

August 29, 2019

Dear 8th Grade Families,

Getting Started

I hope your 8th grader is off to a fine start to the year! Given that we are just six days into the school year, it is very likely that your child has been coming home very tired – this is perfectly normal. Going from the restful days of summer to a busy school schedule with very little down time is exhausting for all of us. In a few weeks, most students will be fully acclimated to the school routine and will feel less tired at the end of the school day.

Welcome to the first *Principal Link* of the year for the Class of 2024. Let me remind you that this is a monthly e-newsletter that I will use both to share information about upcoming events and deadlines and to keep you abreast of news and happenings relating to the 8th grade class.

Class of 2024 Web Page

The [class web page](#) is another resource that I will use to keep you informed about important dates and events in the life of your 8th grader. This is also where you can expect to find links to handouts, mailings and forms.

Technology Letter

At the end of July, your family received a mailing which included a technology letter that is important for all of our families to read. If you haven't read that letter, you may access it [you may access it here](#). For future reference, it is also available on the class web page.

JBS Family Picnic

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](#).

Blue and Gold Weekend

On Friday, September 27, Blue and Gold Weekend begins. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Burroughs and MICDS teams will face off against one another in competitions across many fall sports. After most of the Friday competitions have ended, we will have a student picnic at 6:30 pm, followed by a pep rally and bonfire; these events will end at 8:45. Parents/guardians and alums are invited to watch the bonfire from the Haertter Hall overlook, beginning around 7:30 pm. I hope that you and your child will be able to attend some of the Blue and Gold Weekend events!

Events for Parents

All of our 7th and 8th grade parents/guardians are invited to campus on Wednesday, September 4 for 7th and 8th grade Mini School. At 6:45 pm, we will have refreshments available for you in

the Haertter Hall lobby, and we will begin the program at 7 pm in the Haertter Hall Auditorium. Following my opening remarks, Martha Fischer will share an overview of the 8th Grade Seminar with all 8th grade families in the Newman Auditorium (STAR Building), and then, you will meet with your child's advisor (please bring your calendar because you may be asked to schedule your fall parent conference). After the advisory period, you will meet many of your child's teachers as you walk through your student's abbreviated course schedule. I hope you will be able to attend.

I also hope you'll be able to come to campus on Monday, October 14 for Visiting Day for parents/guardians. On this day, you will pick up your child's class schedule from the main office and will have the opportunity to attend their 1st through 4th period classes. Following 4th period, you should feel free to join us in the Quad for an outdoor lunch. (If bad weather forces us inside, we won't be able to accommodate family members in the dining room – sorry!) To RSVP for the lunch, please contact [Debbie Drummond](#).

After-School Dismissal

For 8th graders, the school day continues until the end of period 10 (period 8 on Fridays). If possible, students should be picked up at dismissal unless they are staying for a specific after-school activity. If your family schedule does not allow for a prompt pick up or your child is staying for a planned activity, I ask that you and your child talk about how to spend that after school time productively and safely. Please remember that there is no specific adult supervision for 8th graders after school, though many adults will still be on campus. Additionally, for the safety of students, we ask that students refrain from leaving campus on their own.

Coming Late/Leaving Early/Missing Class

A couple of reminders: First, if your child arrives late to school, needs to leave early, or will be absent, please contact the front office so your child's absence/tardy will be excused. Calls (314-993-4040), e-mails (swilson@jburroughs.org or jbond@jburroughs.org) or notes (written by you) all work equally well. Second, being in class is important for the continuity of your child's learning. Therefore, we ask that you make every effort not to pull your student out of class. Please try to schedule appointments before school, after school or during a study hall (though I know scheduling routine appointments, like trips to the orthodontist, can get tricky!). If you must schedule appointments during the school day, and you likely will, please try to vary when they are scheduled so your child doesn't repeatedly miss the same class. Also, as you look at the calendar and think about possible travel, we ask that you make every effort to avoid plans that will require your child to miss school beyond the days designated for holiday or school vacations.

Community Service

If you haven't done so already, please submit your child's permission slip for the upcoming community service project (October 22–25), and be sure to send the results of your child's TB test to [Casie Tomlinson](#), our school nurse. Students may not participate in the service project if we don't have a signed permission slip, and it may be difficult to place them at a service agency

if we don't have a recent TB test on record. If needed, you may access the community service permission slip and the driver sign-up form on the Class of 2024 page.

World Food Day

I want to invite you and your 8th grader to participate in St. Louis World Food Day on Friday, November 1 – there is no school on that day. Since 2012, JBS has hosted St. Louis World Food Day, an annual hunger relief event where people of all ages from throughout the St. Louis area come together to package meals for hungry children in St. Louis and Tanzania. In the past, 8th grade families have had the opportunity to package food together during the event, and again this year, grade-level groups will be organized for food packaging. Eighth grade families will work at reserved tables from 2 to 3pm, and should secure spots by signing up through this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/jbs8th>. Ann Dillon is the contact for this event; please contact her directly by phone (314-604-1280) or [e-mail](#) if you have questions.

School Closures

Please remember that school will be closed on Monday, September 2 for Labor Day, on Monday, September 30 for Rosh Hashanah, and on Wednesday, October 9 for Yom Kippur; additionally, school will be closed on Thursday, October 10 and Friday, October 11 so teachers can write preliminary reports.

Kind Regards,

[Julie Harris](#)

Principal, Grades 7 & 8
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