

December 21, 2020

Dear Seniors and Families of the Class of 2021,

Semester Reports

On Tuesday, December 29, we will email the seniors' first-semester grades and attendance reports. If you have any questions or comments, please let us know. After break, teachers, college counselors, and I are available to talk about academic matters, and Jennifer Kelley (at the front desk) can answer questions about attendance.

The grades on these reports are the basis for official transcripts, so please be sure that all of the information is accurate and complete. And remember, in January we automatically send a mid-year report with first-semester grades to all colleges to which a senior has applied; in June we'll send a year-end report (teacher comments are not included with transcripts).

Spring Semester

I want to take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of a continued solid academic performance through the remainder of the school year. Second-semester reports are important for all seniors, even for those who have already been accepted into college. Students are expected to maintain the same level of academic work upon which they were offered admission, and colleges are absolutely within their rights to place a student on probation or even withdraw an offer of admission if a student's grades fall significantly. Seniors, we urge you to continue to put forth your best efforts in the upcoming months, but not for this reason alone. When students choose to slack off, it negatively affects their peers' learning experience and is dispiriting to their teachers. In addition, students who fail to keep up with their studies during the final months of school find the transition to college much more challenging. Throughout the fall term, teachers have praised the members of the class of 2021 for their diligence, enthusiasm, and engagement during what I know have been challenging circumstances. I hope your efforts in the final months of the academic year will reinforce, rather than replace, those positive feelings—final impressions often prove to be the most lasting. Families, I hope you will reinforce this message.

May Project

In January, seniors will begin planning their May Project, which is a graduation requirement. I will provide more details and explain the process next month, during the 12th-grade parent/guardian meeting and in class meetings. Here's what you need to know now:

- Next term, each senior will design a project that benefits the local community. As the name indicates, seniors complete their projects during May. Students are expected to be available during school hours for the entire month, so students should not make travel plans or other outside commitments during the school week. The projects are to take place in a new setting with new people, and the most rewarding projects expose seniors to new experiences and encourage the development of new skills. Some students may opt to complement the community-benefit portion of the project with an internship, though at least half the project must be service-oriented. [Attached you will find a copy of the May Project Guidelines](#). Both parents and students should read them carefully.
- Over break, seniors should begin to consider May Project preferences. A good place for seniors to start is to consider the types of service, in the broadest sense, that they would find interesting. For example, would they prefer to work with the elderly, with children, or with animals? Would they rather volunteer indoors or outdoors? Would they like a project that requires that they work primarily with their hands or with their minds? Megan Rathert, our director of service learning, assures me that many agencies have shifted their service models in recent months to accommodate the current health and safety protocols, which means there will be opportunities for our seniors to engage and contribute. To be sure, everyone will have the flexibility to design a project with which they're comfortable.
- The first deadline, to report initial project ideas, is Wednesday, February 3.

Parent/Guardian Meeting & Graduation

At 7 pm on Monday, January 25 via Zoom, I will present information to parents/guardians about May Projects, disciplinary and academic expectations for the remainder of the year, and graduation planning and procedures. Nanette Tarbouni will also share important information about the final steps of the college admissions process.

While it may seem odd to be talking about graduation already, it will be here before you know it. In fact, the parent grade chairs and I have already sent you the first of several mailings with a few details. For easy reference, these mailings will be posted on the class website. Please be patient and rest assured that all necessary information will come in a timely fashion. Also, while of course our hope is that we'll be able to approximate the traditional format as

closely as possible, we know that the safety of our students, families, and faculty and staff will remain the driving factor in all our decisions.

A few housekeeping matters ...

- While the regular deadline for ordering an optional yearbook ad for seniors has passed, late ads will be accepted through 4 pm on Friday, January 15 with a \$100 late fee. No orders will be accepted after the 15th. [Click here for more information.](#)
- For those interested, graduation announcements may be ordered online from Jostens by [visiting this link](#) and entering: Missouri, Ladue, John Burroughs School. Orders are due by Tuesday, January 19. Any orders submitted after this date are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed; they will also arrive later and cost more. [Questions should be directed to Josten's.](#)
- On Thursday, January 7—the first Thursday after we return from winter break—there will be a college program just for juniors and seniors at 7 pm via Zoom. Seniors, don't miss this opportunity to hear from recent alums about their college experiences!

Seniors, I have enjoyed working with you this fall and have admired your leadership. To see so many of you assembled together at the bonfire and then again at Commons Cafe were bright moments I'll long cherish when I look back on this difficult year. I'm looking forward to sharing your final months at Burroughs.

All best wishes for a healthy and safe and happy 2021!

Sincerely,

[Jennifer Salrin](#)

Principal, Grades 11 & 12