

WPHS College and Career Center Updates

OCTOBER 2023

Greetings West Potomac students and families! Happy Autumn to all!

Please read below for information on College & Career Center upcoming events, college information sessions, financial aid, scholarships, and other opportunities.

Also make sure to follow the College & Career Center on Twitter @wphsccc **AND** on Instagram @westpoccc!

College and Career Center:

Wolverine...do you need help making plans for what you'll do after high school?

I partner with school counselors, teachers, and staff members to help students make informed decisions about post-secondary opportunities. The CCC is opened Monday through Friday from 8 am – 4 pm. I am available to meet with students and parents virtually or by phone. Please send an email to Mrs. Young at **kbyoung1@fcps.edu** if interested in scheduling a time to meet. I can also be reached via phone at 703-718-2548.

Please note: Fall appointments are prioritized for seniors.

Highlight of Upcoming Events: Details regarding these events can be found in this newsletter.

October Events:

- *October 15th: Venture in Volunteering Fair
- *October 15th: FCPS Annual College Fair
- *October 16th – 17th: FCPS Post-Secondary 2 Night Event (Virtual)
- *October 18th: U.S. Naval Academy Candidate Information Session
- *October 21st: Virginia Williams High School Career Forum
- *October 23rd: WPHS Common Application Boot Camp
- *October 26th: VMI Information Session
- *October 28th: College Access Fairfax: Paying for College for Seniors (Virtual)

November Events:

- *November 9th: Moving on to Life in the Community Resource Fair
- *November 13th: U of Mary Washington On-Site Admissions Event
- *November 17th – 18th: ASBC 21st Annual HBCU College Festival
- *November 30th: ASVAB exam

Career Center Corner....

INFORMATION OVERLOAD!!! Compared to previous generations, one of the “pros” for current students is the amount of information accessible at their fingertips. This positive can also quickly become a negative as students try to navigate so much information over multiple platforms. As I meet with students, I find they are not sure where to look for information.

Within FCPS, students have two helpful sources of information as they explore opportunities & plan for their next steps after graduation. What are they and what is the difference?

Schoology:

Schoology is a main source of information for students. One of the courses all students are enrolled in the *WPHS Student Services Course*.

There are *College & Career Center* folders in the *Student Services Course*. The folders contain information & resources that can be useful for students in all grade levels. Folders have information on topics like the college application process, financial aid & scholarship resources, test prep resources, the military, trade schools and career resources.

A *Video Library* folder has also been added this year. Some of the video topics include How to Register for WPHS College Visits, Preparing for College (all grade levels), Preparing for College for Students with Learning Differences and Applying for Scholarships.

(NOTE: Students will need to log into their Schoology accounts to share the information in the Student Services Course with their parents/guardians.)

Naviance:

Naviance is the home for all things post-graduation. Students can explore careers, research colleges, complete self-assessments on their strengths, skills & interests, explore the military, find scholarships, and more.

Parents/guardians can also access *Naviance* using their FCPS ParentVue credentials.

Naviance has been updated. Updates include:

*Users can hit the globe in the right-hand corner to translate *Naviance* into your preferred language.

*On the home page, students can select their post-graduation plan under *Plan Your Future*. This feature is intended to help students more easily access information that will support their post-graduation plan.

Naviance can be accessed at <https://www.fcps.edu/naviance>

HIGHLIGHTS OF UPCOMING EVENTS:

Venture in Volunteering:

Students can learn about volunteer opportunities from nonprofit and county representatives. The event will be on the lower level of the Springfield Town Center on **Sunday, October 15, 2023**, from 12 pm – 4 pm. Questions? Contact VolunteerSolutions@FairfaxCounty.gov.

College Fair and Look to the Future Events:

The 2023 College Fair will be held on **Sunday, October 15, 2023**, at George Mason University's Eagle Bank Arena from 4:00 - 7:00 pm. Approximately 250 colleges and universities will be represented, including two and four-year colleges and U.S. Service Academies.

