

ACCESS

Oakton

oakton high school ptsa • vienna va • www.oaktonhsptsa.org

October 2012

OHS MISSION STATEMENT

Oakton High School will prepare all students for productive and ethical living, life-long learning, and innovative and responsible leadership.

OHS VISION STATEMENT

Through a culture of collaboration, continuous improvement, accountability, and community involvement, Oakton High School will provide rigorous, relevant, and well-rounded education for all students.

SUBMIT

If you have an article that you would like to have included in Access Oakton, please forward it to Marcia Pickett at: mpickett6@verizon.net. The due dates for articles for future publications are November 29, January 31, April 4 and May 30.

PTSA MEETINGS

All PTSA meetings are held in the OHS Library beginning at 7:00 pm. The next meeting is November 7, 2012.

Letter from the President

Kirsten Rucker, PTSA President • ohsclub2012@gmail.com

Thank you all for embracing the new online options for joining the PTSA and for verifying your data for our new online directory. We hope these changes make life easier. Huge thanks to our new webmaster, Brian Evans, to our membership chair, Suzanne Brandt, and to our treasurer Sue Bartosic, for their dedicated work towards the online membership effort. Great big thanks to Brooks Moran for her herculean efforts to get the directory completed and with great care and concern for anyone with special issues. I hope you find the new directory and its access options more efficient. We do have a limited number of paper copies for sale for those of you who prefer that format.

If you have not had the opportunity to do so, please look at our website, www.oaktonhsptsa.org, which has undergone a facelift to allow for easier management as we go forward. A host of information is available there to help our community.

I am sure some students have been wrestling with issues with the online textbooks. It is only through using our voice that we will get heard, so feel free to forward your concerns to me to share with the appropriate parties or forward your concerns directly to any or all of the following: the FCPS School Board (our representatives have asked that we send to everyone on the board) at SchoolBoardMembers@fcps.edu; Dr. Jack Dale, FCPS Superintendent, at Jack.Dale@fcps.edu; our cluster 8 assistant superintendent Fabio Zuluaga at cluster8admin@fcps.edu and/or Sloan

Presidio, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, sjpresidio@fcps.edu under whose department the online textbooks are adopted and managed. While it is important that we embrace technology, it should never be at the detriment of the learning process.

The PTSA exists to provide a voice for and between members of the high school community. We encourage you to join the organization for just \$15 per person and, as always, to attend our meetings and to get involved further if you have the time and interest. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 7 at 7 pm in the library. We will have an informal discussion with Dr. Banbury beginning at 6:30 pm.

In addition, all freshman parents and parents new to the Oakton High School community are invited to a PTSA sponsored coffee at 8 am on Monday, November 12 in the library. The administrative staff and counseling staff as well as members of the PTSA will be available to answer your questions.

Best regards,

Kirsten K. Rucker

OHS PTSA President



Letter from the Principal: New Programs at Oakton

John A. Banbury, Principal • john.banbury@fcps.edu

October 2012

Dear Oakton parents, teachers, and students,

Welcome back, Cougars! And welcome to the incoming freshman class and their families! You have joined an exceptional community of learners—readers, writers, thinkers, athletes, artists, musicians, and innovators—and we are looking forward to the many contributions that you will make to Oakton as we support you throughout your high school journey. While I endeavor to highlight the many achievements and initiatives at Oakton High School in each PTSA newsletter, I invite you to attend monthly PTSA meetings to meet with me and become involved in our school culture of continuous improvement.

The vision of Oakton High School is “to prepare all students for productive and ethical living, life-long learning, and innovative and responsible leadership.” Living, learning, and leading in the twenty-first century require a broad set of skills that will enable Oakton graduates to adapt to the ever-changing global economy. In order to attain this vision, Oakton’s faculty continues to improve and expand our programs to emphasize essential, twenty-first-century skills—particularly critical thinking, communication, creativity, and collaboration.

In an effort to make these skills central to Oakton High School’s culture, last year we introduced the Freshman Program: an innovative, interdisciplinary curriculum which includes quarterly reflection on rigorous student learning goals, an Exhibition of Learning in the spring, and a final Presentation of Learning at the end of the school year. Over the summer, teachers met to craft the Sophomore Program which will continue this trajectory of reflective learning and real-world skills for the classes of 2015 and 2016. Parents of freshmen and sophomores, we welcome your support at home by discussing the Learning Goals with your children throughout the year, and we particularly look forward to seeing you at our second annual Exhibition of Learning in March.

