

August 31, 2017

Dear Eleventh-Grade Families:

I hope you had a wonderful summer! It's been great having students back on campus this week and seeing the campus abuzz. This monthly newsletter will keep you apprised of recent events as well as what's on the horizon for the eleventh-graders over the course of the year.

I've heard so many great things about the members of the class of 2019 from Scott Deken and look forward to getting to know all of them this year. To that end, I plan on sitting in on as many junior classes as I can this term and plan to invite small groups of juniors to informal chat sessions with me over the course of the year. I hope that I'll get to know all of you this year as well. If you see me at a Burroughs event or wandering the halls, please introduce yourself. And I hope that it goes without saying that you should never hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

### **IMPORTANT DATES AND LINKS**

Please bookmark the class calendar on your browser

(<https://sites.google.com/a/jburroughs.org/jbs-calendar-index/home/calendars/2019-Class-Calendar>), as it will have the most current information about upcoming events. Google Calendar users can subscribe to the calendar from that page as well. Past Principal Links as well as other useful information and handouts will be shared on the Principal Page for the Class of 2019 (<http://jburroughs.org/academics/principals-pages/class-of-2019>), so add it to your bookmarks as well.

**Mini-School** for 11th and 12th grade is at 7 pm on Monday, September 18. Please bring a calendar so that you can schedule a parent conference with your child's advisor that evening. I look forward to seeing you then.

**Blue and Gold Week** begins on Monday, September 18. The week culminates with the pep rally and bonfire on Friday night and numerous contests between Burroughs and MICDS on Saturday, September 23.

On Wednesday, October 11, all juniors will take the **PSAT** at school in the morning. Students are automatically registered for the exam. Although the exam is not used directly in college admissions, the PSAT score from the junior year is used to determine who qualifies for the National Merit Scholarship Competition. Therefore, it's recommended that all juniors spend some time preparing for the PSAT. Typically, preparation consists of completing practice exams. Students will receive an informational booklet with practice PSAT questions on September 11. Following the PSAT exam in October, juniors will spend the afternoon off campus participating in **Junior Health Day**, which is organized by the Counseling & Wellness Department. Attendance is mandatory. You will receive a mailing with more details about this event closer to the date.

### **PARKING: SAFETY AND SECURITY**

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've 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. (These are two separate processes.)

## **DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGY**

A quick reminder: please don't text or e-mail your child during the day. If you need to get your child a message, the front desk is happy to deliver it for you. Students are welcome to use the phone at the front desk or in the bookstore if they need to speak to you directly during the school day.

Evidence continues to mount suggesting that technological distractions make our daily tasks more challenging. Recent studies have demonstrated that the time it takes to refocus after unplanned interruptions is substantial. Simply disconnecting and unplugging while studying and saving social media for study breaks is the easiest way to reduce homework time and increase the efficiency of studying. In, then, the spirit of prompting new (or perhaps just renewed) study habits for a new school year, I will encourage students to turn off their cell phones, close their Facebook accounts, and log out of Twitter while they're studying. I hope you will do the same. If you are interested in reading more about this subject, try "Growing Up Digital, Wired for Distraction" by Matt Richtell (<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/21/technology/21brain.html>), "You'll Never Learn!" by Annie Murphy Paul (<http://slate.me/13UteQw>), and *The Overflowing Brain* by Torkel Klingberg.

Thanks to all for helping to get this year off to a great start! See you at Mini-School on September 18.

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