Following the fair, the Two-Night Postsecondary Virtual Event will be held on **Monday, October 16 and Tuesday, October 17, 2023**, from 5:00 - 8:00 pm. Students and their families are encouraged to register for these events if they plan to attend. Both events will help students be better prepared for the next chapter of their educational journey.

Along with registration for the college fair, the *Two-Night Virtual Postsecondary Event* session details and schedules have been updated on the [Look to the Future](#) website.

U.S. Naval Academy Information Session:

On Wednesday, October 18, 2023, from 7 pm – 8:30 pm the Greater Washington DC Area Alumni Association will host a U.S. Naval Academy Candidate Information Session. It will be held at George Mason University's Arlington Campus. Speakers will discuss what life is like as a cadet, how to navigate the application & nomination process, career opportunities after graduation and more!

To register for this event, visit <https://shorturl.at/acyQR>

Virginia Williams High School Career Forum:

A high school career forum for grades 9-12 will be held on Saturday, October 21, 2023, from 11 am – 1 pm at the Lorton Community Center, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton VA. Panelists will share information about careers available after high school graduation. Projected panelists include U.S. Coast Guard, College Speakers, Fairfax City Government, STEM, Study Abroad, Medical Field, FBI, Renewable Energy, and Trade. Space is limited. Register no later than October 19th at www.vwhsca.org

Virginia Military Academy Information Session:

The VMI Admissions Office, in partnership with the VMI Alumni Association, will host an information session at the Army Navy Country Club – Fairfax on Oct. 26, 2023, from 6-8:30 pm. VMI Information sessions provide an opportunity for high school seniors and juniors to learn more about VMI firsthand. They will have the opportunity to speak with VMI staff, current cadets, and local alumni, and plenty of time is provided for

parents and prospective cadets to ask questions in a one-on-one setting. Since it is scheduled during dinner hours, hors d'oeuvres will be available for attendees. Please register [here](#).

If you are unable to attend this event, VMI will host a similar event at the 1757 Golf Club on Oct. 24 from 6 pm -8:30 pm. Registration for this event can be completed [here](#).

Moving on to Life in the Community Resource Fair:

Join Career and Transition Services (CTS) for the annual *Moving on to Life in the Community Resource Fair!* This event is designed for students with developmental and intellectual disabilities who will need continuing support after they exit FCPS. It will be held on Thursday, November 9th, 2023, from 6:30pm - 8:30pm at Annandale High School (Cafeteria), 4700 Medford Dr., Annandale, VA 22003. Students and families can learn about supported employment options, day support programs, recreation/leisure activities, residential living options, travel training supports, advocacy, funding, and more! Register online: <https://tinyurl.com/ycx4bwec>

U of Mary Washington On-Site Admissions Event:

SENIORS ONLY: The University of Mary Washington will be in the WPHS College & Career Center on November 13, 2023, to provide on-site admissions decisions. Seniors who are interested in participating in this event must complete their college application and register by November 6th. *Please see the email sent to all seniors and parents/guardians on October 10th with specific directions for registering for this event.*

ASBC 21st Annual HBCU College Festival:

The ASBC 21st Annual Historically Black College & University (HBCU) Festival is a hybrid event being held **November 17-18, 2023**. This event is open to all high school students and will be held at The St. James Sports Complex in Springfield, VA. The festival is dedicated to connecting high school students and their families to HBCUs, and scholarship opportunities. Approximately 80 colleges and universities will be represented during the two-day event. Students and their families are encouraged to register at <https://hbcufest.alfredstreet.org/e/hbcu-fest>

ASVAB Exam:

SENIORS & JUNIORS ONLY: The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) is a test that helps in identifying different skills and competencies. It is used as the entrance exam for students interested in enlisting in the military. The ASVAB can also be used for career exploration. (Students who are not interested in taking the exam can take the self-assessments under the *Self Discovery* tab in *Naviance*. Students can explore their own skills, strengths, interests, and careers,)

Registration will open on Monday, October 16, 2023. An email will be sent to ALL current seniors, juniors, and parents/guardians with tests details & the registration link. The exam will be given in the WPHS College & Career Center on Thursday morning, November 30th from 8:30 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.

