

Dear Senior Families,

Classes are underway and students are settling into familiar academic rhythms. As intently focused as they are on delivering their very best work this quarter, they're also abuzz with a palpable sense of enthusiasm about the things that make senior year special. I'm writing to you now with a little more information about our upcoming senior trip and the timeline for rolling out new senior privileges, and to plant a seed with you about planning for Commencement (May 31, 2026).

### **Class Trip & The Great Dwight-Englewood Bakeoff**

Next **Friday, September 19th**, we will be traveling as a class to [Apple Ridge Orchards](#) in Warwick, NY. As with last spring's trip to Bowlero (which turned out to be a fantastic success!) I'd be grateful for your support in encouraging your kids to participate fully. This senior tradition is a great opportunity for us to set aside the stress of first-quarter grades and college applications and hold space for those moments of joy and togetherness that we hope will ultimately define their memories of D-E. To make things interesting (and keep the joy alive!), the advisors and I are organizing a "Great D-E Bakeoff" to see who can present the most delicious apple dessert using our haul from the trip. I've even invited the Kindergarten to serve as judges, which will make for a nice K-12 moment if it all comes together as planned. 🍌

### **Anticipating New Senior Privileges**

Our seniors are perhaps most eager to know when they will be allowed to leave campus for lunch (lunch privileges) and leave school for the day once their classes are done ("leave free"). **The short answer is: not yet.** Traditionally, we wait until seniors have navigated the first quarter (and sometimes the first semester) before we open up this discussion. We want them to use their free time on campus to meet with teachers, complete homework, contribute to clubs, participate in sports and the arts, connect with friends, and make progress on their college applications; it's

a part of how we support their efforts to stay focused, on track, and invested in our community, which can provide a critical source of support during this high-stress time. As I have told the kids, they will earn new privileges when we see that they are handling the ones they already have responsibly, so for now it's important for you adults to know that **once students have arrived on campus for the day, they are not permitted to leave for lunch or at any other time until the day ends at 3:25pm.** If you need to excuse them from school for any reason, please use the established protocols through School Pass and remind them to sign out before they go.

### **Looking Ahead to Commencement**

In the near future I will be sending the kids a survey collecting information we need for Commencement, and I am encouraging them to discuss with you how they would like their names to appear on their diplomas. We have some time to verify correct spelling and punctuation, and this is a good time for you to discuss things like the inclusion of middle or family names (vs. perhaps a middle initial), and so forth.

Thanks very much for your support at home in all of these matters! My enthusiasm for senior year is still running high, and I think the kids are feeling it, too. As always, please reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

All the best,

Emily