



# Fairfax High School PTSA News

Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax, VA 22030 (703) 219-2200 [www.fcps.edu/FairfaxHS/](http://www.fcps.edu/FairfaxHS/)



## School Calendar

### September

30 Pathway Information Night

### October

- 2 Homecoming Parade – 4 pm
- 3 Homecoming Dance – 9 pm - midnight
- 7 Freshman Parent Night – 7 pm
- 7 Governor's School meeting, 2:10 pm
- 9 Interim Grades sent home with students
- 10 SAT at Fairfax
- 13 Theatre Boosters Meeting – 7 pm
- 14 Academy Back to School Night, 7:30 pm
- 14 PSAT and early dismissal for students
- 14 Cafeteria/Custodian Appreciation
- 14 Academy Back to School, 7:30 pm
- 15 October PTSA newsletter deadline
- 15-16 Cap & Gown orders in gov't classes
- 18 College Night at Fair Oaks Mall, 7:30 pm
- 19 College Fair – Hayfield HS, 7 pm
- 19 PTSA Meeting – 7 pm
- 25 Jimi Gibson, the Hypnotist, 7 pm
- 28 Music Department Masquerade Concert
- 30 End of 1<sup>st</sup> quarter

### November

- 2-3 Teacher workdays – NO SCHOOL
- 4-5 "Our Town" FX Players performance
- 6 Report cards mailed home
- 11 Veterans Day – Rebel Roundup 7:30-9:20 am  
3-hour late opening for students
- 12 November PTSA newsletter deadline
- 16 PTSA Meeting, 7 pm
- 17 Academic Recognition Ceremony, 10 am
- 19 Financial Aid Night- MPR, 7pm
- 25 2-hour early release
- 26-27 Thanksgiving holiday

## A Message from the Principal

Dear Fairfax Parents and Students –

My first two weeks as principal of Fairfax High School have been filled with exhilarating experiences. I have not experienced so much learning and excitement in schools since my first year teaching. Even with approximately 200 staff members and 2,350 students (nearly 100 more than what was projected), everyone found their places quickly and got down to work. I visited more than 50 classrooms the first week of school and was impressed by how teachers fostered a student-friendly learning environment and engaged students in the curriculum.

Our increased enrollment allowed Fairfax High School to receive extra staffing, and we adjusted and created classes for the additional staff. We were excited for the opportunity to reduce class size, which will allow students to receive the individualized attention and support needed for academic success. While I understand that the decision to adjust schedules after the school year began made some students and parents uncomfortable, I am very pleased that the changes were made quickly and with little disruption.

Fairfax High School is my fifth high school during my employment in Fairfax County Public Schools. One of my first impressions is how happy the students seemed about returning to school. The students came streaming through the doors with new clothes and full smiles, excited to meet with friends and continue their learning.

I was stunned by how many students came up to me, introduced themselves, and welcomed me to the school. I have witnessed the students' pride and energy for the school at the Pep Rally that ended the first week, and the Unite and Excite event that preceded the first home football game. The pep rally, completely planned by students in the two Leadership classes, featured events such as "administrator bowling," a dance-off highlighting moves by students and staff to music of different eras, and performances by the cheerleading and

dance teams. Rumor has it I even made a guest appearance in the lion mascot costume!

My family joined me for Unite and Excite, and we had a great time eating and talking with the staff and students who attended.

I have enjoyed meeting and speaking with so many students, parents, and community members in my first month as Fairfax High School principal. On Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, I held a forum at the first PTSA meeting to hear from parents and community members. I plan to spend my first few months learning about the school from the perspective of many different stakeholders, and this event allowed me to hear how parents and community members viewed the strengths and weaknesses of Fairfax High School.

I appreciate the many parents who attended the meeting and shared their experiences and reflections about how our school has served its students. I look forward to working with the members of the PTSA in the future. Please join me at PTSA meetings, regularly held on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

In all of the excitement, there was some sad news for our Fairfax High School community. A Fairfax High School student died unexpectedly this past weekend. This student was new to our school, but this does not diminish the importance of the student, nor does it make the news any more bearable to hear. I informed the student body of this news. While I cannot share any additional information at this time, the school has been in contact with the family of this student to offer them our condolences and our support. We are focused on supporting any students who may be grieving a loss. If you have any concern that your child is grieving this loss or if this news may bring about strong feelings of previous losses, please contact your student's counselor. Our thoughts and prayers are with the student's family.

