



US Class Dean Update

November 21, 2025

To the families of the Class of 2028,

It was great seeing so many of you earlier this week! I also loved having the chance to meet some of you in person for the first time after connecting electronically for quite a while. I've really enjoyed getting to know you beyond the inbox. For those who couldn't attend, or for those who were there and would like a refresher, I've included the slides and a brief recap of the material below so everyone has access to what was discussed. I will also include some important updates and reminders (some of which were shared at the Parent Forum) to keep on your radar as you look ahead to the end of the semester and beyond.

Parent Forum Slides [here](#)

Highlights and Helpful Information

- **Family-Teacher Conferences**

- Family-Teacher Conferences will be held on December 11th and 12th in the Big Gym. **The Pick-a-Time system is now available for you to sign up for conferences through MyDE.**
- For those who are new, or who couldn't attend last year, families sign up for a time window rather than individual teacher appointments. Each teacher meeting will last about 10 minutes, and there is no remote option for conferences.
- If you are unable to attend in person, please prioritize the teachers you would like to connect with and reach out to them the following week to schedule a phone meeting about your student's progress.

- **Planning for College**

- In the early part of the second semester, students will be assigned a college counselor based on their advisory. I will work closely with the Dean of College

Counseling to ensure that the pairings are intentional and that the needs of each student are met.

- For now, we encourage you to focus on helping your student get the most out of the 10th grade experience, and to know that the College Counseling Office will support you closely over the next few years.
- Looking ahead, the **10th Grade Family College Night** will be held on **Wednesday, February 11 at 7:00 p.m.** Please keep an eye out for more details from the College Counseling Office as we get closer to the date.

- **Authentic Connections**

- As in years past, we will once again be working with [Authentic Connections](#) to survey students anonymously on topics such as personal values, empathy and kindness, depression and anxiety, substance use, and relationships with family and friends. Our goal is to better understand the experiences of adolescents in our community and to continue promoting positive development and well-being among our students.
- The survey will be administered on **Thursday, December 4**. If you wish to opt your child out, please complete the attached [Consent Denied form](#) and return it to me no later than **Monday, December 1**. All students will participate in this year's survey unless we hear directly from you.

- **Club Hub & Student Leadership**

- With clubs being such a large part of our school culture, we have been working to monitor student engagement within clubs so we can continue to adjust and improve them each year based on student needs and interests. You may find a list of our current Club offerings [here](#).
- As the Class of 2028 continues to grow, many students are beginning to think about and pursue leadership opportunities in our community. I've been reinforcing with them that leadership is not about a title or a line on a résumé — it's about how you show up, especially in the moments when no one is grading you or watching. In the spring, I will discuss specifics around the leadership opportunities available to them as upperclassmen, but in the meantime, I encourage students to continue showing up, contributing positively, and demonstrating leadership in their everyday actions.

- **Artificial Intelligence**

- Our goal as a community is not to shy away from artificial intelligence, but to learn how to use it effectively as a tool for learning. As a school, we are committed to continued education around AI and to supporting students in using these tools responsibly by developing strong judgment, maintaining

academic integrity, and understanding when AI enhances learning versus when it replaces it.

- Logistically speaking, every teacher has been asked to establish and clearly communicate their AI policy so there is no confusion about acceptable usage. These guidelines may vary: in some classes, AI may be appropriate for certain tasks or stages of an assignment; in others, it may only be used when explicitly permitted. I've seen far less confusion around this topic this year, and I am proud of the Class of 2028 for their efforts to remain academically honest while navigating new technology.

- **Day of Deliberative Dialogue**

- Yesterday, we held our first-ever Day of Deliberative Dialogue in partnership with the [Close Up Foundation](#). Our trained student facilitators led thoughtful conversations across the Upper School, guiding their peers in discussing shared issues with respect and open-mindedness. We were really encouraged by how well students engaged, and early feedback has been positive. We look forward to building on this foundation with more opportunities for deliberation in the future.

- **Other Important Dates**

- **December 5** – MS/US Orchestra Concert @ 7:00 p.m.
- **December 10** – US Handbells & Chorus Concert @ 7:00 p.m.
- **December 11 & 12** – US Family-Teacher Conferences
- **January 16** – Final Day of Semester 1
- **February 11** – 10th Grade Family College Night

This was quite the update! As always, I am more than happy to discuss or clarify any of this with you. Though I say it often, I believe it bears repeating: I am incredibly grateful to serve as the dean for this group of young people. I continue to be impressed by their thoughtfulness, their engagement, and the ways in which they push our community to reflect on our mission and stay true to our values. I look forward to our continued work together. Thank you, as always, for your partnership and support. As we head into the upcoming Thanksgiving weekend, I hope you and your family find time to rest and recharge in whatever way feels right for you. Wishing you a restful and positive week ahead!

Best regards,
Dylan Bryant
Dean, Class of 2028