



US Class Dean Update

October 24, 2025

Good evening and Happy Friday!

As the leaves begin to change and the air grows cooler, it's a wonderful time to share a few updates about our class and the progress we've made so far. With eight weeks of school behind us, students have settled into their routines and are fully engaged in their coursework. Assessments are becoming more frequent and may feel more challenging as classes conclude review material and transition into new and more advanced content.

These developments are a natural part of the academic journey, and our students continue to grow and adapt nicely. Teachers, advisors, and school staff are all committed to supporting their learning and well-being—and I am as well. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns as we move through the semester.

The weeks ahead promise to be both full and exciting, and I look forward to all that this season holds for our community. Please see below for additional updates and upcoming events.

Best,

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Homecoming

TONIGHT, **over 100** members of our class (out of 127) will attend Homecoming! Adding guests, we are responsible for almost half of the

tickets purchased for the event. I am incredibly proud of our commitment to this event and excited for us to take that energy into Spirit Week.

Spirit Week

A Note from Ms. Murphy, Dean of Student Life:

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.

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 !

Community 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. This year's conversation

focused on being safe, making good choices, and being mindful of how their time together outside of school might impact the school day and school life of others. For a more in-depth look at our work in this regard, please see the [attached letter](#) from the Upper School Deans Team.

Fall Parents' Forum

Our first Parent Forum this year will take place on Wednesday, November 5 in Hajjar Auditorium from 7-8:30 pm. Eileen Cunningham Feikens, Dean of College Counseling, will be joining us to shed light on the timeline for junior student and family work together and resources and opportunities available through their office. Stay tuned for future communications from me and the CCO.

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](#).

Calendar - Upcoming Dates and Events

October 27–31: Spirit Week

November 5: Fall Parents' Forum

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 14: Comments and Grades-in-Progress released to families

November 26-28: Thanksgiving Break

December 11–12: Upper School Parent–Teacher Conferences
December 20–January 5: Winter Break