

August 31, 2017

Dear 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents,

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year at John Burroughs School. I greatly enjoyed getting to know your sons and daughters last year as their principal. We also have one new student, Amanda Roth, who has joined the Class of 2020. I have always been amazed at how quickly our new students assimilate themselves into our community, and I'm sure this year will be no different. I love that our school community provides such a welcoming atmosphere that helps ease this transition for our new students. The best thing about being principal is the ability to get to know each and every student in my grade level. I have also found that getting to know a student's family is just as rewarding. If I haven't had the opportunity to meet you, please introduce yourself when you find me around school or just pop into my office if you are on campus.

Diversity Seminar – a note from Jennifer Kinney and Daniel Harris

Seven years ago, we created a new graduation requirement: a sophomore diversity seminar to advance our school philosophy around diversity, inclusivity and cultural competency. Faculty from across the disciplines have developed presentations around identity, cross/intercultural communication and listening, group dynamics and alliances, and global citizenship (topics listed below).

After years of evaluation, student feedback, and our most recent ISACS self-study, it became clear the seminar needed to deepen its content by providing more time and space where students could more fully process the content, while practicing important cultural competency/communication skills. To that end, we created basically an every-other-week model: One week the entire class will attend a faculty presentation before school (these are scheduled on late days when assembly begins at 8:45 am). The following week, students will each attend a smaller student-facilitated/faculty-coached discussion (the practice) during the regular school day.

We need and appreciate your support to assure your child's attendance at the following faculty presentations at 8 am in Haertter Hall:

Tuesday, September 26 – Social Construction of Identity  
Mark Smith (History, chair)

Tuesday, October 10 – Bias & the Brain  
Scott Deken (principal, Science)

Tuesday, October 17 – Race  
John Merritt (History)

Monday, October 30 – Class & Socioeconomic Status  
Daniel Harris (Diversity & Multicultural Education, director)

Monday, November 13 – JBS Climate of Inclusion  
Andy Abbott (head of school, English)

Tuesday, November 28 – Mental & Physical Ability  
Paul Knight (Academic Support, chair)

Thursday, January 4 – Gender Identity  
Allégra Clément Bayard (Modern Languages, chair) and  
Jennifer Jones (Counseling & Wellness, chair)

Tuesday, January 16 – Sexual Orientation

Jennifer Jones

Tuesday, January 30 and Tuesday, February 13 – Religious Literacy

Carrie Dodson-Ching (History)

Monday, February 26 and Tuesday, March 6 – Global Citizenship

Jamie Wagner (History)

Thursday, April 5 – Political Identity

Mark Smith

Monday, April 16 and Thursday, May 3 – Cultural Competency

Jennifer Kinney (seminar coordinator, Modern Languages)

### Mini School

My first opportunity to see you all again will be on Wednesday, September 13, when we will have the grades 9 and 10 Mini School event. After starting with a quick hello in the Haertter Hall, you will have the opportunity to meet with your child's advisor and then follow your child's schedule and meet all of his/her teachers. Your advisor may want to schedule a time in late October or early November for a parent conference so bringing your calendar to that meeting may prove helpful. Many parents consider this one of the most interesting evenings of the school year, and they come away wishing that they could revisit high school and have some of our wonderful faculty as their teachers. I'm sure I will also see some of you during after-school extracurricular activities this year, please do not hesitate to introduce yourselves.

### Student Activities

On Thursday, September 14, the Student Congress will sponsor a Student Activities Fair. During our outdoor lunch, every club sponsored by the school will have a table with representatives of the club explaining the goals of their club. At Burroughs, we hope that all students will begin to explore extracurricular involvement and this gives them a chance to see what is available to them. Encourage your child to join one or more club(s) and watch him/her grow and develop in so many wonderful ways.

### Parent Visiting Day

Tuesday, September 19 (a late start day) is Parent Visiting Day. We would like to invite the parents of every grade level to come and spend the morning with us. You can sit through classes and see how the students and teachers interact and engage in powerful learning experiences. You may also stay and enjoy a picnic lunch with your child.

### Blue and Gold

Blue and Gold weekend starts on Friday, September 22 with nearly all of our teams competing against our rival teams from MICDS by the end of the weekend. On the 22<sup>nd</sup>, there is a picnic for the students at 6:30 followed by a pep rally and a bonfire after that. The evening ends at 8:45. I look forward to seeing the students and their parents at many of these events. I encourage you to pick a game or two and join us; it is great fun.

### Webpage

I encourage you to visit our web pages often to see candid photos, sports schedules and assembly presentation information. We also maintain a school Google calendar, which you can find on our home page under the caption "[Calendars](#)." Our campus is vibrant, and we love to share these events with you through the school's website.

### Advisory

Students will meet with their advisors on most Wednesday afternoons throughout the year. The second advisory is devoted to discussing academic integrity, and students sign our academic integrity policy, which can be found on pages 2 and 3 of the Student-Parent Handbook. Advisors will also set aside another advisory session early in the year to talk about the Technology Acceptable Use Policy (found on pages 4 and 5 of the Student-Parent Handbook), and students sign the policy stating they have read and understood it.

### Parking

Over the summer, you should have received a questionnaire requesting information about cars your family members park on campus. We are requesting this for safety and security reasons (i.e., if we need to ask drivers to move their cars to make way for emergency vehicles or to let them know they left their lights on). If you have not done so already, please take a few minutes to respond. The survey can be accessed at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/96SWMSR>. Note, students who *currently* drive themselves to school *also* need to get a parking sticker for their cars. These can be obtained from the front desk.

I would like to take this opportunity to say welcome to everyone and remind you that my office door is open. Please feel free to stop by and say hello anytime that you are on campus. Have a great 2017-2018 school year. I predict good things coming from the class of 2020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Deken', written in a cursive style.

Scott Deken, PhD  
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