

January 16, 2020

Dear 11th Grade Families,

A belated Happy New Year! I hope that your student came home last week excited from the alumni college fair and college program designed just for juniors and seniors. And I hope the advice and experiences shared by the student panelists was helpful and made your student even more eager to begin the college process in earnest. I know our college counseling team is very much looking forward to getting to work with the juniors! Remember that you're more than welcome to schedule your family's initial meeting with your student's college counselor. Keep in mind that your student should complete the online college planning form at least three days before your family meeting.

MAKING SUMMER PLANS

Even as your junior remains focused on challenging themselves to do their best work in their courses, they may also want to begin thinking about how they'll spend their time this summer.

While in the past you may have found the annual Summer Opportunities Fair (which takes place this year at MICDS on **Saturday, January 25**) to be a helpful resource, there are many additional resources you can consult, especially if your child is interested in pursuing a specific interest or talent.

Your student can use Naviance Student to identify many summer programs — click on “Enrichment Programs” under the “Colleges” tab. Information about still other possibilities can be found on the bulletin board outside of College Counseling or listed on the JBS [Outside Opportunities website](#). Keep in mind that some programs require recommendations, so be sure to plan ahead.

Also, as you make summer plans, remember that Senior Drey Land for the Class of 2021 has been tentatively scheduled to take place from Saturday, August 15 through Monday, August 17. While every year some seniors are unable to join us for this weekend, I hope that this advance notice will enable as many students as possible to attend.

COLLEGE VISITING

You may wish to take advantage of long weekends in the winter term (January 18-20, February 7-9, and February 15-17) to visit colleges while minimizing school absences. Juniors are allowed two excused absences to visit colleges but they must complete a green slip ahead of time. Green slips can be obtained from me and require signatures from the student's teachers, college counselor and a parent/guardian. We require that students complete the form to make sure that teachers are aware of absences in advance so they can help students develop a plan for making up missed work.

COURSE REGISTRATION and COUNSELING & WELLNESS EVENT

On **Wednesday, March 4**, juniors will not have classes; instead, they will get an overview of course offerings for senior year and an explanation of the registration process. In addition, the Counseling & Wellness Department will host a program led by educators from Safe Connections on sexual assault awareness; the focus of the program will be consent. The day will begin with an 8:15 am assembly, and the program will run until lunch. After a picnic-style lunch, students will be dismissed for the afternoon. Attendance is mandatory for all juniors.

Here's to a great second semester!

[Jennifer Salrin](#)

Principal, Grades 11 & 12

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