

October 24, 2019

Dear 12th Grade Families,

We are now more than halfway through the fall semester. How time flies!

Preliminary Comments

You should have already received your child's preliminary comments in the mail, but if for some reason you didn't, [e-mail me](#) and I will send you a copy. Unlike past years, there is not a mandatory conference for families of seniors. Obviously, you should feel free to schedule a meeting with your child's college counselor if you'd find such a conversation helpful.

Preliminary comments are intended to give students a snapshot of their work so far and to provide suggestions about how they can improve in the coming months. As you work to support and encourage your child, keep in mind what we discussed at the beginning of the year: focusing on specific goals for growth is always more helpful than getting bogged down in grades and scores. Continue to remind your senior that teachers are here to help and guide them, and it is easiest for teachers to do so when students communicate with them. As the experiences of Burroughs alums demonstrate, students who learn to ask for help and act upon their instructors' advice have the most seamless transitions to college. Keep in mind that while preliminary comments are not sent to colleges, we certainly share positive snippets from the comments when colleges ask for or are willing to receive updates.

AP Exam Registration: Final Reminder

Remember that due to changes in the College Board's timeline, the deadline for signing up for Advanced Placement exams is Friday, **November 1**. Students enrolled in an AP class are required to sit for the exam and have already been signed up – or will be signing up – for their AP exam in class. 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 must sign up by Friday, November 1, to avoid a \$40 late fee. Teachers will remind students about the deadline, but ultimately it is the student's responsibility to complete the sign-up by November 1. Should you have any questions about the registration process, please contact Johanna Nicholas, our AP coordinator.

Class Rings

If your senior is interested in purchasing a class ring, a representative from Jostens will be available during buffet lunch on Wednesday, November 6, to measure ring sizes and take orders. An [informational flyer](#) has been posted on the Principal Page for the Class of 2020.

Yearbook Reminder

At this month's class meeting, members of the yearbook staff also reminded seniors that all senior photos and paragraphs for the yearbook are due Monday, November 11. Yearbook ads are due Monday, December 2 by 4 pm. More [information](#) is available on the Principal Page.

Thanksgiving Speaker & Holiday

Every year the senior class selects one of its members to speak to the student body at our Thanksgiving Assembly. They are asked to consider who might have a particularly resonant message about gratitude and giving to share with our community. Our students, faculty and staff regularly point to this tradition as one of the most memorable and meaningful experiences of the year. We're all excited to see who will speak this year! The seniors will vote on October 30, so be sure to ask your student who they select.

There will be no school the Wednesday before Thanksgiving to give students a longer break and to make it easier for families to leave town for the holiday. Please do not take your student out of school early on Tuesday, November 26. Doing so puts unnecessary pressure on students to catch up and on teachers who need to help them do so. As you can imagine, it's also very disruptive to classes when several members of the class are absent. As I mentioned in my summer mailing, students who miss school that Tuesday will not be excused from assignments.

The next *Principal Link* will come out in December. Until then, Happy Halloween and Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

[Jennifer Salrin](#)

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