From the desk of the Assistant Head of School for Academics

Dates to Remember:

**Grade Reports Available** – Friday, January 26th

**Early Release Day for Students** – Wednesday, February 7th

**February Vacation** – February 19th - 23rd

**One Act Play** – Friday, March 1st, 7:00 p.m., Center Theatre

**Progress Reports Available** – Friday, March 1st

Course Requests for the 2024-2025 School Year

Now that we have reached the half-way point for this school year, our attention turns not just to the second semester, but also to the next academic year. Starting in about a month, students in 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th grade will begin requesting courses for the 2024-2025 school year.

Student course requests are the core of our annual schedule-building process. We build our master schedule fresh each year so that we can fulfill as many of their course requests as possible. The quality of our schedule each year depends on the quality of student requests. By working together - families, advisors, teachers, and administrators - we can help our students make forward-thinking requests for the courses they need and want for graduation requirements, career readiness, and personal development.

To make sure students know what they need for graduation, they will receive a specialized copy of their transcript (their full academic record) and a copy of their Graduation Progress report (which matches earned credits with diploma requirements). Students will also receive our Course Guide, which includes details about our graduation requirements and a sample graduation pacing guide, describes our levels of study, and provides descriptions of courses that may be offered next year. Combined with career pathway research and personal interest awareness, these documents will enable students to enter thoughtful, high-quality course requests into PowerSchool.

Families, please help us help your student. Look at their Grade History in PowerSchool and discuss their progress toward graduation. Talk to them about their career and personal interests. Read the Course Guide together. Review their course requests in PowerSchool. If you have questions or want advice along the way, get in touch with us. The better we work together, the better experience for our students now and in the future. Here’s our tentative timeline for current FA students:

- February 6 - Course requests open in PowerSchool
- March 1 - Course requests due in PowerSchool and open for family review
- March 15 - Course requests finalized and master schedule building process begins
- Late April - Master schedule finalized and draft individual student schedules shared with Advisors and School Counselors for review and personalization
- Late May - Individual student schedules finalized and prepared for sharing with students and families before end of school year

If your family has an 8th grade student joining us next year, please stay tuned for more information about our work to help them transition to Foxcroft Academy.

Finally, please keep in mind that we have accountability measures in place to reinforce that we really do expect all students to be thinking broadly and deeply about the next steps in their academic journey. Once the master schedule is built and individual student schedules are filled with requested courses, add/drop changes will be limited by the professional judgment of teachers, school counselors, and/or administrators, with a focus on approving requests rooted in graduation progress and career readiness, and denying those that stem from lack of engagement with the scheduling process. Academic “safety nets” like ASPs, make-up assessments, standard completion, and the no-penalty level change process remain in place to support students who may be worried about, or actually encounter, some challenges in their scheduled coursework. I’m confident that this combination of strong support, high expectations, and a work-together mindset will result in a great academic experience for each student in the 2024-2025 school year!