



US Class Dean Update

Dear Senior Families,

This past Sunday morning, I woke early to find the trees outside my bedroom window heavily laden with the season's first snow. As has been my habit on such mornings for the past two decades, I crept quietly to the kitchen and got to work on a batch of chocolate chip pancakes. As the aroma soon filled the apartment and drew sleepy teens from their beds, I felt a mix of both gratitude and sadness that they no longer expect me to bundle up and take them out for sledding and snowball fights, and that, like me, they now prefer to hunker down with a mug of something warm and marvel and the eerie calm that blankets the city along with the snow.

For all of us with children in the class of 2026, this is a holiday season unlike most others: even as we celebrate cherished family traditions, we also anticipate significant changes in our daily relationships with our children. It's both exciting and disorienting to think, as I did while dishing out my snow-day special, *"this might be the last time we do this together in this exact way."* For me, these thoughts have made this holiday season all the more special; I am more conscious than ever that the core memories we forge now will be a bulwark for our kids as they venture off into the world, hopefully still buoyed by their experience of home as a place of safety, warmth, and love.

My holiday wish for all of you is that you may cherish all your "lasts" while joyfully anticipating your children's "nexts," even if you're not quite sure yet what those will be. I'm incredibly grateful to you all for your partnership on this wild ride, and looking forward to celebrating all of our students' hard work and many accomplishments in the heady months ahead!



Our last Holiday Jazz Rock! Madigan, Kenneth, Jian, Isabella, Xinyuan, Ella, and Chris brought us such joy!

One last order of business before I sign off for 2025... Please read [this update](#) from Dean of Student Life, Debbie Rivera-Murphy, on our planned programming with Prevention Education in the new year.

*Best wishes for a peaceful and restorative holiday season,
Emily*