



US Class Dean Update

June 1, 2026

To the families of the Class of 2028,

First and foremost, congratulations to those of you who celebrated one of your children's graduation at Commencement yesterday! Whether it was your first Commencement or one of several, I know it is a momentous occasion filled with joy and pride.

As I sat in the audience, I found myself thinking about our own journey together with the Class of 2028. It is hard to believe that we are already nearly halfway through high school, and that before long, this class will be stepping into the role of upperclassmen. While there is still plenty ahead, the end of this school year is quickly approaching, and I wanted to provide a brief overview of what the final weeks will look like.

MAGIC

On Tuesday, May 26, students participated in the Michael Andrew Glowski Intramural Competition, better known as MAGIC. For nearly 30 years, MAGIC has been a cherished D-E tradition honoring Michael Glowski, a former student-athlete. The competition was created in his memory as a fun, spirited event that reflects his love of athletics, teamwork, and school spirit. As you might imagine, students become incredibly invested in the competition, taking on a variety of challenges ranging from musical chairs to an ice cream sundae relay race (yes, you read that correctly!). The day is always filled with excitement, laughter, and plenty of friendly competition.



I am proud to share that the Class of 2028 won this year's competition! While I cannot say I am surprised, I am incredibly proud of the spirit, enthusiasm, and teamwork our sophomores demonstrated throughout the day. Winning MAGIC as sophomores is no small feat, as the competition includes students from every grade level in the Upper School. Their ability to come together, compete with energy and positivity, and ultimately come out on top speaks volumes about the strength of this class. A huge congratulations to the Class of 2028—MAGIC champions! Go 2028!

End of Year Trip:

For those of you who attended the Spring Parent Forum—or who reviewed the slides afterward—you may remember that my original goal for the June 11 end-of-year trip was to provide students with a service-learning opportunity that would allow them to engage with the broader community, similar to their ninth-grade end-of-year experience. In speaking with many members of the Class of 2028, however, I heard a consistent message: while they value service and are by no means opposed to giving back, this has been an especially demanding year. Students expressed a desire to spend some time together simply enjoying one another's company, celebrating their accomplishments, and closing out the year as a class.

After reflecting on their feedback, I decided to pivot from the service-learning plan. These hardworking students have earned the opportunity to relax, have some fun, and strengthen the bonds they have built throughout the year. To that end, we have rented out a theater at the Cinemark at Willowbrook Mall for the Class of 2028. After putting the choice to a vote, students selected *Despicable Me* as their movie of choice. Following the movie, students will have time to enjoy lunch and spend time together at the mall before returning to campus for ice cream, generously provided by the Parents Association. A special thank you to our grade representatives for helping to organize this treat!

A few logistical details about the day:

- Students should plan to arrive at D-E by 8:30 a.m. so that we can begin loading buses at 8:45 a.m. and arrive at the theater for our 10:00 a.m. movie.

- After the movie, students will have time to get lunch and spend time together at the mall.
- We plan to depart Willowbrook between 1:15 and 1:30 p.m., with an expected return to campus around 2:00 p.m.
- Once students have enjoyed their ice cream on campus, they will be dismissed for the day.

Final Scheduling Clean Up:

At this point, course requests have been submitted, approvals have been finalized, and many scheduling conversations have taken place. In the coming days, I will be sharing a final copy of each student's course requests with advisors so that students can review them carefully and confirm that everything is as expected. My goal is to ensure there are no major surprises when official schedules are released at the end of the summer.

I am still making a few adjustments as needed, so if there is anything that concerns your child regarding their course selections, please encourage them to schedule time to meet with me. I would like to have any outstanding questions or changes addressed before the end of the school year so that we can begin next year with confidence.

Last Day of School:

The last day of school for students is Friday, June 12. As was the case last year, students will follow a special schedule, attending each of their classes for 20 minutes before gathering for their final advisory of the year at 11:30 a.m. We will then come together for a closing assembly at 12:00 p.m. Following the assembly, yearbooks will be distributed, and students will have time to connect with friends and collect signatures before dismissal at 1:30 p.m. Buses will depart campus at 1:40 p.m.

If your child knows they will be absent on June 12, they may arrange for a friend to pick up their yearbook. Alternatively, they may pick it up during the following week while faculty and staff are still on campus. Unfortunately, we are unable to distribute yearbooks before June 12, but we will gladly reserve a copy for any student who is unable to collect theirs on the last day of school.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for trusting me with the opportunity to work with this remarkable group of young people. It has been a privilege to be part of their journey, and I am grateful for the

partnership we have built together over the past two years. Watching the Class of 2028 grow, mature, and come into their own has been incredibly rewarding, and I look forward to all that lies ahead for them.

If I do not see you before the end of the school year, I wish you and your family a wonderful, restful summer. Even after the school year comes to a close, I will continue to check my email periodically. Please do not hesitate to reach out if there is anything I can do to support you and your family.

Best regards,

Dylan Bryant

Dean, Class of 2028