

September 26, 2019

Dear 10th Grade Families,

This first month of school has flown by and it's hard to believe that it is almost October. It was great seeing many of you at Mini School. Thank you for introducing yourselves to me and for welcoming me to JBS! I'm so glad that you were able to meet with our teachers, who are building wonderful relationships with your children.

With school now in full swing, I'd like to highlight some key events that are coming up for your children.

PRELIMS & FAMILY CONFERENCES

School will be closed for a long weekend on **October 10 and 11**. During these days, faculty members assess their students and prepare detailed preliminary reports. These reports are then mailed to you for you to see how your children are progressing this year. The reports serve as the basis of the parent conferences with your children's advisors that will take place during late October and November. This marks an informal "half-way" point for the semester and gives students ample time to adjust their work efforts, if needed, and to increase their mastery of each subject.

As your children read through these assessments, please help them recognize their strengths and continue to encourage them in these areas. Please also help them understand the comments that may highlight areas for growth and that are written to help them find successful strategies to master the material in their classes. Teachers want their students to be successful – to build foundational knowledge and to be confident and engaged learners. These preliminary comments can help them find this success.

Advisors will contact you to set up a convenient time to meet in person to discuss these comments with you. Please anticipate a phone call or e-mail to arrange a time to visit campus to meet with the advisor. Advisors enjoy getting to know you as much as they have enjoyed getting to know your children.

PSAT

On Wednesday, **October 16**, your child will take the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) exam on campus. The Sophomore Health Day will follow. I want to explain some of what will be going on that day.

For 10th graders, this test is for practice only. It will help them see where their strengths lie and help them find areas where review might prove useful before they take the test again next year. They should not be stressed about this test since it is only given to help them anticipate what they will see on the test when it does count for a little more. The PSAT prepares them for their junior year, when they take the SAT (a standardized test used for college admission), and it will determine whether they qualify for National Merit recognition. Here is a website link that

will help them anticipate what that test will be like:

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/about.html>

Your children do not have to be here for assembly but should arrive on campus by 8 am to guarantee that they get to the testing room on time. They will need to bring a couple of pencils and their school calculator. The calculator is optional, but I imagine that they will feel more comfortable if they have one.

HEALTH DAY

Following the PSAT on Wednesday, **October 16**, all 10th graders will eat lunch during their normal lunch period. After lunch, they will participate in a health seminar that will focus on drug and alcohol education. Dr. Scott Deken will begin the seminar with a presentation on brain development and the effects of drug and alcohol use. Dr. Deken has his Ph.D. in neuroscience from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and was a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology at Washington University. After Dr. Deken's presentation, the students will attend break-out sessions of their choice. This event has been well-received in the past, and the 10th graders know Dr. Deken since he was their principal last year. I'm confident that the students will learn a lot from the day and will have good discussions with each other. Health Day will end by 3 pm so students may participate in their athletic commitments.

BLUE & GOLD DANCE

The Blue & Gold Dance, for 10th-12th graders, will be held on campus from 8:30 to 11 pm on Saturday, **October 19**. Since this is the first dance that the 10th graders attend, I'd like to share our guidelines for student dances with you. Because we want all Burroughs students to have a healthful, safe and enjoyable experience at these school-sponsored functions, I hope you will use this event as an opportunity to talk with your children about responsible and safe behavior, as well as kindness to others. The following are guidelines for the Blue & Gold Dance, which we will review with all the 10th-12th graders 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. Arrivals and departures must occur in the Price Road lot, since the rest of campus will be closed.
- 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. Use of JBS storecards will not be allowed. Student Congress would like the students, not the families, 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 it is their expectation that everyone stays 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.

- One guest per student is allowed to attend the event unless otherwise specified by the event organizers. Students who are not 10th, 11th or 12th graders may not attend the dance. 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 have been in violation of one of these rules, they will be asked to give up their car keys, and a parent 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 and highly discourages their use. We encourage families of our 10th graders to drop off and pick up their children. Although using a limousine may represent a safe alternative for student drivers, such arrangements should not be made to facilitate the use of alcohol or drugs. All students who choose to share 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 for your partnership in reviewing these guidelines for the Blue & Gold Dance with your children. We hope that this dance is a fun and safe event that they can all enjoy!

I'm looking forward to participating in all these events with your children this fall, and my first high school dance in many years!

PARENT/GUARDIAN VISITING DAY

If you enjoyed Mini School or weren't able to attend, Parent Visiting Day on Monday, **October 14** is an opportunity to see your children in action with their teachers. You can observe your children in real time, 1st through 4th periods (approximately 9 am to noon). If there is nice weather, parents are welcome to stay for an outdoor lunch with their students. If there is inclement weather, students will have regular lunch in the dining room and unfortunately, space won't allow us to accommodate parents.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance to you or to your children.

With best regards,

[Julie Shimabukuro](#)

Principal, Grades 9 &10

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