

October 24, 2019

Dear 7th Grade Families,

Preliminary Reports and Parent Conferences

During our recent fall break, teachers were busy writing preliminary comment reports for each student they teach. Immediately following that writing period, the parent conference window for families of 7th and 8th grade students was opened. Many families have already met with their child's advisor to review the reports, and others will convene those meetings very soon. Our goal is to complete all 7th and 8th grade conferences by the end of the day on Friday, November 1. If your conference is not yet scheduled, please feel free to contact your child's advisor about setting up this important meeting.

After conferencing with the advisor, I urge you to review the reports with your child – celebrating the aspects which indicate positive growth and discussing strategies for moving past challenges and onto more meaningful learning and exploration.

Seminar Class

The 7th Grade Seminar class provides students with a chance to hear from different members of the Burroughs community. During the week of September 17, students visited the library where they got oriented to the JBS library procedures, and in early October, members of the library staff again taught the course – this time, focusing on social media and privacy. Last week, I led the students in a discussion about identity, during which I urged them to think carefully about their own unique identity and the identity of others, particularly those in the room; we will continue the identity dialogue for several weeks throughout the fall and winter. During the week of October 28, Paul Knight (chair of the Academic Support Department) will lead the seminar classes, providing students some insight into the challenges that some face as part of the learning process, and the week after that, Meghan Rathert (director of Service Learning) and a team of Montgomery Plan leaders will speak to the 7th graders about service learning opportunities that are available to the Burroughs student body. Whether I am teaching the seminar class or an expert from within our community is taking the lead, your kids are engaged and interested, and they bring life and energy to the class discussions. They keep us thinking, they keep us laughing, and they are a joy!

Music Concerts

All of our students will perform in one of our upcoming music concerts, which highlight the hard work and talent of students in grades 7 through 12. Our musicians will take the Haertter Hall stage as follows: the Band Concert - November 5, the Orchestra Concert - November 7, and the Choir Concert - November 12. Each concert will begin at 7:30 pm. The music teachers will provide information about the necessary arrival times and concert attire for performers. I hope you'll be able to attend.

7th Grade Parent Party

I also hope you'll be able to attend the 7th grade parent party on Friday, November 1. If you have questions about that event, please contact Nicole DiMartini (ndimart@icloud.com) or Stephanie Zwicker (parkstephanie@hotmail.com).

7th and 8th Grade Party – SAVE the date

On Friday, November 22, all Burroughs 7th and 8th graders are invited to campus for our fall party. We are still working out all the details, but the party will run from 7 to 9 pm (on campus) and will only be open to JBS 7th and 8th graders. I hope your child will come!

Illness

Please remember that children who are sick and have a fever may not come to school and may not return to school until they are fever free (without medication) for 24 hours. If your child must miss school, please contact the front office. Also contact us if your child will be leaving early or coming late to school, and remember signing in/out (front office) is required for all students.

As always, it is a pleasure working with your kids every day — thanks so much for sharing them!

Sincerely,

[Julie Harris](#)

Principal of Grades 7 & 8

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