

January 16, 2020

Dear 12th Grade Families,

A belated Happy New Year!

THE HOME STRETCH

Last week, I reminded seniors that it is essential that they keep working in all of their courses, even if they have already been admitted to college. Some seniors may feel that it's normal, even acceptable, to slack off. I hope you will join me in dispelling that notion. Summer is the time to take it easy, not second semester. In fact, I urge you to avoid using the term "senioritis" – by naming this phenomenon, we risk normalizing it and thus potentially endorsing it.

It's important for seniors to continue to put in their best effort, not simply because colleges have the right to rescind admission offers or to put students on academic probation due to poor final grades. The record is clear: students who continue to work through the end of April tend to fare better in their first term in college. Students can get "out of shape" academically for lack of practice, just as they can athletically. Perhaps most importantly, students should continue to do their best work out of respect for their teachers, who will continue to prepare with equal enthusiasm and commitment until the last days of school. Having taught seniors for more than a decade, I can say it's very dispiriting to show up for class excited to discuss the day's topic only to find that many students aren't prepared. Seeing their lack of preparation detract from the experience of those students who want to keep learning makes matters even worse. And you needn't take just my word for it; [check out what the experts have to say](#).

UPCOMING DATES AND COLLEGE VISITING

I hope to see all of you at 7 pm on **Monday, January 27** in Haertter Hall for our final parent/guardian meeting. At that meeting, we will cover important information about graduation, May Projects and remaining college counseling issues. If you are unable to attend, please have a friend take notes.

Please remember that students are allowed only three excused absences for college visiting over the course of senior year and that students must complete a green slip for the absences to be excused. Green slips can be obtained from me and require signatures from the student's teachers, college counselor and a parent/guardian. Students who do not follow the appropriate procedures forfeit their right to be able to make up missed work and should also expect to earn detention hours.

MAY PROJECTS

The May Project process officially begins this month. For this experience, seniors will design a project during which they work in a new setting with new people at an organization that benefits the greater community. Some students may choose to complement this experience with an internship. Keep in mind that the May Project is intended to be a student-driven experience. Seniors have been assigned a JBS faculty member as their May Project advisor who will guide them with the design of their project and keep tabs on their progress. I will provide more details about the May Project at the January 27 meeting.

Although their projects do not begin until Tuesday, April 28, seniors should begin planning now. The **first deadline**, to turn in their project proposal sheet, is **Wednesday, February 5**. The [guidelines](#) for

the May Project were mailed home with fall grades and are available via a link on the [Principal Page for the class of 2020](#). A database of past projects is also available to students to help them come up with ideas. On **Wednesday, March 4**, seniors will not have classes (Prefect Day Off). While they are not required to be at school, they are expected to use part of their day to meet in person with the sponsor of their proposed project(s) on site. At this meeting, they will plan their schedule and review their duties with the sponsor. This essential step ensures that students have meaningful and successful projects. The **final project proposal** is due on **Friday, March 6**. Remember, the May Project is a graduation requirement, and all students will be busy throughout the month of May. Please do not schedule any travel or commit your child to other non-Burroughs activities on any weekdays in May.

GRADUATION INVITATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

You can order graduation invitations and announcements from Jostens online by visiting this [link](#). Orders are due today (**Thursday, January 16**); orders can still be placed through the end of the month although these late orders will cost more and arrive later. After January 31, orders are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. Purchasing these items is, of course, optional. On the Class of 2020 Principal Page you can find [an image](#) of a sample announcement. Any questions about Jostens products, the website or technical issues, should be directed to our Jostens representative, Sam Glennon, at 636-230-7350.

Here's to a great final term!

[Jennifer Salrin](#)

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