

August 2022

Dear Families:

At Burroughs, we strive to maintain the dignity, safety and worth of every individual in the community, and we work hard to make sure that all students know that they are embraced and affirmed here – that they check no part of themselves at the door. And we know that we are more successful in making Burroughs a place for students when we have a good understanding of their backgrounds. To succeed, we need your help and insight.

Some of this is logistical and can be addressed easily and directly. For instance, students who need to miss school for a religious holiday or observance are always excused. You need only call or e-mail the receptionist as you would for any other excused absence. Students are advised to speak with their teachers before these (or any) absences so that they can make plans together. Teachers will be sensitive to the needs of your children during the day and immediately after when they return and will allow ample time for students to make up any missed work.

But other aspects of a child's identity and history can be more complex and might impact the general experience and specific interactions they have at school – with peers, teachers, the curriculum, etc. We invite you to share any information about your child's history and identity (and, if relevant, yours) that *you* think would help us. Categories might include (but certainly aren't limited to):

- Ethnic background
- Family structure/Living arrangements
- Formative or traumatic experiences
- Gender identity
- Health, physical and mental
- Language/s spoken at home
- Learning differences
- Religion
- Race
- Sexual Orientation

Please send this information to us in whichever way is most comfortable for you. You may write to your child's principal, and it will be shared – only after receiving explicit permission from you and your child – with other relevant staff (e.g., your child's advisor, a member of our counseling or nursing staff, your child's teachers).

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If you'd prefer, you may call your child's principal, the director of diversity, equity and inclusivity, a member of our counseling staff or me to discuss these topics. I have listed their names and JBS extensions below.

Thank you so much for working with us to make this the safest environment for every Burroughs family.

Sincerely,



Andy Abbott
Head of School
314.993.4045 ext. 282

/dd

Abbott/Religious.holiday.cultural2122

Linda Churchwell-Varga, Principal, 7th & 8th Grades, ext. 345, ldchurchwellvarga@jburroughs.org

Julie Shimabukuro, Principal, 9th and 10th Grades, ext. 320, jshimabukuro@jburroughs.org

Jennifer Salrin, Principal, 11th and 12th Grades, ext. 325, jsalrin@jburroughs.org

Daniel Harris, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity, ext. 221, dharris@jburroughs.org

Alexandria Baer, Counselor, 7th and 9th Grades, ext. 352, abaer@jburroughs.org

Jennifer Jones, Counselor, 10th and 12th Grades, ext. 323, jjones@jburroughs.org

Sally Kilbride, Counselor, 8th, and 11th Grades, ext. 317, skilbride@jburroughs.org