

August 29, 2019

Dear 7th Grade Families,

Getting Started

I hope your 7th grader is off to a fine start to the year! Given that we are just six days into the school year, it is very likely that your child has been coming home very tired; this is perfectly normal. Going from the restful days of summer to a busy school schedule with very little down time is exhausting for all of us. In a few weeks, most students will be fully acclimated to the school routine and will feel less tired at the end of the school day.

Welcome to the first *Principal Link* for the Class of 2025! In this monthly e-newsletter, I will share information about upcoming events and deadlines, and I'll keep you abreast of news and happenings relating to the 7th grade class.

Class of 2025 Web Page/Drey Land

The [class web page](#) is another resource I will use to keep you informed about important dates and events in the life of your 7th grader. This is also a place where you can expect to find links to handouts, mailings and forms. Currently, the Drey Land permission slip is posted – if you haven't turned one in for your child, please do so right away. If your child has an unavoidable conflict (like a religious holiday or family reunion) which coincides with one of the Drey Land sessions, please let me know. Once I've made the Drey Land assignments, it may not be possible to make adjustments.

Orientation to Burroughs

Thanks to all of you who were able to attend the New Parent Orientation Program last week. I appreciate your attention throughout the presentation, and I hope the information I shared was beneficial to you.

During 7th grade seminar class this week, we've been getting to know each other and we've spent time talking about school procedures and rules. I have reminded the students that the school day continues until the end of period 10 (period 8 on Fridays) and that we hope they will be picked up at dismissal, unless they are staying for a specific scheduled school activity. As I mentioned during my talk on New Parent Orientation night, if your family schedule does not allow for a prompt pick up or your child is staying for an after-school activity, I ask that you and your child talk about how to spend that after-school time productively and safely. Please remember that there is no specific adult supervision for 7th graders after school, though many adults will still be on campus. Additionally, for the safety of students, we ask that students refrain from leaving campus on their own.

A couple of reminders from New Parent Orientation Night: First, if your child arrives late to school, needs to leave early, or will be absent, please contact the front office so your child's absence/tardy will be excused. Calls (314-993-4040), e-mails (swilson@jburroughs.org or jbond@jburroughs.org) or notes (written by you) all work equally well. Second, being in class is important for the continuity of your child's learning. Therefore, we ask that you make every effort not to pull your student out of class. Please try to schedule appointments before school, after school or during a study hall (though I know scheduling routine appointments, like trips to the orthodontist, can get tricky!). If you must schedule appointments during the school day, and you likely will, please try to vary when they are scheduled so your child doesn't repeatedly miss the same class. Also, as you look at the calendar and think about possible travel, we ask that you make

every effort to avoid plans that will require your child to miss school beyond the days designated for holiday or school vacations.

Technology Letter

At the end of July, your family received a mailing which included a technology letter that is important for all of our families to read. If you haven't read that letter, [you may access it here](#). For future reference, it is also available on the class web page.

Events for Parents/Guardians

All of our 7th and 8th grade parents/guardians are invited to campus on Wednesday, September 4 for 7th and 8th grade Mini School. At 6:45 pm, we will have refreshments available for you in the Haertter Hall lobby, and we will begin the program at 7 pm in the Haertter Hall Auditorium. Following my opening remarks, you will remain with me in Haertter Hall for an overview of the 7th Grade Seminar while 8th grade families move to the Newman Auditorium for an overview of the 8th Grade Seminar. Following the seminar meeting, you will meet with your child's advisor (please bring your calendar because you may be asked to schedule your fall conference), and then, you will meet many of your child's teachers as you walk through your student's abbreviated course schedule. I hope you will be able to attend.

I also hope you'll be able to come to campus on Monday, October 14 for Visiting Day for parents/guardians. Before visiting classes on that morning, we invite you to a light breakfast at 8 am in the dining room, during which you'll have a chance to hear from our head of school, Andy Abbott. After breakfast, you may accompany your child to morning classes, and then, feel free to join your child in the Quad for an outdoor lunch. (If bad weather forces us inside, we won't be able to accommodate family members in the dining room – sorry!) To RSVP for the breakfast and/or lunch, please contact [Debbie Drummond](#).

JBS Family Picnic

Every fall, the Abbotts host a family picnic (for you, your students and their siblings, grandparents, faculty and staff). There is no program – it's just a low key buffet lunch in the Quad from 11:30 am to 1 pm on Saturday, September 7. If you can make it, please contact [Cindy Schnabel](#).

Blue & Gold Weekend

On Friday, September 27, Blue & Gold Weekend begins. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Burroughs and MICDS teams will face off against one another in competitions across many fall sports. After most of the Friday competitions have ended, we will have a student picnic at 6:30 pm, followed by a pep rally and bonfire; these events will end at 8:45. Parents/guardians and alums are invited to watch the bonfire from the Haertter Hall overlook, beginning around 7:30 pm. I hope that you and your child will be able to attend some of the Blue & Gold Weekend events!

World Food Day

Finally, I want to invite you and your 7th grader to participate in the St. Louis World Food Day event on Friday, November 1 – there is no school on that day. Since 2012, JBS has hosted St. Louis World Food Day, an annual hunger relief event where people of all ages from throughout the St. Louis area come together to package meals for hungry children in St. Louis and Tanzania. In the past, 7th grade families have had the option to package food together during the event, and again this year, grade level groups will be organized for food packaging. [Nicole DiMartini](#) will be the 7th grade contact for this event, so please contact her directly if you are interested in securing a spot at one of the 7th grade tables.

School Closures

Please remember that school will be closed on Monday, September 2 for Labor Day, on Monday, September 30 for Rosh Hashanah, and on Wednesday, October 9 for Yom Kippur; additionally, school will be closed on Thursday, October 10 and Friday, October 11 so teachers can write preliminary reports.

Kind Regards,

[Julie Harris](#)

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