

February 2013

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 April 4 and May 30.

PTSA MEETINGS

All PTSA meetings are held in the OHS Library beginning at 7:00 pm. The next meeting will be March 6, 2013.

Letter from the President

Kirsten Rucker, PTSA President • ohsclub2012@gmail.com

Dear Oakton Parents and Community,

It is time once again for rising freshman, sophomores and juniors to make class choices for the 2013-14 academic year. Remind your students that they have another resource this year—their fellow students in their Advisory class. Talking to a variety of students who have taken classes that your student is considering can be very helpful. OHS has many other resources available, so if you need help and are not sure where to turn, check in with your children's teachers or counselor. We've had part of a year with the new honors classes, so experienced information on those courses may make the selection process a little easier.

As many of you know, FCPS has made hardcopy math textbooks available to all students who wanted one. At Oakton High School, the decision was made to get hardcopy books for all math students as using many of the online textbooks can be cumbersome and limiting. Please maintain awareness on the important topic of digital education as it unfolds. Contrary to some opinions, I embrace the use of digital resources in education; however, as we make changes, we need to advocate for changes that are truly going to better educate and prepare our students for the future rather than frustrate and limit those processes. We are on the cusp of a paradigm shift in the way our children are educated, so it is important that we are aware of the resources and tools that will be adopted and are necessary for your child/children to learn in this rapidly changing environment.

The Oakton Honor initiative has been making an impact on the school

community. There is an Honor Council in place and teachers are more confident and comfortable reporting issues of cheating. Please speak to your children about this topic.

Continue to encourage your children to become involved in their high school community. Oakton has a large number of clubs and activities to meet a wide variety of interests. Your child can also start a club if what they are interested in is not offered at the school. Also support your child's academic endeavors and please seek assistance if you feel additional help is necessary.

Planning for the All Night Grad celebration for seniors is going full throttle. See the article in this newsletter on the All Night Grad celebration or to get additional information and register online go to: <http://www.oaktonhsptsa.org/ang.htm>.

Finally, Dr. Banbury comes to the monthly PTSA meetings 30 minutes before the formal meetings begin to share valuable insight and to answer any questions. Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 6 at 7 pm, informal portion begins at 6:30. Take advantage of this generous opportunity to understand what goes on behind the scenes and to share any of your concerns, interests or insights with our administration. Everyone is welcome to attend. Knowing how various decisions are made and what changes are coming help make our community a more supportive place.

Best regards,

Kirsten Rucker

OHS PTSA President



Letter from the Principal: Latest Oakton Updates

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

February 2013

Dear Oakton Parents,

Happy belated New Year! I hope that your holiday season was merry and bright. Now that second semester is underway, we have several opportunities to anticipate and share as a community as we wrap up the school year and look forward to next year.

Believe it or not, we have begun preparation for the 2013-2014 school year! In February and March, students will register for next year's classes. I encourage you to peruse the course offerings booklet with your children to help them align their plans for course selection with their personal interests and plans for the future. If you have questions, our school counselors are ready and willing to assist you.

As mentioned previously, our Oakton Honor Council is now operational. Recently during student advisory, students discussed the purpose of this council and also shared perspectives on the short-term and long-term significance of integrity and character. Ask your children about their understanding of personal and academic honor; our conversations in advisory proved to be rich and enlightening. With your help, we will work as a community to guide students toward ethical choices and dignified lifestyles.

With the goal of educating well-rounded students in mind, I am looking forward with great anticipation to our second annual Exhibition of Learning, which is scheduled for March 19 and 20 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Mark your calendars! The Exhibition of Learning is an open house at which students demonstrate their 21st

century skills by presenting meaningful projects along with their reflections on learning. Over the next few weeks, students will plan their presentations and register through their Student Advisories. As the date approaches, students will be assigned to one night or the other. Freshmen and sophomores are required to present; juniors and seniors are welcome, as well. Please plan to celebrate the joy of learning with us on one or both of the nights! Invite your family members, friends, neighbors, and colleagues to be inspired by the promise of skilled, innovative, and articulate Oakton youth. See you there!

While spring semester is a time for exhibitions, performances, and planning, it is also the period in which students demonstrate their learning on a variety of standardized tests. Testing season begins in March with the English 11 Writing SOL, a test that the Virginia Department of Education recently revised to emphasize rigor, interdisciplinary and critical thinking, and persuasive writing. Like the math and social studies exams over the last two years, the English Writing and Reading Exams have advanced to require a higher level of skill to prove college-readiness. If you would like more information on the updated English standards, visit http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/english/index.shtml.

Thank you for taking the time to be involved in the Oakton High School community. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our Exhibition of Learning in March!

