

February 27, 2020

Dear 12th Grade Families,

FINISHING STRONG

The final weeks of senior classes are closer than you might think. As I mentioned at the senior parent meeting last month, it is essential that we all work together to keep seniors focused on all of their classes so that their Burroughs careers end on a positive note and that they leave Burroughs primed to take on the new challenges which lie ahead. That includes being on time to school and only missing school for excused absences, as stated in the *Student-Parent Handbook*. I spoke to the seniors about this issue, and I hope you will speak with your student as well. On a related note, **Spring Updates** will be mailed home over break. The updates will include semester-to-date “snapshot” grades for all classes, which should give you a sense of how well your senior is keeping up.

In the final weeks of the term, it is not uncommon for seniors to fall behind and take shortcuts at the expense of their integrity. In recent history, we have had unfortunate and upsetting disciplinary incidents in the final weeks of senior year. In most instances, the senior involved said, “I don’t know what I was thinking.” Having frank discussions upfront can prevent such cases. Please take the time to discuss this important issue with your child, not simply to avoid the potential consequences of such transgressions, but also because patterns of behavior established now are likely to snowball during their college years. As we’ve tried to remind them, how they end the year here really sets them up for how they’ll begin their first semester of college, and we want to be sure they’re using the final weeks of high school as a springboard to the future.

PROM

Spring break is nearly upon us, which means prom is just around the corner. Prom will take place from 8 pm to midnight on **Saturday, April 4**. This year’s theme is “Clue/Mystery,” and the junior class and class sponsors have been hard at work creating what will surely be a memorable evening.

As you know, many students like to go out to dinner before school dances. Last year all seniors (and their dates) were invited to a prom dinner at a local country club. Interested students paid for their own dinners and many parents joined them at the front end to take pictures. The pre-prom event was quite popular, and Julie and Todd Baur and several other families have offered to sponsor a similar event on Saturday, April 4 for the Class of 2020 at the Log Cabin Club. The class will receive an invitation to the dinner next month. In the meantime, we just want to be sure that you’re aware of the

student dinner and the cocktail reception for parents before the student dinner. If you have any questions, feel free to contact [Julie](#).

Closer to the date, I will remind students about the major school rules concerning the use of alcohol and drugs at school functions and the importance of looking out for one another's health and safety. I want to take this opportunity to remind you of some of the guidelines for student dances. As you have heard me say before, it is incumbent upon adults to provide a unified message on this very important issue.

- All students must check in at the front entrance of the dance. No students will be admitted to the dance after 10:30 pm.
- If students leave the dance, they may not re-enter.
- The prom is for students in grades 11 and 12 only. One guest per student is allowed to attend the event unless otherwise specified by the event organizers. 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. Students found in violation of one of these rules will be asked to give up their car keys, and parents/guardians will be called to pick them up. Further disciplinary action will be taken at the appropriate time. For the sake of clarity, it is important to note that 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. Although using a limousine represents a safe alternative for student drivers, they should not be utilized to facilitate the use of alcohol or drugs. **All** students sharing 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.

ODDS and ENDS

May Project planning continues. All seniors are expected to have on-site, in-person meetings with their agency sponsors before their project can be approved. Seniors do not have school on Wednesday, March 4, to facilitate these meetings. During these meetings, seniors should discuss agency expectations, project schedules and any lingering questions, after which their agency sponsor will sign off on the project. Parents/guardians must sign that form as well. Students will turn in the forms to their

May Project advisors by Friday, March 6. The final review process will take place after break. May Projects are a graduation requirement, and students may not begin their May Project until they have served all of their detention time. (After break, I will notify parents/guardians of students who have accrued a substantial number of detention hours.)

AP Exams will begin the week of May 4. Seniors in AP courses have already registered for the respective AP tests. Remember, students are required to take AP tests if they are in AP courses. Students who have signed up for optional tests and decide not to take them will be billed \$40.

My best wishes for a fun and safe spring.

[Jennifer Salrin](#)

Principal, Grades 11 & 12

314.993.4045 ext. 325