

February 27, 2020

Dear 11th Grade Families,

COURSE REGISTRATION

On Wednesday, March 4, juniors will receive copies of the 2020-2021 Curriculum Guide, and the Science, Math, and History department chairs will explain their departments' offerings for senior year. As rising seniors, they have much greater freedom to tailor their academic coursework to their interests than they have had in the past. It's helpful, therefore, for students to examine their options carefully over spring break so that when they return they're ready for the registration process, which begins right after break. To help with your course selection discussions, over spring break you will receive a letter with some recommendations for next year. Please understand that to make it possible to provide a wide variety of options for rising seniors, we must cap the enrollment of many senior courses. Of course, we do everything possible to maximize the number of students who get their first choices. After all, we want them to be able to enroll in the courses about which they're passionate and in which they're most interested. Yet it's simply a fact that many students will not get all of their first-choice classes, which means it's important that students are as thoughtful about their back-up choices as they are about their top choices.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAM

Following the course registration presentation on the 4th, juniors will learn more about enthusiastic sobriety through a presentation run by educators from a local agency, Crossroads. This workshop was initiated a few years ago because students had requested that we provide an educational program on the topic. Through the presentation, students will not only learn about the damaging impact of drugs but will also learn more about how to pursue a life that is fun and exciting without the use of mind-altering chemicals. A member from the Counseling & Wellness Department will observe the presentation, which will run from 9:45 to 11:15 am. If you have any questions about the content of the program, feel free to contact [Jennifer Jones](#), the juniors' counselor.

COLLEGE VISITING

Now that the college application process is underway, many families are eager to visit schools. Remember that juniors are allowed **two** excused absences this term (and three more next year) as long as they complete a College Visit Permission Slip (known to our students as a "green slip") in advance of the requested absence. Students are required to fill out these forms so I can be certain that before they are absent, they have had a discussion with each of their teachers about what they will miss and have developed a

plan for making up work. As they look ahead to college, their most important job remains continuing to build a strong academic record so it's important that even when they must miss school to visit colleges, they keep up with their work.

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. If you are hosting any gatherings before or after prom, please chaperone closely and keep numbers small. If more than a handful of students will be present, reach out to other parents and guardians for assistance in chaperoning. Remember, other parents and guardians expect that you will not serve their children alcohol and that you will be consistently monitoring the kids.

I hope that you will use this event as an opportunity to talk with your child about safe driving policies and the health and legal issues surrounding the use of alcohol and illegal drugs. 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.

LOOKING AHEAD

Spring Updates will be mailed home for all students over break. The updates will include semester-to-date “snapshot” grades and brief comments for all of their classes. These comments are intended to give students a sense of where they stand in their classes and provide them with areas of growth on which they can focus during the final months of the term.

AP Exams will begin the week of May 4. Juniors 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.

For interested students, the date of the U.S. History AP review session will be Saturday, April 25, from 2 to 5 pm in the Newman Auditorium. History teachers will soon share with students a link to review videos they can use as they study and prepare for the AP exam.

My best wishes for a fun and safe spring.

[Jennifer Salrin](#)

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