

# WPHS College and Career Center Updates

## September 2023

Welcome to a new school year West Potomac students and families! My name is Karen Young and I am the College & Career Center Specialist at WPHS. It has been wonderful during these first two weeks of school welcoming back familiar faces and meeting our newest Wolverines!

I truly believe that knowledge is power. My goal in the College and Career Center is to provide all students with pertinent and important information that will ultimately assist them in creating a solid post-graduation plan for the next chapter in their life's journey...whether that is a 2- or 4-year college, military service, trade school or work.

Throughout the school year I'll communicate information and opportunities to students and families thru a variety of communication channels. Each month I will send a CCC newsletter to WPHS students, parents, and staff. Information will also be communicated via email, Schoology, and social media. Please make sure to follow the College & Career Center on Twitter @wphsccc and Instagram at westpoccc.

I'm very excited for another school year and look forward to supporting all students in reaching their highest potential!

### **College and Career Center:**

Do you need help making plans for what you would like to 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 – Friday from 8 am – 4 pm.

I am available to meet with students or students and parents in person, virtually or by phone. Please send an email to Mrs. Young at [kbyoung1@fcps.edu](mailto:kbyoung1@fcps.edu) if interested in scheduling a time to meet. I can also be reached via phone at 703-718-2548.

### **SAVE THE DATE – Upcoming Fall Events:**

- \*September 7<sup>th</sup>: WPHS Senior Information Night
- \*September 21<sup>st</sup>: WPHS Common Application Boot Camp
- \*October 15<sup>th</sup>: FCPS Annual College Fair
- \*October 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>: FCPS Post-Secondary 2 Night Event (Virtual)
- \*October 19<sup>th</sup>: WPHS Common Application Boot Camp
- \*October 28<sup>th</sup>: College Access Fairfax: Paying for College for Seniors (Virtual)

## **New School Year, New Beginnings...**

As we begin a new school year, I encourage students to focus on their ABC's:

*A: Academics.* Students begin building their academic record, including their GPA in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. I encourage students to do their best in each of their classes every year. If a student is having difficulty, reach out first to your teacher. Ask for assistance sooner than later.

*B: Build Healthy Relationships.* West Potomac has lots of different clubs and organizations that students can get involved in. I encourage students, especially students new to WPHS to pick at least one activity to get involved in. Getting involved gives students an opportunity to meet other students with similar interests and to get connected into our school community.

Students also get to know your teachers, administrators, and other adults in our school. We are here to celebrate your successes and help you when needed.

*C: College & Career Center.* Use the resources offered through the College & Career Center beginning in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Unless expressly stated, programs offered throughout the year in the Career Center are open to all students. Students make sure to read your school email regularly. Important information is communicated through email and Schoology.

## **Schoology:**

Schoology is a main source of information for students. All students are enrolled in the *Student Services Course*, and it contains information for students in every grade level.

Within the *Student Services Course*, each graduating class has a folder that is updated with important information throughout the year.

There is also a College & Career Center folder in the *Student Services Course*. This folder has information on a variety of resources including the college application process, financial aid & scholarship resources, test prep resources, the military, trade schools and career resources.

Students are encouraged to visit their class folder and the College & Career Center folders regularly for updated information.

## **FAIRFAX COUNTY YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES:**

### **ALL High School Students: Student Representatives to School Board Advisory Committees**

Rida Karim, the School Board Student Representative for the 2023-24 school year, is seeking nominations for student representative(s) to the School Board Advisory Committees. Attached is a list of those committees with the number of students appointed for each committee. Linked below is the Google Form to apply. *All applications are due September 8, 2023.*

[Fairfax County School board Citizen Advisory Committees](#)

*Questions?* Students should contact Rida at [rskarim@fcps.edu](mailto:rskarim@fcps.edu)

### **Juniors ONLY: Fairfax Food Council Seeks Youth Representatives**

The Fairfax Food Council is seeking two youth representatives to serve on the Fairfax Food Council Steering Committee. Youth representatives will attend steering committee and work group meetings or review minutes, as school schedule allows; meet monthly with the Food Council Project Manager and other designated members of the steering committee; and represent the interests of youth who live and go to school in Fairfax County, Fairfax City, and Falls Church. Each youth will work with the Project Manager to develop a project unique to their area of interest around youth and the food system.