To support our vision for Oakton graduates, we have also launched AVID this year for freshmen and sophomores. AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is a long-established, research-based program that supports students who desire to attend college through an elective course that emphasizes study skills, personal responsibility, and mentor relationships. If you would like more information about AVID, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s school counselor.

In addition to these programs for underclassmen, all students will benefit from a few new features at Oakton. As

I mentioned in our June newsletter, our daily schedule is now an eight-period rotation that accommodates an extended Cougar Time every-other day along with an exciting new feature: student advisories. Because we recognize that Oakton’s fast-paced culture of achievement and sheer size can challenge our efforts to support every student as an individual, student advisories provide a home base where students can learn about school events, connect with their advisors, build mentor/mentee relationships with peers, and practice vital life skills. Furthermore, student advisories provide an avenue for teaching research-based Habits of Mind—important cognitive and relational skills that support learning in all disciplines. These sixteen Habits of Mind fall into four categories: the ethical mind, the synthesizing mind, the creative mind, and the disciplined mind. As the year progresses, please ask your children about these Habits of Mind; I trust you will find them to be essential for success in the twenty-first century.

Finally, I am excited to announce the implementation of an Honor Council at Oakton. As a community of parents, teachers, and students, we recognize that academic achievement without ethical responsibility is essentially meaningless. To that end, our PTSA has developed a plan to exalt honor at Oakton this year by teaching students about academic honesty and promoting accountability. Many thanks to those PTSA members who have invested research, time, and energy into designing this Honor Council in a manner that meets Oakton’s needs.

There is no doubt that we do a lot here at Oakton to meet the varied needs and aspirations of our students and our community. Interdisciplinary programs, student advisories, AVID, and our Honor Council are among the new features of Oakton High School, not to mention the many long-established and renowned co-curricular and extra-curricular programs that we offer. Though varied and far-reaching, all of these components work together to achieve our vision for the Oakton graduate. Ultimately, we desire to create future leaders who are able to make their learning visible—not just to answer multiple choice questions on standardized tests—but to exhibit their learning for real-world purposes. I invite you to engage in this vision for the Oakton High School community through our PTSA this year. I am looking forward to meeting with you each month in Oakton’s library.

Best wishes for a successful and inspiring school year!

Sincerely,

Dr. John Banbury
Oakton HS Principal

Honor Council Coming Soon to Oakton High

The installation of an Honor Council late this winter at Oakton High School is a final step in what has already been a two year process with input from teachers, PTSA parents, counselors, students and administrators. Members of our community have perceived that there is a



cheating problem at school and within our society. An Honor Council at Oakton High School will be one way members of our Honor Committee and school community believe

we can nurture a culture that promotes honesty and values ethical decision making. Best of all, it

will be an opportunity for select students to take ownership of this important aspect of our school culture by participating on the Honor Council.

The Honor Council will offer:

- a fair and democratic process to evaluate and judge cheating situations.
- anonymity for both teachers and students involved.
- a timely framework to address cheating incidents and achieve resolution.
- a deterrent for future cheating.
- consistency in how cheating incidents are addressed.
- a means of taking the emotion out of a case by having an impartial group consider the situation.
- opportunities for students to serve as members of the council.
- an introduction to an Honor Council framework that many students will face in college once they've graduated and also in their workplace.

Please stay tuned for updates related to the Honor Council later this fall.

From The Counselors' Corner

There will be a Freshman Parent coffee on November 13 at 10:00AM. Come to the media center to learn about Oakton High School and some of the great programs offered to students and parents.

Seniors should have their transcript request forms to Mrs. Weir in Counseling by the following dates for their college applications:

Application Deadline	Transcript Request Due Date
November 1	October 10
November 15	October 24
December 1 or 15	November 7
January 1 or 15	December 3
February 1 or 15	January 10
March 1 or 15	February 7

For requests submitted less than 15 business days of the application deadline, please also submit a \$5 late fee per transcript. Make checks payable to Oakton High School.

News from Theatre Arts www.oaktondrama.org

Welcome back to what is sure to be a fun and exciting year for our Theatre Department. We are excited to announce the shows for our season.