Sincerely,  
Dave Goldfarb

### FHS Phone Numbers

Main Office	(703) 219-2200
Attendance	-2211
Career Center	-2204
Clinic	-2210
Student Services	-2218



## Message from PTSA President

Welcome to the new school year at FHS! We are very excited that our new principal, Dave Goldfarb, is "in the building" and off to a running start. He has been showing up everywhere, and I hope that you've had the opportunity to meet him and speak with him. Most recently he conducted a "parent forum" in conjunction with the first PTSA meeting and heard opinions from parents about how they feel about Fairfax High School. It was a very interesting meeting. ☺

We are also off to a great start with our volunteers this year! We have had LOTS of wonderful help with these activities: First Day Packets, Student Schedules, New Student and New Parent Orientation, Unite and Excite, and Back to School Night!

### ***THANK YOU TO ALL WHO VOLUNTEERED HELP FOR THESE EVENTS!***

Join the fun! Get involved with your children's school and help us make a difference! Our next volunteer activity is the Cafeteria/Custodian Appreciation, Wednesday, October 14. If you would like to help with this activity, please email me at [claij@cox.net](mailto:claij@cox.net).

I invite you to visit our new website, created by FHS student Katelyn Schultz. Katelyn offered to develop a website this summer for the PTSA as part of her Girl Scout Gold Award, and she has done a fantastic job! You can access it through the FHS website [www.fcps.edu/FairfaxHS/](http://www.fcps.edu/FairfaxHS/) or [www.fhsptsa.org](http://www.fhsptsa.org). Katelyn will also be the website administrator throughout the year. If you wish to post information on the website, please send it to [fairfaxptsa@gmail.com](mailto:fairfaxptsa@gmail.com).

The PTSA newsletter will be posted on the website this year on a monthly basis. Please sign up for Keep In

Touch so that you receive notice of when it is posted and also other information that is sent out from the school. If you wish to have a paper copy mailed to your home, please “opt in” by emailing me at [claij@cox.net](mailto:claij@cox.net) and give me your name and your student’s name. The newsletter will then be mailed to the address we have on record for your student.

Remember to join the PTSA! Your membership is vital to the success of the PTSA at Fairfax! Click on the “Join Now” button on the top left side of the PTSA home page for a form to download. Student directories can also be ordered on this form for \$6 each.

Remember to come out for the Homecoming festivities Friday, October 2. Ms. Melnick and the Student Leadership have great activities planned! The Homecoming Dance will be Saturday, October 3 from 9 pm to 12 midnight. If you would like to chaperone all or part of the evening, please contact Student Leadership at [fhsvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:fhsvolunteers@gmail.com). **If your student is attending the Dance, please make sure he/she takes a photo ID to get into the Dance.**

Please feel free to contact me at anytime at [claij@cox.net](mailto:claij@cox.net) or 703-830-8699.

*Clai Jorgensen, PTSA President*

## PTSA Meeting Dates

*(Mondays 7 pm)*

Oct 19 (7 pm Career Center)  
Nov 16 (7 pm Library)  
Dec 14 Holiday Dinner (*time and place TBD*)  
Jan 25 (7 pm Library)  
Feb 22 (7 pm Library)  
March 15 (7 pm Library)  
April 19 (7 pm Library)  
May 17 (7 pm Career Center)  
June 14 End of Year Dinner (*time and place TBD*)

## PTSA 2009-2010 Executive Board

President - Clai Eldrup-Jorgensen  
[claij@cox.net](mailto:claij@cox.net) (703) 830-8699

Vice-President - Diane Mortiere  
[dmortiere@aol.com](mailto:dmortiere@aol.com)

Vice-President - Lisa MacCammon  
[lsmaccam@aol.com](mailto:lsmaccam@aol.com)

Recording Secretary - Clare Talbert  
[Talbert4fun@msn.com](mailto:Talbert4fun@msn.com)

Corresponding Secretary - Janice Wyatt  
[janicewyatt@verizon.net](mailto:janicewyatt@verizon.net)

Treasurer - Susan Kuck  
[sjkuck@msn.com](mailto:sjkuck@msn.com)

Parliamentarian - Shelly Modes  
[shelly@capitalreunions.com](mailto:shelly@capitalreunions.com)

### Newsletter Submission Guidelines

This PTSA newsletter is a monthly publication.  
Deadline for the next newsletter is October 15.

