
JBS / A Note from Jennifer Salrin

1 message

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DECEMBER UPDATE

December 20, 2022

Dear 11th Grade Families,

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. Teachers, advisors and I are available after winter break 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 pay particular attention to the list of classes, as this grade report serves as the basis for the school transcript.

In November, you had a chance to learn about the college application process from the college counseling team, and if you haven't already, you're encouraged to schedule a meeting with your college counselor after winter break. Of course it's likely you still have many questions. Please keep the following in mind:

1. Focus on what matters most: individual growth and maintaining a love of learning. While a student's grades are part of their record, excessive emphasis on the transcript nearly always backfires, as focusing on grades often increases anxiety, which adversely impacts the ability to learn. In contrast, when students are encouraged to find points of interest in their studies and to make

steady, incremental progress, they tend to have more enjoyable and fruitful years and fare best in the college admissions process.

2. Remember that at 6 pm on Thursday, January 5—the first Thursday after we return from winter break—there will be a college fair and program just for juniors and seniors. We don't want students to miss this opportunity to benefit from hearing recent alums share their experiences!
3. Begin learning about colleges. Now is a good time for juniors to begin determining their ideal school's type (i.e., student body size, campus environment and geographic location). They can begin by consulting various handbooks, many of which are available for perusal in the College Counseling office. Even before students have the chance to visit in person, they can take full advantage of all the virtual visits colleges offer so that they can get a better sense of their preferences. The more research students do now the better prepared they'll be going forward as they've begun the work of identifying why and how specific schools might be a good fit for them and their interests.

And one final thought: over the years, many parents and students have commented on how quickly the high school years go by and how precious this time is. I hope you will learn from their experience and remember to enjoy the present with each other.

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

[Jennifer Salrin](#)

Principal, Grades 11 & 12

314.993.4045 ext. 325