The youth representative position is considered a volunteer position. However, youth representatives will be granted monthly stipends in the amount of \$25 per hour of service. The time commitment is approximately 6 hours of service each month. Applicants should both live and attend school in Fairfax County, Fairfax City, or Falls Church, and be a rising high school junior for the 2023-2024 school year. Representatives will serve a one-year term, with the ability to extend to a two-year term.

To apply, youth must complete the application found on the Fairfax Food Council website. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/food-council/>. *Applications are due September 15.*

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF UPCOMING EVENTS:**

### **College Fair and Look to the Future Events:**

Fairfax County Public Schools high school students and their families are encouraged to participate in these 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 US 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 are encouraged [to register](#) for these events if you plan to attend. Both events will help students be better prepared for the next chapter of their educational journey.

## College Information Sessions:

During the fall of every year, college admissions representatives come to the College & Career Center during the school day to present information about their schools. This year, I will host in-person college representatives in the CCC, unless the college representative elects to conduct the visit virtually. Visits will begin September 11<sup>th</sup> and continue daily through the beginning of November. It is an excellent opportunity for seniors & juniors to hear information about a specific college, including the admissions process directly from college representatives.

**Who can attend?** Senior and junior students are eligible to attend college representative visits.

**What must a student do to attend a visit?** Students **must** register in advance in *Naviance Student* **AND** speak with the teacher(s) whose class they will miss at least 24 hours prior to the college rep visit. The registration process instructs students to print the confirmation page, take a screen shot on their cell phone **OR** use their computer as a “Pass” from class for their teacher. Registration will be confirmed, attendance taken and passes given back to class after each visit.

**How does a student register for a visit?** Seniors & juniors log into *Naviance Student* & register under *Colleges > College Visits*. Students can also watch a short video on how to register for college visits. It can be viewed in the Class of 2024 & Class of 2025 folders in *Schoology's Student Services Course*.

Students should bring their laptops to all visits!

### **COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVE VISITS (as of 9/5):**

Temple University	September 11	9:45 AM
DePauw University	September 11	10:30 AM
Trinity Washington University	September 11	12:15 PM
Towson University	September 11	1:45 PM
Barnard College	September 12	9:45 AM
University of Maryland Eastern Shore	September 12	11:15 AM
Dartmouth College	September 12	12:45 PM
American University	September 13	12:15 PM
Vassar College	September 14	9:45 AM
Randolph College	September 14	11:15 AM
Bridgewater College	September 14	1:00 PM
University of Virginia	September 15	9:45 AM
Roanoke College	September 18	12:15 PM
Butler University	September 18	1:00 PM
University of Maryland-Baltimore County	September 18	1:45 PM
Northern VA Community College	September 20	11:30 AM
University of Arizona	September 20	1:45 PM
University of Miami	September 21	9:45 AM
University of Mary Washington	September 26	12:45 PM
University of Rochester	September 27	12:15 PM
University of Georgia	September 27	1:00 PM

Seton Hill University	September 28	9:45 AM
Saint Michael's College	September 29	9:45 AM
Christopher Newport University	September 29	11:15 AM
Greensboro College	October 2	9:45 AM
William & Mary	October 2	10:30 AM
Virginia Tech	October 3	9:00 AM
Loyola University Maryland	October 3	12:00 PM
Northwestern University	October 4	1:45 PM
University of Louisville	October 6	11:15 AM
Swarthmore College	October 6	1:00 PM
The University of Tennessee-Knoxville	October 12	1:00 PM
University of South Carolina-Columbia	October 13	9:45 AM
Champlain College	October 13	1:45 PM
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
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 - Boulder	October 19	1:45 PM
Florida Institute of Technology	October 20	9:00 AM
Merrimack College	October 20	9:45 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
University of Southern California	October 25	10:30 AM
Northern VA Community College	October 25	11:15 AM
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 (Ohio)	November 2	1:00 PM

**\*\*\*\*This list is updated daily. 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 1<sup>st</sup>; 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.**

The VASA application is for seniors who are not eligible to complete the FAFSA but would like to be considered for aid from Virginia. This includes students who are nonimmigrants, undocumented, or have DACA status. This application provides access only to state and to some college level financial aid programs. It does not provide federal student aid. Like the FAFSA, students complete the VASA during their senior year of high school and each year they are in college.

