



August 11, 2020

Dear Families of the Class of 2022,

I hope you're all healthy and doing well in this most unusual of summers. Please know I'm looking forward to meeting all of you and to working with you throughout the year. For now, I'm writing to share some important information about the 2020-2021 school year.

What makes the junior year unique?

The junior year at Burroughs is one of newfound freedoms as well as increased responsibilities. For example, the junior class takes charge of planning Prom, and many juniors assume leadership roles on teams and in clubs. This shift is noticeable in the classroom as well, as of course teachers often expect more of juniors than they do of sophomores. When juniors embrace their responsibilities conscientiously and enthusiastically, they are successful. Even amidst the frustrations and challenges wrought by Covid-19, I am confident that the Class of 2022 is poised for a remarkable year.

One of the most important new responsibilities that the juniors will face is the **college application process**. To that end, much of the parent/guardian meeting on Monday, October 5, will be dedicated to explaining the application process and standardized testing. On Thursday, November 12 at 7 pm, we will have a meeting for all parents/guardians to mark the official kick-off of the college application process. Please mark your calendars. After that event, students will begin working with their college counselors. In the meantime, should you have any college-related questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Tarbouni, the director of College Counseling. While the college admissions process is important, students who focus on personal growth and on making learning joyful, as opposed to fixating on grades and college admissions, have not only the most successful and rewarding but also the most meaningful and manageable junior years.

What remains the same?

While the college process is important, excessive emphasis on college and grades usually backfires, as it detracts and distracts from a junior's most important school-related responsibility: academics. Focusing on personal, incremental growth is not only the best way to find academic success, it is also the best preparation for college. I will say this often in the coming months, but I hope I can count on both parents/guardians and juniors periodically to remind each other of this truth as well.

Just as in the past, **attendance** is important. In fact, because of the pace of classes during the junior year, attendance is all the more critical. To be sure, especially in the time of Covid-19, we do not want students to come to school if they are ill; faculty will work with students to help them make up what they've missed. Still, it's important to emphasize that other absences should be avoided whenever possible. Students who know ahead of time that they must miss school are required to pick up a "salmon slip" from me well in advance of the planned absence and to get it signed by all of their teachers. Doing so helps students plan ahead and facilitates discussions between students and teachers about how the student will stay on track. Keep in mind that juniors are allowed to miss two days of

school during the school year for college visits as long as they fill out a College Visit Permission Slip (“green slip”) three days in advance of the trip.

Juniors, please carefully review the tardiness procedures in the [Student-Parent Handbook](#). If, for any reason, you are late to or miss assembly (which you’ll attend in your first-period class unless you are making an announcement at assembly), you must sign in at the front desk before you go to class.

I want to draw your attention to a few **important dates**. As usual, we will not have school the Wednesday before Thanksgiving to make it easier for families to prepare for the holiday. We will have a *full day* of school that Tuesday. Please make sure that your family’s plans do not interfere with the school day on November 24. Third, a make-up exam period is scheduled on Friday, December 18, from 10 am to noon in case exams are cancelled due to severe weather or a student misses an exam due to illness. If you plan to travel over winter break, make sure your arrangements do not conflict with the exam period.

When can juniors get their schedules and books?

If you have any questions as you navigate the new [online bookstore](#), please contact [Case Baum](#). Juniors may pick up their class schedules between 1 and 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 18, or between 9 and 11am on the make-up day, Tuesday, August 25. Students will *not* be able to get their schedules before schedule pick-up day. This year’s schedule pick-up day will be held in the quad, and I will be available to help any students who have questions or concerns about their schedules.

Students will also have the chance to have their photo taken on that day. More information from Mr. Newman about how to order school photos can be found [here](#).

Before school starts, and preferably before students pick up their class schedules, we need the following on file: yearly [health forms](#) (whether or not they are participating in fall sports) and for safety and security purposes, we need students to have parking permits (they are free!) for all cars that will be parked in school lots during the school year. Please review the driving regulations for Burroughs students and update the information on the [Application for Parking Decals](#) as needed.

Important information, handouts, and Principal Links will be posted on the [Principal’s Page](#) for the class of 2022, which can be found under the Academics heading on the Burroughs web site. Please bookmark this URL so you can readily access it. Because of continuing calendar changes due to the pandemic, we haven’t printed a school calendar. Please refer to the class calendar included on the Principal Page for the most up-to-date information regarding class events.

Juniors, don’t forget that you are expected to check your school email **every** day, as it will be a regular means by which your teachers and I will share important information with you over the course of the school year. Especially as you begin working closely with the college counseling team, it’s crucial that you check your email regularly so that you keep up with all the helpful and important information being sent your way.

What resources are available?

Also available online is our [Student-Parent Handbook](#). This publication should answer any questions you might have about school policies and procedures. I encourage you and your family to look through it even if you’ve read it before since there are updates each year.

I'd also invite you to review and respond to Andy Abbott's [invitation to share student information](#), which offers you an opportunity to let us know anything about your student's background and experiences that would help us better ensure your child a safe and comfortable learning environment.

How can we support one another?

I'm looking forward to getting to know the juniors this year, as are Mrs. Stafford and Mrs. Madigan, their class sponsors. I know resilience is a word that is often batted around, especially in these challenging times. But how do we, as the eleventh-grade teaching and advising team, work to help our students develop this skill and capacity? As an article I read earlier this year emphasized, we do so by focusing on three W's—*worth, will and wonder*. We want every student in our care to know that we value and respect and honor them and their experiences, and we want them to recognize the self-discipline and perseverance necessary to achieve success and overcome obstacles. Finally, we want them to remain forever inspired by a curiosity and a willingness to pursue optimism and to believe that we can improve and grow and make the world around us a better place.

Working together as a community, we hope to make this school year not only interesting and challenging, but also fun and invigorating. Please know I'm happy to help support your child and your family in any way I can. I look forward to beginning our work together.

All best,

[Jennifer Salrin](#)

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