

December 12, 2019

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

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday with time to relax and enjoy with your family. It's hard to believe that we are wrapping up our first semester and winter sports are in full swing!

Thank you to all who contributed to our Sophomore Breakfast fundraiser. The kids sold 292 tickets, and everyone enjoyed all of your homemade delicious treats! It was a great preview for the holiday season.

### **Finals Week**

This busy first semester is rapidly ending and final exams are in sight. English papers are due the Friday before finals on December 13, and exams for other core courses will take place Monday through Thursday, December 16–19 at 10 am. Regular classes do not meet Monday through Thursday during exam week for our high school students.

Students are not required to be here until their exam starts, and they can leave campus when they are finished, but lunch will be served if they choose to stay. Please also note that we have scheduled an exam make-up day for Friday, December 20, in case it is needed. This make-up day will only be used if school has to be cancelled sometime during that week due to weather. If you are making plans for winter break, please schedule your departures around this make-up exam day.

### **Exam Preparation**

I've asked advisors to devote an advisory period to discuss exam preparation. I have posted a slide presentation by Scott Deken on the 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Principal page (under the "Handouts and Mailings" section). Dr. Deken's presentation focuses on effective study techniques based on cognitive neuroscience research. Some of his key points include prioritizing time to study; spacing out time to study vs. cramming information; using active studying techniques; working toward understanding; taking small breaks; eating well, exercising and getting enough sleep; and having a proper mindset.

### **Academic Integrity**

Sometimes the stress that comes with a deadline for a major paper and final exams leads to students figuring out ways to cut corners. Cheating hurts students by giving them a false sense of accomplishment. It is unfair to those who follow the rules, it is unfair to you because you have made sacrifices to send your child to Burroughs, and it is unfair to the reputation of the entire community. If your child is feeling terribly behind, please encourage them to seek out their teachers to discuss what can be done.

### **PSAT Results**

In mid-October your child took the PSAT test. Nanette Tarbouni, our director of college counseling, sent an e-mail last week to let you know that the PSAT results can be found through your student's College Board account. Students should be able to log on and get their scores, but if they have any difficulty, please contact Ms. Tarbouni. In 10<sup>th</sup> grade, the PSAT test is purely

for practice. The results of the test allow students to see where their strengths and weaknesses lie and to help us guide them accordingly regarding future standardized testing.

I wish you peace and joy for the holiday season and safe travels if you are going out of town. I hope you enjoy this time with your family and have some time to rest and recharge. As I reflect on this past semester, I am grateful for the opportunity and privilege to work with your children and to be a part of this wonderful community. I look forward to the new year and to a new semester!

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