed) study habits for a new school year, I will encourage students to turn off their cell phones, close their Snapchat accounts, and log out of Twitter while they're studying. I hope you will do the same. For strategies and approaches you can use in supporting your child, see [Ana Homayoun's May 2018 article](#) from *The Washington Post*.

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

[Jennifer Salrin](#)

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