Sincerely,

Dr. John Banbury

From The Counselors' Corner

As of this news letter's publication, the second semester has started and students should be getting into the swing of things for the third quarter! It is hard to believe it is time to start talking about registrations and the selection of classes for next year.

Counselors visit each of our main feeder middle schools to present the courses, graduation requirements and life at Oakton to the eighth graders. They will continue to work with their teachers and counselors to sign up for appropriate classes based on their progress. Upper grades receive a Pre-registration presentation in class and come down to meet individually with their counselors. Rising 10th grade will visit us between Feb, 11 and 22. Rising 11th will come Feb. 28 through March 8. Next year's seniors will visit between the 11 and 22 of March. Final selections are needed by April to help in developing the school's schedule for next year.

Counselors will be working with their juniors in the upcoming weeks in Advisory and Cougar Time to introduce the college and career research tools available to them and their families in Family Connection. It is important that students get a good start in their investigations so they are ready to apply when the time comes next year.

Sophomore parents can look for more information on the parent program aimed at them on March 13. This focuses on the standardized testing involved in college selections. This will cover the various tests, a timeline for planning, and test preparation options.

There is always news from testing – this time it is the 11th grade writing test. As one of the two SOL tests in English during high school it is a requirement for graduation. Please avoid planning absences etc. for the time of March 11 through April 5th if at all possible.

The counseling department strives to bring programs to the school that can benefit all students, but as always, please don't hesitate to call if you need to speak to your student's counselor about a more personal matter!

The Counseling Department would like to extend their gratitude for all of countless hours sophomore Taylor Fay's mother, Diane Kirk has put into making the Career Center and Counseling bulletin boards exciting and beautiful. With incredible imagination and artistic talents she hand painted college logos on the walls of the Career Center and created eye catching bulletin boards with great information about scholarships and summer opportunities. If you are in the building stop by and check out her talents. Thank you Diane!

Spring Sports Tryouts

Tryouts will begin on **Monday, February 18 (Presidents Day – no school) for Baseball, Crew, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Tennis and Outdoor Track/Field.** All athletes must have an emergency care form for the spring 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. Both parent and athlete must view it again this year. **Tryout updates will be put on www.oaktonathletics.org in late January. You should also email the head varsity coach to get on the team email distribution list. (Go to the team page on the website and click on Coaches for his/her email address.)** If you turned in a physical for fall or winter sports and conditioning, then it should be on file already. However, the emergency care form you turned in to school or to a fall/winter coach is not on file. You must give another to the spring coach. **There is a drop-in "registration"** for all spring athletes on Wednesday, February 13 2:15-3:15 in the cafeteria to check to make sure all your paperwork is on file.

All Night Grad Celebration

Plans are well underway for the All Night Grad celebration for seniors. Tickets have already been sold to over 120 seniors. Past years' experience tells us that most of the kids in each class will want to attend and many of them pay full price in the weeks just ahead of graduation. By purchasing your tickets before April 1st, you will pay just \$55 and your child will get 5000 Cougar Bucks to spend during the evening. After this date, ticket prices go to \$75. For more information and to register and pay online, go to: <http://www.oaktonhsptsa.org/ang.htm>. Forms can also be downloaded and mailed, if you prefer. Thanks to all who supported the Patriot Package fundraiser. All reserved seats are sold and we raised \$6000 to put towards this evening of fun for our graduates!

News from Theatre Arts

www.oaktondrama.org

What a way to kick off the 2nd half of the school year! Our Theatre 3&4 students performed *Nowhere in America* at the district VHSL competition on January 28th and came in 2nd place behind Chantilly. This means we move on to the Regional competition held at Lake Braddock High School on Saturday, February 16th. Break a leg!

On February 4th we held our annual Booster sponsored Cougar Dinner Theatre and chili cook off. Theatre 2 performed Shakespeare's *Saucy Scenes* followed by Theatre 3 & 4 *It's Not You, It's*

Me and Things Fall along with our VHSL entry. All the proceeds go towards our KT SMITH SCHOLARSHIP FUND. Thanks to the Boosters for putting together such a fun night!

The cast of *GREASE* is already busy learning the songs for our spring show and will start choreography next. Mark your calendars and dust off your poodle skirts for May 16, 17 & 18th.

The Boosters would like to announce that we are looking for some new officers to represent in the 2013-2014 school year. Sadly our President, Pam Sellars, is "graduating" from her role. If

you are interested in helping out, please contact Pam to get details on what fun rewarding positions will be available. Pamsellers@cox.net

And finally the theatre department wants to send huge congratulations to our favorite choral director, Tiffany Powell, who gave birth to Aidan Michael Horanski on January 27th. We can't wait to put the little guy in a show!

