

December 21, 2020

Dear Juniors and Families of the Class of 2022,

### **Semester Reports**

On Tuesday, December 29, we will email the juniors' first-semester grades and attendance reports. If you have any questions or comments regarding these reports, please let us know. After break, teachers, advisors, and I are available to talk about academic matters, and Jennifer Kelley (at the front desk) can answer questions about attendance. Please be sure that all the information is accurate, and pay particular attention to the list of classes, as this grade report serves as the basis for the school transcript. If any changes are needed, please let us know as soon as break is over.

### **Looking Ahead to College**

In November, you had a chance to learn about the college application process from the college counseling team, and by now you've all been matched with a college counselor. You're welcome to schedule your family meeting with him or her as you begin to look ahead to college.

Of course, it's likely you still have many questions. Please keep the following in mind:

- *Focus on what matters most: individual growth and maintaining a love of learning.* While grades are part of a student's record, excessive emphasis on the transcript nearly always backfires. Focusing on grades often increases anxiety, which adversely impacts the ability to learn. In contrast, when students are encouraged to find points of interest in their studies and to make steady, incremental progress, they tend to have more enjoyable and fruitful years and fare best in the college admissions process.
- *Remember that on Thursday, January 7—the first Thursday after we return from winter break—there will be a college program just for juniors and seniors at 7 pm via Zoom.* Juniors, don't miss this opportunity to hear from recent alums about their college experiences!
- *Begin learning about colleges.* Juniors, now is the optimal time for you to begin determining your ideal college type (i.e., student-body size, campus environment, and geographic location). Consult various handbooks, many of which are available for perusal in the College Counseling office, and take advantage of all the virtual visits colleges offer to get a better sense of your preferences. The more research you do now, the easier it will be to plan in-person college tours when the public health situation has improved.

Finally, over the years, both parents *and* students routinely comment on how precious the high school years are and how quickly they go by. As they look back at graduation, many find themselves wishing they had been more mindful of this reality at the time. Learn from their experience: as you begin to contemplate the future, don't forget to enjoy the present with each other.

All best wishes for a healthy and safe and happy 2021!

[Jennifer Salrin](#)

Principal, Grades 11 & 12