



US Class Dean Update

Dear 12th Grade Families,

I hope you've all weathered this extraordinary blizzard safely! As much as I've enjoyed these extra cozy mornings at home with my family, I'm absolutely ready to start thinking about Spring Break and warmer days ahead.

On that note, I want to remind you that during Assembly this Thursday (2/26) the seniors will be meeting once more with the team from [PreventionEd](#), whose mission is to provide young people with the most up-to-date information about the risks associated with alcohol and other drugs, empowering students to make informed choices and lead healthier lives. Even though our children are approaching (or have reached) legal adulthood, their vulnerability to the disease of addiction remains high as long as their brains are still developing. Many of our seniors will be travelling together without adult chaperones for the first time this Spring Break, and so we are providing this additional programming in the hopes that it will encourage thoughtful, healthy decision-making as they venture into this exciting next phase of their independent lives.

Additionally, the student leaders of AURA (Actively Understanding Reproductive Autonomy) along with their faculty advisor, Ms. Grace Harkins of the Human Development department, are planning a "Sex Ed Refresher" for seniors during Assembly on Thursday 3/12. This event will be hosted by AURA club members who will lead mini-sessions on aspects of healthy relationships, communication and

consent, reproductive anatomy, and contraception. In addition to these peer-led sessions, there will be a Q&A table staffed by Ms. Harkins. This "Sex Ed Refresher" is a review of curriculum previously covered in 9th Grade Seminar and is designed to support students' transition to healthy adulthood.

Finally, I feel it's important to reiterate that the trip to the Bahamas that many (but not all) of our students attend is in no way sponsored, chaperoned, or sanctioned by the school. I know that anticipation of this year's Spring Break has sustained the seniors through some of the more challenging days of their high school careers. They still have a few more hurdles to clear with PAW and regular decision notifications just around the corner, but they have worked hard and supported each other well through these past several months. They have so much to celebrate together this spring, and it's my sincere hope that we have prepared them well to continue making healthy choices and caring for one another even when we aren't around to hold the boundaries for them. I hope you'll join me in reinforcing that message at home.

As always, please reach out with any questions or concerns.

Emily