

January 16, 2020

Dear 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Families,

Happy New Year! I hope you and your families had a great winter holiday season and a restful break. We are back in full swing and students are already working hard as they continue with their core classes and some new electives.

Thank you for your flexibility with the weather challenges during finals week. Students did a great job taking things in stride with their exams and I hope that they felt good about their first semester results.

### **Grades**

I hope your children have had some time to process their grades and have good discussions about them with you. Some students may have been really happy with their grades, while others may feel that they weren't quite what they had hoped for. Some may also wonder the impact their grades have as they build their academic records before applying to college.

If students aren't happy with their overall performance (and even if they are happy), 2<sup>nd</sup> semester is a great time to evaluate their study habits; to meet with teachers to make sure that they have a strong foundational base necessary to continue to be successful this semester; and to develop a growth mindset to learn from mistakes and challenges.

In today's environment of unpredictable competitive admissions, we tend to think that it is only the students who have perfect records who have a shot at the most competitive schools. This is not true. There are many different factors that are considered in admissions and many different schools. We'll help them unpack these factors and find colleges and universities that are strong fits to help them achieve their future goals. Our goal at Burroughs is to help students become lifelong learners, contributors, creative innovators and problem solvers who have a growth mindset and will thrive well after their college years.

For 10<sup>th</sup> graders, we also want to make sure that they are developing their strengths, interests and talents outside the classroom, spending time pursuing activities that they love. In the next few weeks, I plan to meet individually with each 10<sup>th</sup> grader for a short 10-15-minute meeting to talk about their activities, grades, courses and to get to know them a little better one-on-one.

### **Common Day with College Counseling**

On January 28 we will have a special Common Day session for the 10th graders on College Admissions. Nanette Tarbouni, our director of College Counseling, and I will meet with them to discuss various aspects of the college admissions process and to answer their questions.

Nanette and I worked together for many years in admissions at WashU. Nanette has a wealth of experience both as a former admissions director at WashU (I assumed her position when she came to Burroughs!) and as a college counselor. It's great to be working with her again, and I

feel that I have a unique opportunity to get to know our students from a different and in-depth perspective as their principal. We'll continue working with students on various aspects of college admissions in each grade level with more intensive focus beginning in their junior year.

### **Summer Opportunities Fair**

Each year Burroughs, MICDS and Whitfield host a [summer opportunities fair](#), and rotate locations. This year's fair will be held at MICDS on Saturday, January 25 from 10 am to 3 pm. Everyone is welcome. There will be representatives from 160 local, national and international camps and organizations. It's a great way to explore academic enrichment and volunteer opportunities for all grade levels. I encourage you and your children to attend to explore these opportunities as well as to spark areas of interest.

### **Important Dates**

Here are some other important dates to keep in mind:

- **Monday, January 20 — MLK Day/ Day of Service** School will be closed this day but we hope that students will participate in service projects with peers, faculty and staff. Please see this [flyer](#) for more information and encourage your children to participate. It's a great way for them to explore community service.
- **Friday, January 24 and Saturday, January 25 — Dance Show** Performances begin at 7:30 pm in Haertter Hall.
- **Friday, February 7 — Faculty Professional Day** School is closed.
- **Monday, February 18 — Presidents' Day** School is closed.
- **Wednesday, March 4 — Faculty Report Writing/Grade level programs** You will get a brief update on how your child is doing halfway through the second semester. Faculty have been given a day to write these comments. Students are not excused from school and will participate in a half-day grade-level program. The 10th grade will have Career Day. We will bring in JBS alumni who are professionals in various fields such as artificial intelligence, medicine, business, and other areas. Students will get to choose to meet with these professionals to learn about their fields and career paths.

Faculty and staff have told me that the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester flies by quickly. I'm looking forward to spending time with your children and participating in our all their activities and programs!

All the best,

[Julie Shimabukuro](#)

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