Midyear Exams

I hope that you and your family had a restful holiday and vacation. As it is mid-January, I am writing with some information about upcoming events: midyear exams, the semester change, and a parent evening in February.

**Midyear Exams (1/23/17-1/26/17)**

**What Are Exams?** Midyear exams are assessments designed to test the knowledge and skills students have gained in the first semester. They include midterm exams for full year courses and final exams for half year courses.

**How Do I Do Well on Them?** Teachers in each class will help students to prepare by providing information about the exam, study materials, and some in-class preparation time. Students should expect to invest additional time out of class preparing for exams. Students are also encouraged to consult their teachers for any extra help needed. Our teachers are very good about providing additional support to our students outside of class hours. Don’t be shy about reaching out for help!

**How Are They Weighed as a Grade?** Exams are valued equal to half a marking period (10% of a full year course grade, and 20% of a half year course grade). Exams are separate from marking period grades, and they show as separate grades on report cards. All grades are later averaged with marking period grades to determine final grades for each course. It is worth remembering that the only grades that ever appear on a student’s transcript are the final grades for courses. Colleges and employers will not see individual marking period or exam grades.

**What is the Exam Schedule?** Midyear exams occur at the conclusion of the second marking period. They take place on Monday, January 23rd through Thursday, January 26th.

On each exam day, there are two exams and no other classes. Students are only required to attend when they have an exam; they do not need to attend during time slots in which they have no exams, such as study halls and physical education. Families may wish to provide their own transportation to accommodate student exam schedules. Buses run at the regular time in the morning and depart after 11:30 AM, the conclusion of the second exam.

If your child cannot attend an exam due to illness or another circumstance, please call the main office prior to the exam to let us know.

The exam schedule follows on the next page.

Best of luck to our students during exams!

- Russ Dallai

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Change of Semester (1/27/17)

The second semester begins on Friday, January 27th. We will begin the semester with a brief advisory at 7:30 AM to provide students with a new schedule reflecting any change in half-year courses. Please note that juniors and seniors must complete a new “Early Dismissal/Late Arrival” form if they wish to take advantage of this opportunity.