

September 26, 2019

Dear 12th Grade Families,

It was great seeing so many of you at Mini School! Thank you for braving the heat of the evening to experience just a taste of the excitement your children have the opportunity to enjoy each day in their classrooms at Burroughs. I hope you enjoyed every minute. If we didn't get a chance to chat that evening, I hope we will have a chance to do so sometime soon.

PRELIMINARY COMMENTS

You'll receive feedback from all of your senior's teachers on their preliminary comments, which will be written over the long weekend of **October 10-13**. Remember that preliminary comments are not sent to colleges; instead, they are intended to give students a snapshot of their performance so far and guidance on how to improve academically in the upcoming months. (Of course, positive news will be passed along to those schools that accept midterm updates.) While no conferences are scheduled for senior parents, you should not hesitate to contact your student's college counselor if you would like to meet.

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

You don't need to be reminded that the seniors are not only working hard on their college applications but also spending a lot of time worrying about college. For many, this anxiety carries over into other parts of their life. While that's understandable (and certainly very common!), anything you can do to establish boundaries as to when it's okay (or not okay) to talk about college will go a long way toward reducing your child's anxiety. For example, I had an advisee who made a deal with his parents to limit college talk to Wednesdays and Saturdays. He still got everything finished on time, and I'm convinced that his relationship with his parents came out stronger in the end. Another student found that it helped for her parents to write her questions about the college process on a notepad in the kitchen with the understanding that she would respond, on her own time, at some point within three days. Her parents still received the information they were seeking, and she had space to take the time she needed so she didn't feel overwhelmed. We've been telling the seniors the same thing during advisory. Working together, it's our goal to help our seniors keep their anxiety at a manageable level.

A quick reminder: at 7 pm on Thursday, **October 3**, the College Counseling Department will host a Financial Aid Seminar for parents and guardians in Haertter Hall. It's an extremely informative program on what can often feel like a confusing process. If you think your child might need tuition aid, you won't want to miss it.

THE YEARBOOK

Yearbook deadlines are approaching. Mike Gesiakowski and Sorsha Maness, the yearbook faculty sponsors, recently spoke to the seniors about their senior photos and paragraphs for the yearbook. As I mentioned at Mini School, you can find the handouts detailing Yearbook information (including how to order senior ads) on the [Principal Page](#). If you have any yearbook-related questions, contact [Mike Gesiakowski](#).

Yearbook Deadlines

- Senior Paragraph and Senior Photos are due Monday, **November 11**
- Yearbook Ads are due Monday, **December 2 at 4 pm**

BLUE & GOLD DANCE

After the excitement of Blue and Gold Weekend, the next big event for seniors is the Blue & Gold Dance, which will be held on campus from 8:30 to 11 pm on Saturday, **October 19**. I want to take this opportunity to share the guidelines for student dances with you. Because we want all Burroughs students to have a healthful, safe and enjoyable experience at such school-sponsored functions, I hope you will use this event as an opportunity to talk with your child about safe driving and the dangers and legal issues surrounding the use of alcohol and illicit drugs. Following are the guidelines for the Blue & Gold Dance, which I will review with all juniors and seniors before the dance:

- All students must check in at the entrance to the dance. This process helps the dance chaperones keep track of how many students are present, take attendance if necessary and collect fees when appropriate.
- As in the past, in order to encourage on-time arrival, fines will be imposed for late arrivals. Starting at 9:01 pm, it will cost an additional \$5 to enter the dance. The late fee increases each half hour (in \$5 increments) until 10:30 pm, when admission to the dance is no longer permitted. The late fees can be paid only in cash – no store-carding. Student Congress wants the student, not the parent/guardian, to be penalized for late arrivals. Again, no students will be admitted to the dance after 10:30 pm.
- Student Congress wants students to know that a student's decision to come to the dance is a decision to stay for the entirety of the dance. Our hope is that students will have fun as a group until the end, especially given all the hard work Congress has put into planning an enjoyable evening for everyone.
- The Blue & Gold Dance is for students in grades 10 through 12 only. One guest per student is allowed to attend the event unless otherwise specified by the event organizers. Students are responsible for the behavior of their guests. If a guest violates a school rule, the Burroughs host will be disciplined.
- The Major School Rules and the Drug Policy (copies of which can be found in the Student/Parent Handbook) are in effect at all school-sponsored events. Students are responsible for understanding these rules before attending the event. If a student is found to be in violation of one of these rules, the student will be asked to give up their car keys, and a parent/guardian will be called to pick up the student. Further disciplinary action will be taken at the appropriate time. For the sake of clarity, it is important to note that all disciplinary cases involving the use of illegal drugs have resulted in expulsion, and all disciplinary cases involving alcohol have resulted, at a minimum, in suspension.
- The school is concerned about the use of limousines and so-called party buses. Although using a limousine represents a safe alternative for student drivers, such arrangements should not be made to facilitate the use of alcohol or drugs. All students sharing a limousine also share the responsibility for the behavior of the other students inside that vehicle and are subject to disciplinary action if rules are broken. Simply put, students should not get into a vehicle in which alcohol or drugs are present. If your child is planning to use a limousine or bus, please thoroughly investigate the chaperoning policies and procedures of the company in question.

Thank you to the parent volunteers who are devoting so much time to help with the dance, and we hope that all of you will encourage your children to arrive in a timely manner in order to enjoy the dance and to show appreciation for the work of these volunteers.

CLASS DINNER BEFORE BLUE & GOLD DANCE

As you know, many students like to go out to dinner before school dances. Last year all seniors (and their dates) were invited to a prom dinner at a local country club. Interested students paid for their own dinners and many parents joined them at the front end to take pictures. The pre-prom event was quite popular, and Jennifer and Matt Williams, Pia and Matt Koster, and Dee and David Stokes have offered to sponsor a similar event before Blue & Gold for the Class of 2020 at Bellerive Country Club. The class will receive an e-vite to the dinner next month. In the meantime, we just want to be sure that you're aware of the student dinner and the cocktail reception for parents before the dinner. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Jennifer Williams, Pia Koster, or Dee Stokes.

GRADUATION

A few of you have approached me with questions about graduation, asking what you should be doing. At this point, other than meeting the yearbook deadlines, the short answer is nothing. Phew! On Monday, **January 27**, there will be a parent meeting during which I will go over all the important details about graduation and the May Project. (And if you don't yet know what this is, don't worry. A detailed description will follow in a later mailing.) In addition, beginning in early December, the Graduation Committee chairs and I will send out a series of mailings outlining everything you need to know when you need to know it.

CLASS RINGS

If your senior is interested in purchasing a class ring, a representative from Jostens will be available on Wednesday, **November 6**, during buffet lunch, to measure ring sizes and take orders. As soon as I get the informational flyers, I will post a PDF on the [Principal Page for the Class of 2020](#).

PARENT/GUARDIAN VISITING DAY

You are invited to campus on Monday, **October 14** for Visiting Day. On this day, you will pick up your child's class schedule from the front office and will have the opportunity to observe your child's morning classes. Following 4th period classes, feel free to join us for lunch in the Quad. (If bad weather forces us inside, we won't be able to accommodate parents in the dining room – sorry!) To RSVP for the lunch, please contact [Debbie Drummond](#).

LOOKING AHEAD

The next *Principal Link* will be sent at the end of October. Look for it at an inbox near you! In the meantime, though it may not yet feel like it, I hope you're enjoying the first few days of fall.

[Jennifer Salrin](#)

Principal, Grades 11 & 12

314-993-4040, ext. 325