Editor.....Joan Szabo  
[sailboatjs1@verizon.net](mailto:sailboatjs1@verizon.net)

Assistant.....Laurie Ross  
[jlross23@verizon.net](mailto:jlross23@verizon.net)

## Rebel Roundup

This year’s first Rebel Roundup will be held on **Wednesday, November 11** from 7:30 am to 9:20 am. This parent/teacher event is a great way to connect with your child’s teachers and discuss your son’s or daughter’s academic achievement as they go into the second quarter. Parents will have the opportunity to engage in 2-3 minute conversations with their child’s teachers.

Students will have a 3-hour delayed opening and bus schedules will be changed accordingly. Mark your calendar in advance for the March 16, 2010, Rebel Roundup too.

*Diane Mortiere*

## College Information and Planning Events

College Admission Representatives visit Fairfax to give our juniors and seniors valuable information about their schools. Students can sign up for the college visits in Family Connection (through their Blackboard account), under visit schedule. So far, we have more than 60 college visits scheduled for the fall, including:

- 9/28:** Lynchburg College, Averett University, Salisbury University
- 9/29:** Randolph College, Elon University
- 9/30:** Barton College, University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC), George Washington University
- 10/1:** Old Dominion University
- 10/5:** George Mason University, Ohio State, West Virginia University
- 10/6:** Lehigh University, Stevenson University, Marymount University
- 10/7:** St. John's College, Virginia Wesleyan College, University of Alabama
- 10/8:** Roanoke College, Florida Southern College
- 10/13:** Cleveland Institute of Art
- 10/15:** Hofstra University, Randolph-Macon College, High Point University, Kent State University, Lenior-Rhyne University
- 10/19:** Lycoming College, Rochester Institute of Technology, University of Colorado at Boulder, James Madison University, University of Maryland – College Park
- 10/20:** Catawba College, St. Joseph's University, Johns Hopkins University, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, University of Virginia's College at Wise
- 10/21:** State University of New York (SUNY) at Albany, Florida Institute of Technology, Georgia Southern, Wagner College
- 10/22:** Washington University in St. Louis, Christopher Newport University, Virginia Military Institute, University of Scranton, Bridgewater College
- 10/26:** Virginia Tech

- 10/28:** Radford University, Gettysburg College, Boston University, Rider University, Shenandoah University
- 10/29:** Juniata College

For a full schedule and future dates, visit [www.fcps.edu/FairfaxHS/career\\_new/career.html](http://www.fcps.edu/FairfaxHS/career_new/career.html)



### Other important college planning events:

**FCPS College Fair** - October 18, 7:30-9:30 pm, Fair Oaks Mall;

**FCPS College Night** - October 19, 7:00-9:00 pm, Hayfield Secondary School.

*For more info on both nights:*

*[www.fcps.edu/dss/FCPSCollegeFairNight](http://www.fcps.edu/dss/FCPSCollegeFairNight)*

**Financial Aid Night** – November 19, 7:00 pm, Multi-purpose Room, FHS

**College Planning Night for Juniors**– January 28, 2010, 7 pm, FHS; all grade levels welcome

### FHS Offers Two FREE SAT Prep Classes

**1** -- A series of four **Saturday classes** (Oct 17 & 24, Nov 7 & 14) for Juniors and Seniors, at Fairfax High School. Limit: 100 students; Seniors get preference for the fall session. Students must commit to attend all four sessions. See Miss Service in G-128 to sign up; [RCServices@fcps.edu](mailto:RCServices@fcps.edu)

**2** -- Thanks to a second year of support from the Fairfax City Schools, FHS offers a **FREE online SAT Prep** program through the College Board. Students in the 10th-12th grade receive access codes and login information from their counselors; 9th graders receive them through the 9th grade transition program.



### Are You a Senior...

- **thinking** about college, but confused by the process?
- **planning** to complete a bachelor's degree?
- **thinking** about starting at NOVA and then **transferring** to George Mason or another 4-yr. university?