We have a phenomenal community partner in College Access Fairfax (CAF). They are a local organization committed to helping Fairfax County Public School students and families with the complex task of acquiring financial aid for post-secondary education. This organization offers information and free services for FCPS families of students in middle and high school.

College Access Fairfax will offer a variety of financial aid workshops, including workshops on the financial aid process and FAFSA line by line workshops for seniors once the date that FAFSA will open is announced. Workshops may be offered in person or virtually as well as in the evening or on weekends.

Mrs. Rowsey is our CAF Financial Aid Champion. Once a specific opening date for FAFSA is announced, she will be available to assist seniors and parents in completing the 2024-2025 FAFSA or VASA forms. Mrs. Rowsey will also be available weekly during lunch periods in the Career Center. Seniors will be able to come to get their financial aid questions answered or for assistance.

Please visit the College Access Fairfax website <https://collegeaccessfairfax.org/> to see a full description and details of all the services they offer.

### **SAT & ACT Test Prep:**

There are several ways to prepare for the SAT or ACT. For students who wish to prepare on their own, *Khan Academy* is a great free online resource. Students can also use *Tutor.com* for test prep which must be accessed through *Schoology*.

Students who are interested in a test prep class may want to consider **Applerouth Test Prep** partners. This test prep company partners with our WPHS PTSA to offer test preparation at a discounted rate for WPHS students. Dates & times will be communicated once finalized their schedule is finalized.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS & ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS:**

Just like applying to college, searching for scholarships is a process. While scholarships don't have to be paid back like a loan and considered "free money", students must invest time in finding and applying to them.

*How early can students apply for scholarships?* While the majority of scholarship opportunities are for students who are closest to enrolling in college (seniors & juniors), students can begin to search for & apply to some scholarships as early as freshman year.

*Does a student have to be accepted into college before applying to a scholarship?*

No, students do not have to wait to be accepted into a college before applying to scholarships.

*Useful tips students can use during their scholarship search process:*

1. Set aside time every week to look for scholarships.
2. Each scholarship will have different requirements and deadlines. Before applying to a scholarship make sure that you meet the requirements.
3. Scholarship due dates are hard deadlines. Submit your application before the deadline date. If that is not possible, make sure to submit it by the deadline date.
4. Apply to local scholarships. Local scholarships have a smaller number of applicants compared to national scholarships.
5. Use a personal, professional email account, not your school email account. Make sure to check all of your email accounts on a regular basis.
6. Remember the scholarship process is a competitive one. Answer all the questions, include the required documents, allow enough time for recommendation letter(s) if required, and proofread your application prior to submitting it.

*A few **red flags** to remember:*

1. Never give personal information like your social security number or credit card/bank information when applying to scholarships.
2. Be wary of scholarships that use language like "scholarship fees" or "scholarship guaranteed".
3. Do not pay for scholarships...remember you shouldn't pay for "free" money.

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

All scholarship & enrichment opportunities are available for FCPS students to review and apply to through *Naviance Student*. This site is updated WEEKLY, and students are ENCOURAGED to review opportunities in *Naviance* on a regular basis. Remember deadline dates are critically important.

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF SCHOLARSHIPS & ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS:**

Students should check *Naviance* for a complete listing of scholarships & enrichment programs.

### **Scholarships:**

- Cameron Impact Scholarship - deadline Sept. 8, 2023  
- <https://www.bryancamereducationfoundation.org/scholarship>
- Don't Test and Drive Scholarship - deadline Sept. 30, 2023  
- <https://www.digitalresponsibility.org/dont-text-and-drive-scholarship>
- 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/>
- Coca-Cola Scholars Program Scholarship - deadline Oct. 02, 2023 - <https://www.coca-colascholarsfoundation.org/apply/>
- Student-Athlete Achievement Awards - deadline Oct. 20, 2023 - <https://vasportshof.com/2023-student-athlete-achievement-awards-nomination/>
- Quest Bridge National College Match - deadline Sept. 26, 2023 - <https://www.questbridge.org/high-school-students/national-college-match>
- Frans Hagen "Educated Eats" Scholarship - deadline Sept. 30, 2023 - <https://ramw2015.wixsite.com/educatedeats/scholarships>

