



US Class Dean Update

October 23, 2025

To the families of the Class of 2028,

At the end of last year and again at the start of this one, I told the Class of 2028 to prepare for the natural ramp-up of sophomore year. As many of you have likely already seen and experienced, this year is now in full swing, and our students are feeling the effects of their increased workload. That said, with these added demands comes tremendous growth. Many are demonstrating stronger skills, deeper resilience, and greater confidence as they rise to meet these challenges. I continue to enjoy working closely with them and with all of you, and I'm excited to share what's been unfolding this very full fall season.

Upcoming Dates to Note:

Here's a snapshot of some upcoming dates to look out for. More details on several of these events can be found later in this update.

- **October 24:** Homecoming Dance (Grades 9–12)
- **October 27–31:** Spirit Week (*see below for details*)
- **November 6:** Early Dismissal — Interim Comment Writing
- **November 7:** No Classes — Interim Comment Writing
- **November 12:** Jennifer Wallace Visit, 7 PM (*please RSVP in advance*)
- **November 17:** 10th Grade Parent Forum, 7 PM
- **December 11–12:** Upper School Parent–Teacher Conferences

Spirit Week & Homecoming Update

Below is a note from Ms. Debbie Murphy, our Dean of Student Life, with details about Spirit Week and Homecoming celebrations.

Happy Fall! This season is an exciting time at D-E with our sports season, Homecoming, Spirit Week, and Halloween! This Friday, we will kick off our Spirit Week with Homecoming and Reunion.

We will have a **Homecoming Game at 4 pm** on Solomon Field. Our Boys' Varsity Soccer Team will play against Emerson High School. Students will walk from campus to Solomon Field in an event called The March! They will leave at 3:40 pm and walk along North Woodland to attend the homecoming soccer game. The game will run until about 6:00 pm.

Afterward, we have the **Homecoming Dance** this Friday, October 24th, in the STEM Center. Limited tickets are still available and will be on sale until the end of the day today. [Here's](#) a link to purchase tickets.

Our **all-school Spirit Week** will follow, featuring a fun-filled week of community bonding, including games, competitions, and lots of D-E Bulldog pride. During this week, we will focus on our community both on and off campus. Besides our dress-up days, students in the Upper School will learn about the work of the Center for Food Action, a local non-profit providing emergency food and homelessness prevention aid to low-income families. Our Coin Wars during the week will support this cause, leading up to our annual All-School Thanksgiving Drive next month.

Here's a preview of the Spirit Week dress-up days and activities in the Upper School:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Pajama Day	Tacky Tourist Day	Wild West Wednesday	D-E Spirit Day	Halloween !
					

Communi ty Times	<i>School Meeting</i> (Kickoff Game with Deans) Lunch: Soccer and halftime games on Leggett Field	<i>Advisory</i> Lunch: Soccer and halftime games on Leggett Field	<i>Advisory</i> Lunch: Soccer Final and halftime games on Leggett Field	<i>Spirit Week Assembly at 9:50AM</i>	<i>Advisory</i> Lunch: Final Game on Leggett Field <i>Assembly at 2:35</i> Closing Ceremony in the Gym with Costume Contest 
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We're excited to see everyone display their school spirit and creativity! As students plan their outfits for each theme day, please remember:

- All clothing must be appropriate for school.
- Be thoughtful and considerate of our diverse school community—choose outfits that reflect the spirit of the day respectfully and inclusively.
- Think about how your outfit might impact and be perceived by your peers, aiming to foster a fun and welcoming environment for everyone.
- Outfits that don't meet these standards may result in a point deduction from your class total or disciplinary action.

Let's make it a fantastic week full of joy, spirit, and mutual respect!

Party Culture Class Meeting

This past Wednesday, October 22, each grade held a class meeting to discuss the importance of being thoughtful when attending parties, especially during this time of year, when there are many celebrations and social gatherings. While we held a similar meeting around this time last year, this year's conversation focused on the fact that students are getting older and, with greater

independence, comes a greater need to be intentional about how they choose to celebrate. The main points shared with the 10th grade are outlined below:

1. **Social Life ≠ Party Life:** Parties aren't inherently bad, but they're also not the only option. Meaningful friendships and fun experiences don't depend on attending parties, and there are many safe, healthy ways to connect with peers.
2. **Look Out for One Another:** Supporting friends means making sure everyone feels safe and comfortable, rather than pressuring others into risky choices or situations. Real friendship is about care, awareness, and looking out for one another.
3. **Have a Plan:** Students were encouraged to think ahead about who they can call or where they can turn if a situation ever feels unsafe. Having a plan reflects maturity and good judgment.
4. **Stay True to Yourself:** Making decisions that align with one's values and comfort level is key. The right peers respect boundaries and personal choices.
5. **When the School Steps In:** The school does not monitor off-campus behavior, but when something that happens outside of school causes harm, discomfort, or safety concerns within the community, the school has an obligation to respond.

For a more in-depth look at our work in this regard, please see the [attached letter](#) from the Upper School Deans team.

I encourage you to continue these conversations at home and to remind your children that they can always reach out to a trusted adult if they find themselves in a difficult situation. We are deeply committed to supporting the safety, well-being, and growth of every student in our community.

Jennifer Wallace & *Never Enough*

In our ongoing effort to support every aspect of our students' well-being—not just their academic growth—all school professionals were asked this past summer to read *Never Enough* by Jennifer Wallace. Her book explores how environments like Dwight-Englewood, which are naturally high-achieving and aspirational, can sometimes create unintended pressure that impacts students' mental health and sense of balance.

We are deeply committed to addressing these challenges and fostering a community where students can thrive both academically and personally. The conversations surrounding *Never Enough* have been an important part of this work.

To that end, we hope you'll join us for a special presentation by the author, **Jennifer Wallace**, on **Wednesday, November 12 at 7:00 PM**. Please let us know if you plan to attend by completing this short RSVP form: [Jennifer Wallace Presentation at D-E RSVP](#).

10th Grade Fall Parent Forum

As noted in the *Upcoming Dates to Note*, the 10th Grade Parent Forum will be held on **Monday, November 17, at 7:00 PM in Hajjar Auditorium**.

Some of the topics we plan to cover include:

- An introduction to our new Director of Learning Support
- A conversation with the Dean of College Counseling
- Updates on AI-related topics
- What's new and upcoming for the 10th grade and beyond

We hope you'll be able to join us for an informative and engaging evening.

As you can see from this update, it's been a very full fall season! I continue to feel optimistic about the Class of 2028 and the Dwight-Englewood community as a whole. I deeply appreciate your continued partnership, and as always, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Best regards,

Dylan Bryant
Dean, Class of 2028