

September 26, 2019

Dear 11th Grade Families,

It was great seeing so many of you at Mini School! I hope you had an enjoyable evening in the company of your students' enthusiastic and engaging teachers. If we didn't get a chance to chat that evening, I hope we will have a chance to do so sometime soon. October promises to be a busy month. As you'll see below, there are several dates you'll want to mark on your calendar.

PRELIMINARY COMMENTS

You'll receive feedback from all of your children's teachers in preliminary comments, which will be written over the long weekend of **October 10-13**. Remember that preliminary comments are not final grades; instead, they are intended to give students a snapshot of their performance so far and guidance on how to improve academically in the coming months. If advisors haven't done so already, they will be in touch shortly to set up conferences to go over the reports and to discuss any other questions you may have. As you discuss these reports with your juniors, it is always helpful to ask them to point out areas in which they have been successful thus far as well as asking them to come up with specific plans for how they might continue to improve. Remind them that this process of meaningful self-reflection – of learning and growth – is one that is never-ending.

BLUE & GOLD DANCE

After the excitement of Blue and Gold Weekend, the next big event for juniors 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 storecarding. 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, they 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.

JUNIOR PARENT/GUARDIAN MEETINGS

There will be an informational meeting for all junior parents at 7 pm on Monday, **October 7**, in Haertter Hall. At this meeting, I will speak about issues specific to the junior year and provide some guidance on standardized testing (SAT, ACT, AP). Nanette Tarbouni will give an overview of the college advising program at Burroughs. Please mark your calendars for Thursday, **November 14** (7 pm in Haertter Hall), for a much more extensive meeting on the college application process for all parents and guardians. Note as well that if you'd like to get a jump-start on learning about the financial aid process for next year, you're invited to a Financial Aid Seminar for parents hosted by the College Counseling Department in Haertter Hall at 7 pm Thursday, **October 3**.

PSAT & HEALTH DAY

At 8 am on Wednesday, **October 16**, juniors will take the **PSAT** at school in the field house; all juniors have already been registered for the exam. Although the exam is not used directly in the college admissions process, the PSAT score from the junior year is used to determine who qualifies for the National Merit Scholarship Competition. Therefore, juniors should spend some time practicing for the PSAT. Students are encouraged to prepare online through Khan Academy's free online PSAT/SAT prep offerings ([here](#)).

Immediately following the PSAT, juniors will spend the afternoon at Ladue Chapel taking part in the **Junior Health Day** program, which is organized by the Counseling & Wellness Department. Be on the lookout for a mailing (via snail mail, not e-mail) with more details about this event. Please do not plan other activities for your child, as the program is mandatory.

MAINTAINING INTEGRITY

Junior year has historically been a year in which some students consider taking shortcuts at the expense of their integrity. As a school, we are making a concerted effort to talk about the consequences – to ourselves and those around us – of integrity violations, to clarify policies and practices for students, and to reduce the opportunities for transgressions. Please take the time to

discuss this important issue with your children, not simply to avoid the potential consequences of such indiscretions, but also because patterns of behavior established now are likely to “snowball” during their college years and beyond. Remind your juniors that it’s unfair to their peers, teachers and families to cheat, and that it’s always better to seek out an adult’s assistance and take a late penalty than to compromise their integrity. An insightful NPR piece entitled “Why Good People Do Bad Things” can be found by following this link: <http://n.pr/1hb9YHO>. If you find that story interesting, the following talk by Dan Ariely, an expert in the roots of dishonesty, is worth viewing: https://youtu.be/XBmJay_qdNc.

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 much feel like it, I hope you’re enjoying the first few days of fall.

[Jennifer Salrin](#)

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