College Information Sessions:

College admissions representatives have been visiting the College & Career Center every day since September 11th. Within the first 5 weeks of visits, 56 representatives have come to the CCC and over 660 juniors and seniors have attended the visits to date.

Each visit lasts approximately 30 minutes and students hear information directly from the representative about the admissions process, scholarship process or special programs offered at their college or university. Students also have an opportunity to have their questions answered directly from the admissions representatives.

There are still over 40 colleges and universities currently registered to visit the CCC through early-November. College representatives continue to register to visit the CCC. Students should check Naviance regularly for the most up-to-date list of colleges visiting WPHS.

Seniors & juniors log into *Naviance Student* & register under *Colleges > College Visits*. The registration process instructs students to print the confirmation page as a “Pass” or take a screen shot on their cell phone to show the teacher whose class they will miss at least 24 hours prior to the event.

Students can also watch a short video on how to register for college visits. It can be viewed *Schoology’s Student Services Course* in 3 different places:

1. *Class of 2024* folder
2. *Class of 2025* folder
3. *College & Career Center: Video Library* folder

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Students **MUST** go into Naviance & register for each visit. Reminder emails from colleges or auto-reminder emails from counselors **ARE NOT REGISTRATIONS** & are not allowed as passes to college visits.

COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVE VISITS TO WPHS (as of 10/12):

Virginia Wesleyan University	October 12	9:00 AM
University of South Carolina	October 12	9:45 AM
The University of Tennessee	October 12	1:00 PM
Mississippi State University	October 12	1:45 PM
Syracuse University	October 13	9:00 AM
Lenoir-Rhyne University	October 13	9:45 AM
Old Dominion University	October 13	11:15 AM
Champlain College	October 13	1:45 PM
Montserrat College of Art	October 16	9:45 AM
High Point University	October 16	11:15 AM
Morgan State University	October 16	12:15 PM
Savannah College of Art & Design	October 16	1:00 PM
Moravian University	October 16	1:45 PM

The George Washington University	October 17	9:00 AM
Washington & Jefferson College	October 17	9:45 AM
Stony Brook University	October 17	10:30 AM
University of Richmond	October 17	11:15 AM
James Madison University	October 18	11:15 AM
<i>*ARCHITECTURE, VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS ONLY*</i>		
U.S. Air Force	October 18	12:15 PM
<i>*ACADEMY, SCHOLARSHIPS, ENLISTMENT*</i>		
University of Chicago	October 18	1:00 PM
Lafayette College	October 18	1:45 PM
James Madison University	October 19	9:00 AM
Kenyon College	October 19	11:15 AM
Gettysburg College	October 19	1:00 PM
University of Colorado	October 19	1:45 PM
Florida Institute of Technology	October 20	9:00 AM
Merrimack College	October 20	9:45 AM
Syracuse University	October 20	10:30 AM
Wake Forest University	October 20	11:15 AM
Washington College	October 23	9:45 AM
University of Connecticut	October 23	10:30 AM
Radford University	October 23	12:15 PM
Randolph-Macon College	October 23	1:45 PM
Berklee College of Music	October 24	9:00 AM
Northeastern University	October 24	9:45 AM
Elon University	October 24	12:45 PM
University of Southern California	October 25	10:30 AM
Northern VA Community College	October 25	11:15 AM
George Mason University	October 30	10:30 AM
<i>*ADVANCE PROGRAM ONLY*</i>		
Husson University	October 31	9:00 AM
Kent State University	November 1	10:30 AM
King's College	November 2	9:00 AM
University of Maine	November 2	11:15 AM
Xavier University	November 2	1:00 PM
Virginia Commonwealth University	November 8	12:15 PM

******Colleges are still scheduling visits to WPHS. Please make sure to check Naviance regularly for the most up to date list of colleges visits to WPHS******

Financial Aid Information:

The FAFSA or Free Application for Federal Student Aid is the application U.S. citizens and eligible noncitizens complete to apply for federal & state financial aid. Students complete the FAFSA during their senior year of high school and each year they are in college.

