

September 28, 2017

Dear 10th Grade Families,

The first month of school has flown by with lots of successful activities. I want to thank all of you who attended Mini School last week. Many parents expressed how wonderful their experiences were in the classrooms that evening. I love to hear this enthusiasm from you, because I know how talented, wise and energetic our teachers are, and it is great to share that with you.

Blue & Gold Dance

The Blue & Gold Dance will be held from 8:30 to 11 pm on Saturday, October 7. In order to encourage on-time arrival at the dance, as was the case last year, “fines” will be imposed for late arrivals. Starting at 9:01, it will cost an additional \$5.00 to enter the dance. The late fee increases each half hour (in \$5 increments) until 10:30, when admission to the dance is no longer permitted. The late fees can only be paid in cash – no storecarding. Student Congress wants the student, not the parent, to be penalized.

Here are some other important reminders:

- All students must check in at the front entrance of the dance. This process helps the dance chaperones count how many students have arrived, take attendance if necessary, and store card or collect fees when appropriate. Students must enter and exit from the foyer of Haertter Hall since they will not be allowed in the Commons hallway area. Therefore, arrivals and departures must occur in the Price Road lot – not the Clayton lot.
- Student Congress has decided this dance will be a lock-in. Students may not leave before 11 pm unless they are given advanced permission from me. Student Congress hopes this will enhance the evening and allow students to have fun as a group until the end.
- One guest per student is allowed to attend the event unless otherwise specified by the event organizers. Students who are not 10th, 11th or 12th graders may not attend the dance. Students are responsible for the behavior of their guests.
- The Major School Rules and the Drug Policy (see the *Student/Parent Handbook*) are in effect at all school-sponsored dances. Students are responsible for understanding these rules before attending the event. If a student is found to have been in violation of one of these rules, the student will be asked to give up his or her car keys, and a parent will be called to pick up the student. Further disciplinary action will be taken at the appropriate time. We are concerned about the use of limousines. Although using a limousine represents a safe alternative to student drivers, they should not be utilized to facilitate the use of alcohol and drugs. All students sharing a limousine also share the responsibility for the behavior inside that vehicle and are subject to disciplinary action if rules are broken.
- I hope you have all read Mr. Abbott’s message in the last parent e-newsletter about dances and after-dance parties. If you would like to review his message, [please click here](#).

We are thankful to the parent volunteers who are helping with the dance, and we hope that you, as parents, will encourage your children to arrive in a timely manner in order to enjoy the dance and to show appreciation for the work of these volunteers.

PSAT

On Wednesday, October 11, your child will take the PSAT on campus. The Sophomore Health Day will follow. I want to explain some of what will be going on that day.

Your children do not have to be here for assembly but should be on campus by 8 am to guarantee that they get to the testing room on time. They will need to bring a couple of pencils and a calculator. The

calculator is optional, but I imagine that they will feel more comfortable if they have one.

There are links that will help them anticipate what that test will be like. I have included one here: <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/about.html>.

For 10th graders, this test is for practice only. It will help them see where their strengths lie and help them find areas where review might prove useful before they take the test again next year. They should not be stressed about this test as it is only given to help them anticipate what they will see on the test when it does count for a little more. As juniors, this test will help them get ready for the SAT, and it will determine whether they qualify for National Merit recognition.

Health Day

Following the PSAT, all 10th graders will eat lunch during their normal lunch period. After lunch, they will participate in a health seminar that will focus on drug and alcohol education. I will begin the session with a presentation on brain development and the effects of drug and alcohol use. (I earned my Ph.D. in neuroscience from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and was a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology at Washington University.) After my talk, the students will attend break-out sessions of their choice. This event has been well-received in the past, and we hope that the students enjoy and learn from it once again. All of this will be completed by 3 pm, in time for their athletic commitments.

Prelims & Parent Conferences

As you are aware, school is closed for a long weekend October 13 – 16. During these days, faculty members assess their students and prepare detailed preliminary reports. These reports are collated and mailed to you so that you can see how your children are progressing this year. The reports serve as the basis of the parent conferences that will take place during late October and November. This marks an informal “half-way” mark for the semester and gives students ample time to adjust their work efforts, if needed, and to increase their mastery of each subject.

As your children read through these assessments, help them to find their strengths and support them in these areas. Also help them understand the comments that guide their studies toward more successful strategies. Teachers want the students to be successful, and these preliminary comments can help them find this success.

Concurrent with preparing and mailing the preliminary comments, advisors will contact you to set up a convenient time to meet to discuss these comments with you. Please be ready for that phone call or e-mail and find time to visit the campus to meet with the advisor. Advisors enjoy getting to know you as much as they have enjoyed getting to know your children.

Website

I want to remind every family of the wealth of information that you can access on the school’s home page (<http://www.jburroughs.org>). You can find departmental and teacher web pages under the "Academics" link on the JBS homepage. Another section to check out is the link entitled “News and Events.” Here you can find a summary of the week’s assembly announcements, campus candid photos and a host of other information. Please check in often, as the amount of information that is included grows each day. You might also want to visit the Parents section to find out what is new with the Parents Council and the Family Network.

Principals’ Pages

Another website that you should be aware of is the Class of 2020 web page that I help maintain. You can also find this page under the “Academics” link on the JBS homepage. You can find a copy of the Class of

2020 calendar, copies of handouts and mailings and some recommended resources that I have collected over the years.

After last month's *Principal Link*, a parent thanked me for putting these resources together and, given what is happening in St. Louis (and around the country), suggested that I include a resource for talking to kids about race issues. I, of course, thought this was a wonderful idea and discussed possible options with Daniel Harris, our director of Diversity and Multi-Cultural Education. Per his recommendation, you will now find a link to a Read Brightly article entitled "[How to Talk to Kids About Race.](#)" We believe the content contained in the article is very good, and we like that the site provides additional resources for those that would like to go deeper.

Parking

In case you haven't had a chance to do so, please take a few minutes to register your cars that could be parked at JBS. The survey can be accessed at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/X5VFBX3>.

Note, as students get their licenses make sure that they get a parking sticker for their cars. These can be obtained from the front desk.

Enjoy the autumn weather,

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