Vanessa Gelinias
vlgelinas@fcps.edu

Opus 2013 is taking student art and writing now!

Does your child produce high quality art or writing? Did you know that each spring Oakton High School publishes *Opus*, a literature and arts magazine that is filled with some of the best art and writing of current Oakton students? The staff of *Opus 2013* literary magazine invites all OHS students to submit their best work to our award-winning publication. The experienced student editors create outstanding designs that showcase the OHS student work.

Encourage your Oakton student to submit online before the **March 17** deadline. Go to oakton-mediagroup.com and click the *Opus 2013* link. *Opus* is the state-champion literary magazine for the past four years. You may order your copy now for \$8 by contacting Mrs. Sullivan at stsullivan@fcps.edu.

From the Halls of Government

Late December and January were busy times for all USVA Government students. Across the senior class, students were actively engaged in learning about the Constitutional Underpinnings of our government, Federalism and the Executive Branch. In addition, the senior Humanities team has been collaborating via the Senior Research Project to provide students with 21st Century research and communications skills that they will need in the future.

The focus of the Third Quarter shifts to the Legislative Branch and includes Oakton Senior Day on Capitol Hill and Model Congress – traditional highlights of students' senior years. The Capitol Hill field trip is scheduled for February 27, 2013. This endeavor requires 65 – 75 adult chaperones. Your student will be bringing home information about the trip and the chaperone requirements. Feel free to contact your son's or daughter's Government teacher if you have additional questions. We hope that you will consider spending the day with us. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Cougar Calendar

Date	Event
February 18	Spring sports tryouts begin
February 18	President's day – No School
February 21	7:00 pm – Orchestra Concert
February 28	7:00 pm Chorus concert
March 5	7:00pm Athletes spring meeting
March 6	7:00 pm Chorus concert
March 6	7:00 pm PTSA Meeting
March 13	7:00 pm Sophomore Parent Night
March 17	OPUS 2013 Deadline
March 19, 20	6:00 pm Exhibition of Learning
March 19	7:00 pm Parents for Safe Teen Driving
March 21	7:00 pm Jammin' Oakton Jazz Cafe
March 25-29	Spring Break Holiday – No School

Inauguration Event

The seniors in Super Seminar listed to the right participated in a telecast at the Mt. Vernon Estate to discuss and reflect on inaugurations from the presidencies of George Washington through Barak Obama. Students were able to send questions to a panel of historians via twitter and in person. Sophia Crutchfield's tweet "How has the ceremonial aspect of the inauguration evolved and/or stayed the same over time?" and Dylan Hunzeker's question on the role of education on the modern presidency were both answered by the panelists. The program was aired live on the Fairfax network and rebroadcast on January 22nd, 2013. http://www.fcps.edu/fairfaxnetwork/mount_vernon/inauguration/index.html

Dylan Hunzeker
Jackie Akunda
Lauren Preaskorn
Joe Molnar
Mark Crowley
Emily Yaremchuk
Melanie Aguilar
Sofia Crutchfield

Band Boosters

Last Chance to Order Fresh Citrus!

Support the Oakton High School Bands by purchasing fresh from the tree Florida Citrus! Check out our web site for a full list of products available for order and the prices: www.oaktonbands.com/floridacitrus. Orders for the final citrus sale of this school year are due by March 4 and can be made on the website or via email to citrussales@oaktonbands.com. Payment by cash or check is due at pick-up. The pick-up is scheduled for March 16 from 9 – 11 am inside Door 6 at Oakton High School.

Oakton Bands Pre-Festival Concert

Please join Oakton Bands for a very important concert on Wednesday, March 6. In preparation for the annual concert band assessment, also known as Festival, all three Oakton Concert Bands will perform their assessment music for the entire Oakton community. The Pre-Festival Concert will start at 7:00 pm in the Robert "Skip" Bromley Auditorium and will feature the Oakton Concert 2, Concert 1, and Symphonic Bands.

Jammin' Oakton Jazz Cafe

Mark your calendars now for a night of cool jazz on Thursday, March 21st! Jammin' Oakton Jazz Café will feature the Oakton High School Jazz Bands. Coffee and desserts will be served. Come out to hear some great music and support jazz at OHS! All profits will be donated to the OHS Turf Campaign. Doors will open at 7:00 pm with performances beginning at 7:30 pm. More info coming soon! Please email any questions to jamminoakton@oaktonbands.com

Art News

This January, the students of the Oakton High School Art Department participated in the 2013 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. Our student artists submitted work in a variety of categories including Drawing, Painting, Printmaking, Sculpture, Digital Art, and Photography!

