

February 27, 2020

Dear 9th Grade Families,

February has been a busy month with winter sports, snow days, holidays and activities! We are now heading into mid-semester and we will update you on your children's progress and begin planning for next year.

Spring Updates

Over spring break (March 13 – 29), you will receive a spring update that will include tentative mid-term grades and preliminary comments. The comments will be similar to, but shorter than, the preliminary comments you received in October. Included in the mailing will also be a tentative 10th grade calendar for the 2020-2021 school year for those of you who might need to plan for next year. Parent/guardian phone conferences will begin after spring break, when you can speak to your children's advisors about their progress this semester.

Course Selection for 2020-2021

Course selection begins immediately after spring break. Included with your child's spring updates, you will receive a letter with course recommendations for next year from our academic departments. We hope that the recommendations will be a starting point for discussions between you, your child and your child's advisor, and that they make the course registration process clearer. We will also explain the course selection process to all students during advisory and will distribute course registration cards during our Common Day advisory on Monday, March 30. Course registration cards with your signatures are due to advisors by Wednesday, April 8.

March 4 – Grade-Level Program

On Wednesday, March 4, faculty will write the spring updates that you will receive over spring break. Students are not excused from school but will instead have a half-day. The 9th grade class will be visiting the St. Louis Holocaust Museum & Learning Center. Our students will be welcomed by the museum with a short presentation of the timeline of the Holocaust and then be divided into small groups for a docent-led tour. They will also have an opportunity to listen to a survivor or descendant speaker in the theater. We will meet at 8 am in the Clayton Road parking lot to begin loading the buses. A picnic lunch will be provided when we return to campus, with the day ending around 12:30 pm.

On Thursday, March 5, during the Common Day period, Daniel Harris, our director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusivity, will meet with the 9th graders for a time of reflection and discussion regarding their visit to the museum.

I hope you can make it to our musical, *Chicago*, this weekend and that you have a wonderful spring break!

Sincerely,

[Julie Shimabukuro](#)

Principal, Grades 9 & 10

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