The FAFSA usually opens about October 1st; however, the revisions to the FAFSA and procedural changes will be implemented this Fall. Although a specific date has not been announced, the revised FAFSA is expected to open in December 2023. DO NOT complete the FAFSA until then.

What can I do until the FAFSA opens in December?

1. Each student and at least one parent must secure an FSA ID in order to begin, complete, and submit the FAFSA. While it is encouraged that all students & parents create an FSA ID now in preparation for completing the FAFSA, ***do not complete the FAFSA until it opens in December.***
2. For schools that require the CSS Profile, it will open on October 1st. It is highly recommended that students and families complete the CSS Profile once it opens. The FAFSA will still need to be completed once it opens in December.

A financial aid newsletter was emailed to all seniors and parents/guardians on September 29th. Please refer to the newsletter for specific information and a more in-depth overview of the financial aid process, application descriptions and resources for the Class of 2024.

College Access Fairfax (CAF) is a community organization & free resource for FCPS students and families. They partner with Fairfax County Public Schools to provide invaluable resources on financial literacy regarding paying for college to students & families. Please visit CAF's website <https://collegeaccessfairfax.org/> to see a full description and details of all the services they offer, including videos of previous workshop presentations and scholarships that will be available to FCPS students. Scholarship applications will open October 15th.

Below is a list of upcoming virtual workshops for students and parents. See the CAF website for links.

- **Paying for College – An Overview of the Financial Aid Process**
Saturday, October 28 at 10:00 AM
Tuesday, November 14 at 7:00 PM
- **Scholarship 101 – An Overview of the Process for Applying for Outside Scholarships**
Saturday, November 18 at 10:00 AM
Tuesday, November 28 at 7:00 PM

College Access Fairfax Financial Aid Champion:

Ms. Katrina Rowsey is our Financial Aid Champion. Once a FAFSA opening date is announced by the federal government, she will be in the Career Center weekly to assist students with their FAFSA or VASA. Ms. Rowsey will also be available to assist students and parents outside of the school day in completing their financial aid applications. She is available via Zoom if students and parents need assistance creating their FSA ID between now and when the FAFSA opens in December. Ms. Rowsey can be reached at khrowsey@fcps.edu .

SCHOLARSHIPS & ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS:

Highlights of Upcoming Programs:

Coursera Career Academy Student Pilot Program:

Student Opportunity! The Department of Information Technology still has licenses available for the Student Pilot Program with Coursera, allowing interested FCPS High School students to access the full contents of the [Coursera Career Academy](#). This academy offers over **29 Professional Certificates** from the world's leading companies.

Program highlights include:

- Explore popular digital jobs and career paths, from **Cybersecurity Analyst** to **Data Science Analyst**
- Learn from experts at leading companies, including **Google, Meta, Microsoft, and IBM**
- Earn a valuable career micro-credential
- Access to over [29 Professional Certificates](#)

Interested students must complete the [Coursera Student Interest Form](#). Once the interest form is completed, the student's parental/guardian will be contacted for consent. Coursera student accounts will then be created. Additional login details will be provided to students after account creation.

Please note: Coursera courses are not VDOE recognized industry credentials and do not count towards high school graduation requirements. The pilot program has a limited number of licenses available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Questions? Contact Scott Simmons at sfsimmons@fcps.edu

Steamfitters Local 602 Openhouse:

The Steamfitters Local 602 Union represents the Journeymen and apprentice steamfitters and pipefitters in the Washington, DC area. A Steamfitter is a person who fabricates, installs, and services piping systems. They work on different types of piping systems – Residential, Commercial, and Industrial. Apprentices earn high wages while learning the job.

On Saturday, October 14, 2023, the Steamfitters Local 602 will host their annual open house. Topics will include the application process as well as school and class operations. Registration is not required. Please arrive by 8 am at 8509 Ardwick Ardmore Road, Landover, MD.

SCHOLARSHIPS & ENRICHMENT PROGRAM LISTINGS :

Below is a list of some of the scholarships and enrichment opportunities posted in *Naviance*. *Naviance* has the most current listing.