Congratulations to the following student artist who received the following recognition from among thousands of entries from across the region:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Submission</i>	<i>Award</i>
Yousef Ahmad	Art Portfolio	Silver Key
Christina Back	Drawing	Gold Key
Rachel Helfgott	Mixed Media	Certificate of Merit
Joel Hierholzer	Printmaking	Certificate of Merit
Sarah Kim	Photography	Gold Key
Chi Ying Lau	Art Portfolio	Certificate of Merit
Hyerim Lee	Art Portfolio	Silver Key
Brian Mays	Digital Art	Gold Key
Suzanne Ramirez	Art Portfolio	Certificate of Merit
Monica Rao	Painting	Silver Key
David Reid	Digital Art	Silver Key
Ksenia Sokolova	Photography	Certificate of Merit
Dylan Staniszewski	Art Portfolio & Digital Art	Gold Key
Sarah St. Louis	Art Portfolio	Silver Key
Chan Song Yoon	Art Portfolio	Gold Key

For more information, please visit <http://www.artandwriting.org/>

Pre-Registration for next year's classes is right around the corner. Enrollment in Studio Art & Design 1, Photography 1 and Computer Graphics 1 will be open to all rising 9th - 12th grade Oakton students, without a prerequisite. Advanced Placement Art History and 3D Media: Sculpture 1 courses are open to all 10-12th graders, without a prerequisite. If you have a student interested in enrolling, contact your child's counselor.

Go Cougars!

Mr. Hatchl

Attendance News for Second Semester

With the start of third quarter, the Attendance Office would like to review some attendance procedures with all parents/guardians and students regarding attendance in school, tardy arrivals, early checkouts, and excused and unexcused tardies/absences.

Research indicates that there is a direct correlation between good attendance and achievement in school. Regulation 2234.3 of Fairfax County Public Schools states:

"Regular attendance is necessary for maximum student achievement in school. In addition, punctuality and dependability in meeting assigned responsibilities are personal behavior habits valued in our society. To help students develop desirable behavior patterns, as well as maximize their classroom learning, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) requires that students be punctual and regular in school class attendance."

It is important for students to be on time to class each and every day. If your child is tardy, please send a note with the necessary information included: first and last name of the student, phone number where we can reach you, parent signature, and the reason for the tardy. The only acceptable reasons are illness and doctor or dentist appointments. All other reasons will not be accepted (unexcused). Please do not phone in that your child will be tardy/late coming to school.

If your child needs to be released early, a note must be delivered/brought to the Attendance Office before school begins. The note should include the first and last name of the student, the time the student needs to leave, the reason, a phone number where you can be reached, and your signature. All students must sign out through the Attendance Office before leaving the building of the absence will be marked unexcused, regardless if a note was presented or not.

If your child is absent for the entire day, please call the attendance line at 703-319-2727 as soon as possible. Please include the first and last name of the student (spelling helps), a phone number where you can be reached, and the reason for the absence. Excused absences are for illness, death in the family, college visits, and medical appointments. You have 48 hours to clear up any unexcused absence. After the 48 hours, the absence will remain unexcused.

VHSL Scholastic Bowl Team

The Oakton High School Scholastic Bowl Team is coached by Jackie Fernandez and Marianne Scales. Throughout the fall they scrimmage teams from other Fairfax County Schools biweekly in preparation for the District and Regional Tournaments that take place in late January at Edison High School.

Oakton's team has had a busy schedule since the beginning of the school year. During September, October, November, and December, the team hosted scrimmages against Marshall, Woodson, South Lakes, Madison, and Falls Church. The team had visiting scrimmages at Langley and South Lakes.

On Jan. 12, the team attended the taping of the NBC4 show "It's Academic," competing against Langley and La Plata. The show will air on NBC4 on March 2, 2013. Oakton was represented by Jackie Akunda, Claire Mahoney, Tamera Lanham, and Megh Kumar (alternate).

Then on Jan. 19, Oakton participated in the Scholastic Bowl Tournament, finishing third place in the Concorde District, ahead of Chantilly and Westfield. Robinson won the District Title. Oakton was represented by Eric Carstens, Andrew Brennan, Megh Kumar, Sara Yaseen, and Omar Abderhman (alternate).



Jackie Akunda, Claire Mahoney, and Tamera Lanham, with host Hillary Howard, at the taping of "It's Academic".



Scholastic Bowl Team members Andrew Brennan, Sara Yaseen, Megh Kumar, and Eric Carstens at the Scholastic Bowl District Tournament.



Scholastic Bowl members Omar Adderhman, Megh Kumar, Eric Carstens, Claire Mahoney (front row), Sara Yaseen and Coach Marianne Scales (second row), during a scrimmage with members of Woodson HS (standing).



Scholastic Bowl Team sponsors Jackie Fernandez and Marianne Scales.