
JBS / A Note from Jennifer Salrin

1 message

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DECEMBER UPDATE

December 20, 2022

Dear 12th Grade Families,

As we start winter break, I want to share a few notes.

Semester Reports

The week of December 26, we will email grades and attendance reports for the first semester of this academic year. If you have any questions or comments regarding these reports, please let us know. After winter 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. Please be sure that all of the information is accurate and complete, since the grades on these reports are the basis for the official transcript. 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 effort in the upcoming months, but not for this reason alone. When students choose to disengage, 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 2023 for their diligence, enthusiasm and engagement. I hope your efforts in the final months of the academic year will reinforce those positive feelings. Parents and guardians, 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 about the May Project at the January meeting for parents and guardians. In the meantime, here's what you and your senior 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, exposing seniors to new experiences and encouraging the development of new skills. Some students may opt to complement the community-benefit portion of the project with an internship although at least half the project must be service-oriented.

[Click here for the May Project Guidelines](#), which both parents and students should read carefully. Other important information for the seniors will be posted to the May Project class page on Canvas. 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? Seniors are reminded that they can use the alumni app to access a database of past projects in which seniors have engaged. In January, I will talk with the class about the process and explain how they will go about planning their project. The first major deadline, to report initial project ideas, is Wednesday, February 1.

Parent & Guardian Meeting

There will be a meeting for the parents and guardians of all seniors at 7 pm on Monday, January 23, in Haertter Hall. I will present information about May Projects, disciplinary and academic expectations for the remainder of the year, and graduation planning and procedures. Darryl Calkins, our director of college counseling, 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. You've already received the first of several mailings you'll receive in the upcoming months both from me and the parent grade chairs with details about graduation and related events. These mailings will be posted for ease of reference on the [class website](#). Please be patient and rest assured that all the necessary information will come in a timely fashion.

A Few Housekeeping Matters

While the regular deadline for ordering an optional yearbook ad for your senior has passed, late ads will be accepted through 4:30 pm on Saturday, January 14 with a late fee. No orders will be accepted after the 14th. [Click here for more information.](#)

For those interested, you can order graduation announcements from Jostens online by [visiting this link](#) (follow the prompts; when asked for a city, enter Ladue). Orders are due by Wednesday, January 25. Orders after this date cannot be guaranteed and may arrive late. If you have questions about the announcements, please call Jostens at 636-230-7350 after Thursday, January 5.

Remember that on Thursday, January 5—the first Thursday after we return from winter break—there will be a college program just for juniors and seniors at 6 pm. We don't want students to miss this opportunity to benefit from hearing recent alums share their experiences!

I have enjoyed working with the seniors this fall and have admired their enthusiasm and leadership—it's clear they well understand how to work hard, how to support one another and how to have fun. I'm looking forward to sharing their final term at Burroughs with them.

All best wishes for a healthy and safe and happy 2023!

[Jennifer Salrin](#)

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