- Suite Surrender – A Farce – November 8,9,10
- Our Town by Thornton Wilder – November 15,16,17
- Cougar Dinner Theatre One Act Night – Monday, February 4th
- Musical – May 16,17,18

Our theatre students were selling Season Passes at Back to School Night, but if you missed out on the opportunity, it is not too late. You can go to our website and download our Booster form. Your \$40 check made to OHS Boosters gets you and a friend into

each of our 4 shows. An \$80 value!

Our Drama 2 students will be performing their Soap Opera Murder Mysteries in the lecture hall on November 29 & 30th. These are always a load of fun to come and watch. Plus they are free!

In celebration of closing our first shows, we will be taking a field trip to NYC on Wednesday, December 5th to see "ONCE" as well as "NEWSIES". And new this year, we will also be taking a tour of the Apollo Theatre. This field trip is open to our upper classman first and then if there are spots we will invite some Theatre 2 students.

On Sunday January 6th we will be driving down the road to Signature Theatre in Arlington to see the high energy musical "DREAMGIRLS." This field trip is open to all of my theatre classes.

Each of our students should have been assigned a drama buddy to help get them through the year. We had a successful "Meet, Greet and Eat" event during cougar time and will plan on having events like this once a month. Our officers are also in the process of planning an outing to a haunted forest in October. Check the Theatre Board outside of the Drama room for details.

Improvisation Club has announced their team for this year, but EVERYONE is welcome to come and play on Wednesday after school in the drama room. Again – details of meetings will always be outside the room on the Theatre board.

We are off to a busy start and look forward to seeing you all in our audience!!!!

Vanessa Gelinas

Winter Sports Tryouts

Tryouts will begin on **Monday, November 5 (Teacher Work Day) for Basketball, Wrestling, Girls Gymnastics, Indoor Track/Field and Swim/Dive.** All athletes must have an emergency care form for the winter sports coach **AND** a doctor's physical dated after May 1, 2012 on file in the Activities Office **in order to do preseason conditioning and tryouts.** The physical must be recorded on the official Virginia High School League Physical Form. All forms are available in the Activities Office and the athletic website, www.oaktonathletics.org under Files and Links. Physicals should be turned in to or mailed to the Activities Office. **MAKE A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS. (OHS Activities, 2900 Sutton Rd., Vienna, VA 22181)** If you mail in the emergency care form with the physical, write the sport(s) in the upper right hand corner so we can give it directly to the coaches. **Athletes will not be permitted to condition/tryout without these forms. Again this year, all athletes and one parent must view an on-line concussion power point before tryouts.** The link to view it is posted at www.fcps.edu/sports. Records from last year were cleared in May. Both parent and athlete must view it again this year. **Tryout updates will be put on oaktonathletics.org in late October.** If you turned in a physical for fall sports and conditioning, then it should be on file already. However, the emergency care form you turned in to school or to a fall coach is not on file. You must give another to the winter coach. **There is a mandatory drop-in "registration"** for all winter athletes on Wednesday, October 31 2:15-3:15 in the cafeteria to check to make sure all your paperwork is on file.

Band Boosters

2012 White House Christmas Ornament On Sale Now!

The 2012 White House Christmas Ornament honors our 27th President, William Howard Taft who introduced the automobile to White House transportation. Oakton Band is offering them for sale at a new lower price this year - \$20.00! Perfect for holiday gifts (personal or corporate), as well as weddings or anniversary presents. To view color photos and obtain ordering information for the 2012 ornament, please go to www.oaktonbands.com, <<http://www.oaktonbands.com>,/> click on Fundraisers, then on Ornaments. If you have any questions please email Susan Fuchs at who@oaktonbands.com <<mailto:who@oaktonbands.com>>

First Chance to Order Fresh Citrus!

Support the Oakton High School Bands by purchasing fresh from the tree Florida Citrus. The first citrus sale of the year opens Oct 28, with orders due by Nov 5. The order form can be found on the Band website: www.oaktonbands.com <<http://www.oaktonbands.com>/>. Orders can be made on the website or via email to citrus-sales@oaktonbands.com <<mailto:citrus-sales@oaktonbands.com>>. Payment by cash or check is due at pick-up. The pick-up is scheduled for Nov 17 from 9 am to 12 noon inside Door 6 at Oakton High School.

