

December 12, 2019

Dear 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Families,

### **Community Service Week**

The 8<sup>th</sup> graders had a great week of service. They worked hard at their assigned agencies, and they were challenged in unique and meaningful ways. Thank you to those who were able to drive 8<sup>th</sup> graders to/from their service locations – this learning experience would not have been possible without your help!

### **December Schedule**

As you may remember, the middle school schedule right before winter break is a bit out of the ordinary. School will dismiss at 2:50 pm from Monday, December 16 through Thursday, December 19. However, choir and orchestra students will have 3 pm holiday program rehearsals on Monday, December 16 and Tuesday, December 17. On Wednesday, December 18, choir and orchestra students will perform in the holiday program at 3:30 pm; this performance is primarily for Burroughs students, faculty and staff. On Thursday, December 19, they will perform in the holiday program at 5:30 and 7:30 pm (dinner will be provided between performances); this show is primarily for families and JBS alums. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the holiday program, it includes some traditional Christmas music and imagery, but it is foremost an artful collaboration of our Fine Arts, Theatre and Music departments; we hope students and families of all beliefs, backgrounds and traditions will come out and enjoy this special performance. And remember, everyone is invited to the Winterlude – a community-wide gathering for cookies and cocoa in the Commons between 6:30 and 7:30 pm on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **Time to Relax**

We will be on winter break from Friday, December 20 through Sunday, January 5. During that time, we hope students will plan to relax, spend time with family and friends, and do some of the things that they have been unable to do during the busy fall months. Homework will not be assigned to students over winter break, but in some courses, long-term projects have already begun and will be due by the end of the semester (Friday, January 17). Your child may choose to work on long-term projects over the break, but this is not our expectation.

### **End-of-Semester Expectations**

As we approach the end of the semester, many teachers will complete units in their courses, so please don't be surprised if there is an increase in the number of tests and projects at that time. If students have trouble juggling those demands, they should plan to meet with their advisor and/or teachers to get help with planning and study strategies. On Tuesday, January 21, we will begin the second semester, and students will switch to their second-semester courses.

### **ERB Testing**

On Thursday, January 9, all 8<sup>th</sup> graders will take the *Reading Comprehension* and *Quantitative Reasoning* sections of the ERB (Educational Records Bureau) CTP-4 test. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders should bring No. 2 pencils (non-mechanical) for this test, but they should not bring a calculator, as those are not permitted. Testing will begin promptly at 8:15 am in the field house (students should arrive no later than 8 am) and will run through second period. After the test, students will follow their regular schedules. No preparation is needed for ERB, but we do recommend that students get a good night's sleep before the test and that they eat a good breakfast that morning. The information we gather from these tests is used to identify individual and grade-level patterns. ERB results will be mailed home once they have been processed by the testing agency.

Happy Holidays!

Julie Harris

Principal, Grades 7 & 8

314-993-4045 ext. 219

[jharris@jburroughs.org](mailto:jharris@jburroughs.org)