

December 21, 2020

Dear Class of 2023,

I hope you are enjoying your winter break and finding time to rest and refresh after our unusual semester. I'm so proud of all of you and how you have faced and overcome many challenges during this pandemic. You have forged ahead working hard in your hybrid courses (with some of you fully remote), trying new activities, and expanding your friendships while maintaining a positive spirit and good humor. You should all feel proud of everything you've accomplished!

On Tuesday, December 29, we will email both your grades and your attendance reports for the first semester of the academic year. If you have any questions or concerns about your academics, please contact your teachers, advisors or me after winter break. Contact Jennifer Kelley (at the front desk) after break if you have questions about your attendance record. Please be sure that all the information is accurate and complete, since the grades on these reports are the basis for your official transcript.

During winter break, I hope you will take a little time to take stock of what you learned this semester and to discuss it with your families. Be proud of your successes but also look for areas where you might improve and grow. Consider the feedback from your teachers and continue to ask them questions. The next semester provides an opportunity for you to try new approaches to learning, and to continue using methods that have been successful for you.

I miss seeing you all every day! It has been great to see many of you during our hybrid schedule, but it is not the same. I hope that this next semester we can find time to connect in new ways, and I would like to set up individual Zoom appointments with you to help us do this. Please keep an eye out for a future note from me.

You all have wonderful personal qualities, talents and potential. I hope that we can continue to help you develop these attributes as well as discover new ones. Sophomore year is a great time to begin to think about the activities and classes that you really love, and to begin to commit to deeper involvement with them in the second semester and next year. We will have more conversations about these things and about summer activities. Please remember that your advisors, teachers and I are here to help and support you.

Each semester brings new opportunities and I hope you are excited for what is next. In the meantime, please take advantage of your time with family and friends during our break to rest and recharge.

I look forward to seeing you next month and wish you all the best for a happy, safe and healthy new year!

[Julie Shimabukuro](#)  
Principal, Grades 9 & 10