*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:**

- Your Career Strategy - event date Fall 2023 <https://www.yourcareerstrategy.com/ycsxbloomeroverview>
- Aim High Artificial Intelligence (AI) Bootcamp – deadline September 8, 2023 – event date October 14th, 21st, 28th and November 4th from 2:00pm to 6:00pm - <https://form.jotform.com/230596831046054?source=Booz%20Allen%20Press%20Release>
- Teens With Heartsongs – deadline to apply as a team leader is August 30<sup>th</sup> and team member is September 8<sup>th</sup> – event date Oct. 9 – Dec. 13, 2023, 1 to 3 hours per week  
- <https://www.teenswithheartsongs.org/teens-apply-here>
- Aim High “Meet Monster”! - event date October 11<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am to 12:00pm  
- [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Q\\_-gxHLS7toZ45r0R-Pw\\_F00mqHWddvJ/view?usp=drivesdk](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Q_-gxHLS7toZ45r0R-Pw_F00mqHWddvJ/view?usp=drivesdk)

- 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/>
- 2023 Peach State College Tour information session - event date September 20, 2023, 6:00pm - 7:00pm - <http://www.peachstatetour.org/students.html>
- National Portfolio Day event hosted by VCUarts - event date September 17, 2023, from 12:00pm to 4:00pm - <https://arts.vcu.edu/admissions/national-portfolio-day/>
- Science + Art Saturdays at Randolph College - event date August 26, 2023, to December 2, 2023 - <https://www.randolphcollege.edu/admission/visit/science-art-saturdays/>
- Harvard, Princeton, UVA, Wellesley, and Yale Information Session – event date Multi-dates from August to October 2023 from 7pm to 8:15pm - <https://admission.virginia.edu/hpuwy>
- Group Presentation with Emory, Hopkins, Notre Dame, and WashU at Hayfield Secondary – Event date Sunday, September 10, 2023 at 7:00 PM until 9:00 PM - [https://admissions.jhu.edu/register/?id=b2926404-1184-47cb-af5e-8ef74fb7fece&\\_ga=2.107416075.822252544.1692889819-419061888.1692889819](https://admissions.jhu.edu/register/?id=b2926404-1184-47cb-af5e-8ef74fb7fece&_ga=2.107416075.822252544.1692889819-419061888.1692889819)
- Financial Aid 101 webinar –Sept 26 @ 7 pm / October 12 @ 7 pm / Nov 9 @ 8 pm - <https://calendly.com/bhubert/paying-for-college-finaid-101?month=2023-08&date=2023-11-09>
- Utah State University – Out-of-State Open House - event date Sept. 20, 2023, from 5pm to 8pm - <https://www.usu.edu/admissions/openhouse/>
- Banson NYC Fashion Week Adventure - event date September 7 - September 11, 2023, and February 8 - February 12, 2024 - <https://www.bansonnyc.com/>
- Banson NYC High School Fashion Summer Camp - event date Session A: June 23 - June 28, 2024 Session B: July 14 - July 19, 2024 - <https://www.bansonnyc.com/>
- Banson NYC Paris Week Adventure – event date Nov. 5-12, 2023 - <https://www.bansonnyc.com/>
- ALCANZA College Fair – event date Oct 18, 2023 - <https://events.admissions.gmu.edu/alcanza-registration/>
- Fairfax County - Public Safety Cadet Program - event dates Sept. 11, 2023, at 7:00pm and Sept. 18, 2023, at 7:00pm [https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/getinvolved/publicsafetycadets?utm\\_campaign+=&utm\\_medium=email&](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/getinvolved/publicsafetycadets?utm_campaign+=&utm_medium=email&)
- LearnServe Fellows Program - event date Sept 2023 - April 2024 - <https://learn-serve.org/programs/learnserve-fellows/>
- The Youth Awareness Scholarship Program – deadline Dec 15, 2023 – event date September 9th, 2023 - information sessions at 11a and 1p and April 25-29, 2024 - <https://learn-serve.org/programs/learnserve-fellows/>
- Volunteer Opportunities at National Lands Day – event date Sept 23, 2023 - <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/topics/national-public-lands-day>
- Volunteer Opportunities at Raising Responsible Citizens - <https://www.rrcf.org/>

*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.*