
JBS / Note from Jennifer Salrin

1 message

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To: Jennifer Salrin <jsalrin@jburroughs.org>

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FALL UPDATE

October 25, 2021

Dear 11th Grade Families,

It was great to have the opportunity to talk with so many of you at the 11th-grade parent/guardian meeting at the beginning of the month. If we haven't had a chance to talk in person yet, I hope we'll be able to do so soon.

Already this fall, I've seen evidence of the great talent and skill of the junior class—be it in the classroom, on the athletic field or on stage. And I've also witnessed their sense of care and community in the way they've reached out to support one another, whether they're in the Commons tackling tricky homework problems or they're joining forces to plan their class's eagerly awaited bake sale. And I know the entire student body is looking forward to the SpookyGrams which juniors will be offering as part of their class fundraiser. Fall is definitely in the air!

Preliminary Comments

Last Friday, we emailed your child's preliminary comments to them and to you. (If you didn't see the email, please check your spam folder.) I hope you find the conference with your child's advisor—which should happen before Thanksgiving break—to be a helpful check-in and a useful exchange of information and ideas about how to encourage and support your child's growth and development. As advisors, we're always grateful for your perspective on your child's progress. If you haven't yet scheduled your meeting, please contact your child's advisor. There is no school on Friday, November 5, to give advisors extra time to schedule conferences, but you're welcome to find a mutually convenient time on another day to connect with your child's advisor.

As your child's advisor will surely emphasize, preliminary comments are intended not only to give students a snapshot of their work so far but also to provide suggestions on how they can improve in the coming months. As you work to support and encourage your child, keep in mind what we discussed at the junior parent meeting: focusing on specific goals for growth is always more helpful than getting bogged down in grades and scores.

Please continue to remind your junior that teachers are here to help and guide them, and it is easiest for teachers to do so when students communicate with them. Now is the time for students to make any necessary adjustments, as they build on their strengths and address areas of growth they've identified.

AP Exam Registration

The College Board's deadline for signing up for Advanced Placement exams is **Thursday, November 4**. Students enrolled in an AP class are required to take the exam and will sign up in class. Students enrolled in a non-AP class for which JBS offers an exam (e.g., English Language, U.S. History, or Statistics) have the option of taking that exam. Because so many of our juniors elect to take the AP English Language exam and/or the AP U.S. History exam, we've given the sign-up codes for these two exams to them. ([The codes are posted here.](#)) To sign up, students should log in to their College Board accounts and register by the 4th to avoid late fees.

If you have any questions, [please contact Johanna Nicholas](#), our AP coordinator.

College Counseling Kick-Off Night for Junior Parents/Guardians

Looking ahead, remember that your child will have the opportunity to select a college counselor following the College Counseling Kick-Off Night on **Thursday, November 11**. Thanks to the Common Day advisory schedule, the college counseling team has already had the opportunity to meet with your children a few times this fall, so this meeting from 7 to 8 pm in Haertter Hall will be just for you. You won't want to miss it! While there isn't anything your child needs to be doing between now and then other than being the best student they can be, please feel free to contact [Nanette Tarbouni](#), director of College Counseling, if you have any questions.

We are so looking forward to supporting your children and you through the college admissions process—it's truly an exciting time of self-discovery and growth!

Online Practice ACT

All juniors may take a free online practice ACT with the Princeton Review on **Saturday, November 13** (preferably in the morning). Students do not need to pre-register; we will send a link.

The scores will be available to students online, and they will have access to a presentation sharing testing tips from the Princeton Review.

Thanksgiving Break: Wednesday, November 24–Sunday, November 28

There will be no school the Wednesday before Thanksgiving to give students a longer break and to make it easier for families to leave town for the holiday. Please do not take your student out of school early on Tuesday, November 23. Doing so puts unnecessary pressure on students to catch up and on teachers who need to help them do so. As you can imagine, it's also very disruptive to classes when several students are absent. Students who miss school that Tuesday will not be excused from assignments.

More on Connecting with and Supporting Teenagers

An article from *The Washington Post* this past August ("[The Key to a Happy Teen?](#)") offers some helpful advice to parents and guardians on how to connect with our teenagers in healthy and helpful ways. In short, at the same time that we're firmly

committed to lending them our support and encouragement, we want to do all we can to encourage students to advocate for themselves. As the article emphasizes, there are considerable benefits to framing our relationship with our teenage children as a parent-consultant rather than a parent-boss! I hope you'll find this short article as helpful as I did.

Sincerely,

[Jennifer Salrin](#)

Principal, Grades 11 & 12

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This email was sent to jsalrin@jburroughs.org

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