Students should check *Naviance* for a complete listing of scholarships, FCPS approved contests & enrichment programs. Students are ENCOURAGED to review *Naviance* on a regular basis as deadline dates are critical. Students can find application instructions for all scholarships listed below by logging into: *Naviance Student>Colleges> Scholarship & Money>Scholarship List*.

Need additional tips on finding scholarships? Students can also visit the *Student Services Course* in *Schoolology*. The *College & Career Center: Scholarships & Enrichment Program* folder has additional information, tips, and resources about scholarships.

SCHOLARSHIPS:

- American Culinary Federation Education Foundation - deadline Oct. 31, 2023 - <https://www.acfchefs.org/ACF/Education/Scholarships/ACF/Education/Scholarships/>
- Joyce E Dawkins Memorial Scholarship - deadline Nov. 1, 2023 - <https://www.fairfaxea.org/scholarships>
- Herb Block Scholarship - deadline Nov. 10, 2023 - <https://www.herblockfoundation.org/scholarships>
- School House Connection Scholarship - deadline Nov. 24, 2023 - <https://schoolhouseconnection.org/scholarship>
- Stand Up to Distracted Driving Scholarship - deadline Nov. 29, 2023 - <https://www.kanoski.com/community-involvement/distracted-driving-scholarship>
- Visionary Scholarship - deadline Dec. 1, 2023 - <https://americacollegefoundation.org/college-planning-visionary-scholarship-details/>
- Student-Athlete Achievement Awards - deadline Oct. 20, 2023 - <https://vasportshof.com/2023-student-athlete-achievement-awards-nomination/>
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency Geo-Scholarship Program - deadline July 1, 2024 - https://www.nga.mil/careers/Student_Opportunities.html
- Harris Goodall Squires Memorial Scholarship – deadline April 1, 2024 - Application in *Naviance*.

- [Fisher House Military Children Scholarship](#) - deadline February 15th, 2024 – Amount \$2000 - Application in Naviance
- [Dellums SMART Scholarship](#) – Deadline December 1st, 2023 Scholarship amount varies - Application in Naviance
- [L. Patrick Laing Scholarship](#) – deadline May 1st 2024 – Amount \$1000 - Application in Naviance.

WPHS NOMINATION SCHOLARSHIPS/PROGRAMS:

*A WPHS scholarship committee will review all applicants & select the nominee for each scholarship. See *Naviance* for details on each scholarship, including applications, requirements & deadlines. *

- Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership Program (HOBY) – Deadline Oct. 30, 2023 *Current Sophomores Only*
- Harry F. Byrd, Jr. Leadership Award Scholarship - Deadline Nov. 3, 2023 - Award amount \$25,000
- Student Peace Awards - Deadline Nov. 3, 2023 – Award amount \$250
- UVA Jefferson Scholarship – Deadline Nov. 3, 2023 – See description in *Naviance*.
- UVA Walentas Scholarship – Deadline Nov. 3, 2023 – See description in *Naviance*.
- VA Tech Pamplin Leadership Award – Deadline Dec. 5, 2023 – Award amount \$5,000

CONTESTS:

* See *Naviance* for details on each contest, including applications, requirements & deadlines. *

- Voice of Democracy – deadline Oct. 31, 2023
- The American Legion Oratorical Contest - deadline Dec. 1, 2023
- Martin Luther King Oratorical Contest – deadline Jan. 8, 2024

Disclaimer: Scholarships offered by organizations other than Fairfax County Public Schools are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Fairfax County School Board, the Superintendent, or this school.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS:

Enrichment programs are a great way for students to explore their interests. Some are free and others may have a fee. See *Naviance* for a complete listing.

