



US Class Dean Update

October 16, 2026

To the families of the Class of 2028,

Today, I had the chance to sit with a group of students in my office, and one of them said, “Wow... we’re juniors. I can’t believe it.” I told them that I wholeheartedly share that sentiment, as I still can’t believe I get to introduce myself as the 11th-grade dean! Time is definitely flying, especially for this busy group of young people, and I remain deeply grateful for the front-row seat I have to this journey we are on together.

Upcoming Dates to Note:

Here is a snapshot of upcoming dates to keep on your radar. More details on several of these events can be found later in this update:

- **October 24:** Homecoming Dance (Grades 9–12)
- **October 27–31:** Spirit Week (*see below for details*)
- **November 5:** Early Dismissal — End of Q1
- **November 6:** No Classes
- **November 11:** 11th Grade Parent Forum, 7 PM
- **November 23–27:** Thanksgiving Break
- **December 10–11:** Upper School Parent–Teacher Conferences

Spirit Week & Homecoming Update

Below is a note from Ms. Debbie Murphy, our Dean of Student Life, with details about Spirit Week and Homecoming celebrations.

Next week, we have Spirit Week and Homecoming next week!

Our **all-school Spirit Week** will follow, featuring a fun-filled week of community bonding, including games, competitions, and lots of D-E Bulldog pride. During this week, we will focus on our community both on and off campus. Beyond our dress-up days, Upper School students will learn about the work of the Center for Food Action, a local nonprofit that provides emergency food and homelessness-prevention aid to low-income families. Our Coin Wars during the week will support this cause, leading up to our annual All-School Thanksgiving Drive next month.

We will have a **Homecoming Game at 4 pm** on Solomon Field. Our Boys' and Girls' Varsity Soccer Team will play against Dwight-Morrow High School and Pioneer Academy, respectively. Students will walk from campus to Solomon Field in an event called The March to Solomon! They will leave at 3:30 pm and walk along North Woodland to attend the homecoming soccer game. The game will run until about 6:00 pm.

Afterward, we have the **Homecoming Dance** this Friday, October 23rd, in the STEM Center. Tickets are still available and will be on sale until the day before the dance. [Here's a link to purchase tickets](#). If your student plans to stay for both events (which we really hope they do!), they should bring their outfits to school for the dance if they don't live nearby.

Here's a preview of the Spirit Week dress-up days and activities in the Upper School:

[LINK: https://activities.d-e.org/upper-school-activities/spirit-week-26/](https://activities.d-e.org/upper-school-activities/spirit-week-26/)

We're excited to see everyone display their school spirit and creativity! As students plan their outfits for each theme day, please remember:

- All clothing must be appropriate for school.
- Be thoughtful and considerate of our diverse school community—choose outfits that reflect the spirit of the day respectfully and inclusively.
- Consider how your outfit might affect and be perceived by your peers, and aim to foster a fun, welcoming environment for everyone.
- Outfits that don't meet these standards may result in a point deduction from your class total or disciplinary action.

Let's make it a fantastic week full of joy, spirit, and mutual respect!

11th Grade Fall Parent Forum

As noted above, our 11th-Grade Parent Forum will be held on **Wednesday, November 11, at 7:00 PM** in Hajjar Auditorium.

We recognize that this evening falls on Veterans Day. While school will be in session as usual, we completely understand if holiday plans or family commitments prevent you from joining us in person. For anyone unable to attend, I will be sure to share a summary and recap of the evening afterward.

Expectations Regarding Leaving Campus

Now that our students are older and much more comfortable on campus, we have seen an increase in reports of 11th-grade students leaving school to go downtown for lunch, departing campus early without parent permission, or parking in campus lots. As a reminder, all of these perks are reserved exclusively as privileges for our seniors. The clear expectation for our 11th-grade students is that they remain on campus for the entire school day. Because we care deeply about keeping track of all our students on this large campus, I would greatly appreciate your support in reinforcing these expectations at home.

If a student is found breaking any of these rules, the consequence is a formal detention. Detentions do not go on any permanent record, but instead serve as a simple, direct way for us to hold students accountable for their choices. Thank you for your continued partnership as we work together to support our students!

Thank you as always for your continued support! It is my hope that as upperclassmen, our students will show up with full school spirit next week and take home the victory! Please encourage your child to participate if they can, as every person who dresses up earns points for our grade. As always, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Best regards,

Dylan Bryant
Dean, Class of 2028