Cougar Calendar

October 13	Homecoming Dance 8-11 pm
October 17	No Collaboration
November 2	End of First Quarter
November 5,6	Teacher Work Days
November 7	PTSA Meeting 7 pm
November 7	No Collaboration
November 12	Freshman and New Student Parent Coffee: 8:00 am in the Library
November 21	Early Release
November 22,23	Thanksgiving Holiday

Publications News

Oakton's publications received numerous accolades on Monday October 1, 2012 from the Virginia High School League at the Regional Publications Conference in Fredericksburg, VA. The Opus literary magazine and the Paragon yearbook both received the highest recognition awarded in the state with Trophy Class distinctions. The Outlook newsmagazine was awarded First Place.

Senior baby ads for the yearbook are on sale now and the deadline is coming up. The yearbook staff will accept baby ads through 2pm on Friday October 12, 2012. All submissions including photos, dedications, and payment must be accepted by 2pm on October 12, including those emailed to the following address oaktonseniorads@gmail.com. If you need a form, they are available in the Main Office or room 135. Please contact the above yearbook email with questions. Space is limited.

The final Senior Portrait appointment dates at Oakton are the second and third week of October. All seniors who have yet to have their senior portrait taken need to contact Blanton Studios by Lifetouch at (301) 840-8044 x.24 or (800) 399.8044 to schedule an appointment. Seniors MUST have their portraits taken with Blanton to appear in the yearbook.

Do you need to retake your underclassman picture? Retakes will occur on Tuesday October 30 in the Lecture Hall during the school day. Students are responsible for making arrangements during the day to get their retake picture done as these are not scheduled through English class like the first sitting.

Yearbooks are now on sale! Please visit www.yearbookordercenter.com and reference order number 4770 to purchase your yearbook today. We do not accept orders or payment at school.

Buy your subscription today for Oakton's award-winning newsmagazine, the Outlook. Subscription forms are available on the Student Packet Information link on the OHS website. It's only \$2 per issue to subscribe!

Find it all @ your OHS Library

Check Out the OHS Library Web Site:

<http://www.fcps.edu/OaktonHS/library/>
Find links to the FCPS Library Catalog, Blackboard.com, and the Fairfax County Public Library. Select Online Databases to access authoritative, reliable, current sources for your student's assignments. Database user names and passwords, required for remote access, are posted in the @Oakton HS Library Blackboard course under Online Databases button.

Google Apps for Education Assistance:

If your student needs to create a Google Apps for Education account or has questions about using the account, help is available in the @Oakton HS Library Blackboard course. Directions are posted to assist students in applications and features.

College Partnership Program Agenda 2012-2013

Meetings will take place once a month with additional activities to be announced and on certain collaboration days. Students are responsible for any work missed during that time. The location of the meetings will be in the Career Center unless another location is announced.

Oct. 3b	1:30 PM	Welcome Back Introductions	Jan. 3g	12:00-2:00 PM	Ret. Grads Panel (Lect. Hall)
Oct. 10	9:25 AM	Selection of Student Leadership Team and Officers. Tour of the Library. Topic: "Making the Most of Resources"	Jan. 15g	9:25 AM	Tour of Career Center "Taking Challenging Courses Make a Difference"
	7:00 PM	Parent/Student Meeting	Feb. 13g	9:25 AM	Open discussion. Course selections and career planning.
Oct. 23	9:30 AM-12:30 PM	ALCANZA College Fair (GMU)	Mar. 6g	9:25 AM	"Public Speaking" & SAT/ACT Prep
Nov. 13g	9:25 AM	Why College? Goal Setting Presenter: Kelly King, Counseling Intern	April 10g	9:25 AM	"College Life 101...Making the most of the college experience outside the classroom. Presenter: Kelly King, Counseling Intern
Dec. 5g	9:25 AM	Topic: "Understanding our Economy...Making Wise Financial Choices"	May 7g	9:25 AM	"Strategies for Final Exams"
Dec. TBD	8:15 AM	Proud to be CPP Breakfast (Cafeteria)	June 3g	9:25 AM	Senior Reception (Cafeteria)

Oakton Band Night!

Welcome Oakton Band Families and Friends

When: November 15, 2012, 5-8 PM

Where: Fair Lakes Silver Diner



Enjoy dinner out on November 15 from 5-8 pm at the Fair Lakes Silver Diner and help raise money for Oakton Bands!

20% of the profits of all meals served during this time will go towards Oakton Bands. Come see band members and band parents serve and clean up. We will have a table in the lobby for donations and some spirit wear on sale.