- College Fair and Virtual Postsecondary Week – event dates Oct. 15, 2023, from 4pm to 7pm and Virtual Oct. 16 – 17, 2023, from 5pm to - <https://www.fcps.edu/resources/college-and-career-planning/college-fair-and-college-night>
- Instruction 2 Industry: Employability Skills – event dates Oct 16-19, 2023, from 10:15-10:45am - https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSekatikKvLEjKlloB3IW4Ly2RIUKSf-sI2IIDvTBG6h_lDdw/viewform
- GMU Bioengineering Virtual Information Session - event date - Multiple dates from Aug – Nov 2023 - <https://bioengineering.gmu.edu/academics/advising/prospective-students-information-sessions>

- Volunteer Opportunities - Annual DC Walk - event date Oct. 21, 2023
- <https://www.autismspeaks.org/>
- Leadership Enterprise For a Diverse America (LEDA) – deadline Dec 12, 2023
- <https://ledascholars.org/our-program/leda-scholars-program/recruitment-admissions/apply/>
- Veterinary Medicine Careers Exploration – event date October 14, 2023, 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon
- <https://www.humanerescuealliance.org/virtual-student-programs>
- Virginia Space Coast Scholars (VSCS) – deadline Oct. 24, 2023 – event date 2023 -2024 School Year and weeklong Summer Academy 2024 - <https://vsgc.odu.edu/spacecoast/>
- Virginia Aerospace Science and Technology Scholars (VSATS) – deadline Oct. 24, 2023 – event date event date 2023 -2024 School Year and weeklong Summer Academy 2024
- <https://vsgc.odu.edu/vasts/>
- Virginia Earth System Science Scholars (VESSS) – deadline Oct. 24, 2023 – event date event date 2023 -2024 School Year and weeklong Summer Academy 2024 - <https://vsgc.odu.edu/vesss/>
- [College Access Fairfax Financial Workshops](#) – event dates Oct. 28, 2023, 10:00am and Nov 14, 2023, Paying for College / Nov.18, 2023, 10:00am and Nov. 28, 2023 - Scholarships 101
- [Volunteer Opportunities at Tour de Mount](#) - event date Oct. 21/2023 8:00am – 1:00pm
- [Agricultural Technology Fall 2023 Open House at Virginia Tech](#) – event date Oct. 21, 2023, at 10:00am
- [UVA School of Architecture Virtual Fall Event Series](#) - Multiple dates from Sept. – Nov. 2023
- [Virginia Williams High School Career Forum](#) - deadline to register Oct 19, 2023 – event date Oct 21, 2023
- [US Naval Academy Information Session](#) – Event date October 18th 2023
- [Fall Open House at Pharmacy Hall](#) – Event date October 21st 2023
- [High School Internship with the NGA](#) - Deadline October 14th, 2023
- [UVA Fall Fest](#) - Event date October 14th, 21st 2023
- [Richard Bland College of William and Mary Admissions Fair](#) - Event date October 28th 2023
- [Raising Responsible Citizens volunteering projects](#) - Ongoing volunteer opportunities for students
- [Fairfax County Fire Explorer Program](#) - Next information session October 14th 2023
- [Duke Ophthalmic Technician Program](#) – Next information session October 26th 2023
- [Fairfax County Youth Leadership Program](#) – Event date November 8th 2023
- [Historically Black College & University \(HBCU\) Festival](#) - Event date November 17&18th 2023
- [Fordham Ram Information Session](#) - Event date October 17th 2023
- [X-Stem NOVA Science Festival](#) – Event date October 20th 2023
- [Department of Education Virtual Internship](#) - Deadline October 27th 2023
- [Steamfitters local 602 Open house](#) – Event date October 14th 2023
- [Juilliard Advising Performing Arts Majors](#) – Event date October 23rd + 24th 2023

There are external opportunities across career fields that students may want to explore. When schools share those opportunities with students, please know: Opportunities offered by organizations other than Fairfax County Public Schools are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Fairfax County School Board, the Superintendent, or a specific school. These opportunities may utilize technology tools that have not been assessed by the Fairfax County Public Schools Department of Information Technology. Students should gain permission from their parent or guardian before engaging in any non-FCPS enrichment opportunity and families should review the Terms of Service, User Agreements, and Privacy Policy for any technology platform that the enrichment opportunity may use before participating.