

October 16, 2024

To the families of the Class of 2028,

As we move further into October, I'm thrilled to see our 9th graders really hitting their stride! The initial transition to high school is behind them, and it's been wonderful to watch as they settle into the rhythm of the school year. They're becoming more confident in their routines and expectations, and it's exciting to see them fully embracing this new chapter.

Some highlights so far:

- Bus fiasco aside, Camp Mason was a success, and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Whether it was participating in activities, spending time with friends, or simply being away from school for a few days, it proved to be an excellent bonding experience for both students and teachers.
- Our first official student government election took place on Tuesday, October 8th. Many students dedicated time and energy to preparing and presenting their speeches to their classmates. Congratulations to the six elected student representatives! For those who didn't get elected this year, there will be more opportunities to run in the future. Additionally, there are numerous leadership opportunities at the school, and I look forward to seeing all of our students shine in whatever capacity they choose.

Exciting things to come:

- Next week is Spirit Week! Students are encouraged to participate actively in school-wide activities and dress-up days to show their school spirit and earn points for their grade. Let's make it a fun and spirited week for all!
- Homecoming is scheduled for Thursday, November 14th, from 7:00pm to 11:00pm. Tickets can be purchased [here](#). For families who may need assistance with the cost of the ticket, please know that financial support is available. Our Dean of Student Life, Ms. Debbie Murphy (murphd@d-e.org), will confidentially and sensitively handle any requests for assistance.
- The 9th Grade Parent Forum will be held on Wednesday, November 13th, at 7pm. This is a great opportunity to check in with me and other families about what to expect in the months ahead.

A few friendly reminders:

Attendance:

- All D-E parents/guardians and/or caregivers must download the School Pass app and use School Pass to indicate their child(ren)'s attendance updates and

arrivals to campus whenever this happens outside of regular DropOff and PickUp times. Please click [here](#) for a School Pass info flyer (PDF). For help with School Pass please email help@d-e.org or call our D-E Technology Department at: 201-227-3177.

- On days when a student does not have a first-period class or obligation, they are expected to sign in with the attendance office upon arrival at school. Failure to do so will result in detention moving forward. Please remind your student of this policy and encourage them to sign in when applicable.

Academic Progress:

- If a student knows they will miss a quiz or test due to a planned absence (e.g., sports game, appointment), it is their responsibility to coordinate with their teacher in advance to arrange for makeup testing. For unplanned absences due to illness, students should contact their teachers as early as possible to schedule a makeup exam. This ensures they stay on track and avoid falling behind.
- In the event that a student receives a low grade on a major assignment or exam, teachers will reach out via email to express their concern. We ask that you partner with the teacher and your student to find the best way to address the issue and provide any necessary support.

I've truly enjoyed getting to know your students, as well as many of you, and I look forward to our continued partnership throughout the year as we support their growth and success together. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns—I'm here to help in any way I can.

Best regards,

Dylan Bryant
Dean, Class of 2028