

September 14th, 2020

From the Principal's Desk

I have been on leave this past week for Paternity and it has given me some time to reflect and to watch my own children as they engage with Distance Learning. It has been quite interesting to see the different teacher styles and to see how one child's reaction to the Distance Learning environment is so different from my other children. Watching my kids navigate their learning independently and with such perseverance and grace has been inspiring. It made me realize the extraordinary lessons that our students are learning through all of this.

The level of independent learning that we are expecting from our students can seem scary at times, but in the long run, I feel confident that it will put them in a much better position to be successful in University and beyond. Our teachers are there to support them and guide them, but there is an expectation that students stay on track and keep up with all their learning. This is not easy for many of our students, but they are getting better and better and they are doing it!

Another important evolution in our students' learning is with the assessment environment. The shift that teachers have had to make when assessing students, knowing there is a need to minimize easily "Googleable" tests and quizzes, has been a joy to watch. Our students are able to demonstrate a higher level of critical thinking, creativity, and resourcefulness thanks, in part, to some of these assessments.

Of course, I am not saying that I want to stay in Distance Learning forever, but when you look closely, there are some incredible benefits that our students are experiencing. Plus, they get to sleep in while they do it! As always, please reach out to your teenager's teacher, counselor, Associate Principal, or Principal if you feel that he or she may need some additional support.

In partnership,

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This week's high school news

NEW PERSONERA AND CABILDANTE

Congratulations to the following students for being elected as Personera and Cabildante (formerly Vice Personero). We look forward to a year of working with them for a better student experience!

Sophia Mejia (12th) - Personera

Andrea Williamson (11th) - Cabildante

HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Congratulations to the following parents for being elected PArent Council Reps for the High School! We are always available to parents questions and concerns, but if you prefer to express something through the Parent Council Representative, please contact them so they can bring us that information.

Class of 2024 - Maria Cecilia Escallon (mariac.escallon@gmail.com)

Class of 2023 - Alexandra Crump (alexcrump@yahoo.com)

Class of 2022 - Evelyn Aghion (eaghion@yahoo.com)

Class of 2021 - Margarita Rivera (margarita_rivera@hotmail.com)

ZOOM Q&A SESSION

This year we will continue with our weekly Zoom session for parent questions and concerns. During these sessions there will be a couple of anecdotes or explanations from the Principal, followed by a Question & Answer time. We are usually done in 30-45 minutes. You can join at the below link:

Thursday September 10th, 9:00 a.m.

Join the Zoom meeting through [this link](#) (please note that this is a different link than the usual one)

Reminders

DISTANCE LEARNING CLUBS

Last week we asked students to sign up for Distance Learning Clubs (DLCs). These are completely voluntary clubs that happen on Thursdays during FLEX time (2:00-2:30) and are designed to help students CONNECT more with their teachers and peers in a fun space of common passions and interests. We hope you encouraged students to sign up and attend one of these clubs as we feel it will help their overall Distance Learning experience be more enjoyable! We have over 20 different groups including Sports documentaries, Sign Language, Mindfulness, Creative Writing, History of Rock Music, MUN, Cards Club, and others!

FIRST WEDNESDAY COLLEGE COUNSELING MEETINGS

Below is the schedule of topics of the First Wednesday College Counseling meetings. The meetings are at 8:00 a.m. and this will be [the zoom link](#) for those meetings.

Oct. 14	CNG College and Career Counseling Basics
Nov. 4	Applying to Colleges in Colombia
Dec. 2	Summer Programs
Jan. 13	Understanding the PSAT results (10th and 11th)
Feb. 3	College Seminar for Juniors (Junior Parents)
Mar. 3	Applying to Universities in Europe and UK
Apr. 7	Ranking & GPAs: Basics Info
May 5	Transitioning into College (Senior Parents)

COMMUNICATION FLOWCHART

We would like to remind you of the [Communication Flowchart](#) that should guide you when opening up communication with the school. By using this flowchart, we can ensure efficiency in communication and that the most relevant person is involved in any concerns or questions.