### Pathway to the Baccalaureate could be a **Great Idea** for you !

High school students accepted into the Pathway program receive individual counseling on college transition issues, attend special workshops and receive early placement testing and priority course registration for their first semester at NOVA. If academically qualified, a student could pursue options to earn college credit while finishing high school.

The Pathway program continues on at NOVA, with special counseling available, academic support services, and the opportunity to apply early for junior year admission to George Mason University. Admission at Mason is contingent upon completing your Associate's Degree at NOVA with a 2.5 GPA.

Students interested in the Pathway program need to apply, and the deadline for application is November 6, 2009. There is no minimum GPA required to apply. Applications are available from your regular guidance counselor or by contacting Fairfax's Pathway counselor Jayna Turner, 703-323-3432 or [jacobbs@nvcc.edu](mailto:jcobbs@nvcc.edu).



### CLASS OF 2010

Thanks to all who have paid their seniors dues. We will be collecting them again November 11-13, including at Rebel Roundup. Remember that the dues are \$25 if you pay during this time period.

Make sure you have your senior t-shirt for the Homecoming Pep Rally. They will be on sale during all lunches the week of Homecoming. \$10

On October 15 and 16, cap and gown information will be distributed through government classes. Please make sure you are there.

Make-up dates for senior portraits will be Oct 27, Oct 28 and Nov 2. Lifetouch will contact you if you have not had your picture taken. *You will need to speak directly with them if you can not make the appointment you are assigned.* If you do not have your picture taken on one of these days you will not be in the yearbook.

*Tricia Colclaser, Tammy Hawthorne,  
Julia Varanavage, Class Sponsors*

### Jimi Gibson – The Hypnotist

Ever seen your girlfriend talk to her SHOE?? Ever seen a math whiz FORGET HOW TO COUNT TO TEN??!!! "HYPNOSIS the show" is like nothing you have ever seen before! Volunteers are taken from the audience (about 15-20 of them) and HYPNOTIZED right there in front of everybody!!! You won't believe your eyes.

**When:** Sunday, October 25, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

**Where:** Fairfax High School Auditorium –

**Tickets:** \$10 (To benefit the 2010 All Night Graduation Celebration, a drug and alcohol free event to help keep teens safe on graduation night.) Advance purchase tickets at school during lunch hours Tues-Thurs beginning October 13. Seating permitted, tickets will be available at the door the night of the event.

## FAIRFAX ACADEMY NEWS

**Don't Miss  
Academy Back-to-School Night  
Wed., October 14, 7:30 pm**

### **Chinese language and Korean language enrichment programs:**

- o Fairfax Academy hosted **Cultural Insights and Global Opportunities**, a cultural symposium for Chinese Language students on September 24. Faculty members from Georgetown University talked about Chinese culture, career opportunities and language applications for Chinese language learners.
- o Through the Foundation for Korean Culture in the USA, Charlotte Lee spent three weeks studying in Seoul, Korea this past summer.
- o Rachel Gellar was selected to spend the fall semester of this school year studying in Seoul, through the NSLI for Youth program, a language education program of the US State Department. Rachel is communicating regularly with the current Korean class students so they can share her experiences.
- o **Underwood International College**, a division of Yonsei University, visited the Korean classes to discuss study opportunities available for international students.

### **National Honor Society for Dance Arts**

**(NHSDA):** Fairfax Academy's Dance program is the first and only FCPS dance program to establish an NHSDA chapter for Dance students. The chapter is being organized this fall, with the first induction expected in January. NHSDA's mission is to "encourage well-rounded dance artists to become leaders in their communities after high school graduation." The society also offers the highest dance merit awards in the nation.

**Creative Leaders 101** will be offered to all Fairfax Academy students on October 8 during their class time, covering leadership concepts, skills needed for success in 21<sup>st</sup> century careers, and activities that emphasize the themes of Collaboration, Leadership and/or Global Communication. This is the first in a series of activities offered in 2009-

2010 as part of the Academy's Creative Leaders Project in partnership with Apple FCU Education Foundation.



## **Go Green – Recycle Your Old SLR Cameras for Photography Students**

Got an old SLR film camera sitting around gathering dust? Donate it to the Photography 1 classes. This year, students are not required to buy a film camera, so the classes are in great need of donated cameras to lend out. Please send cameras to the high school photography room, H128 or the main office. Please leave your name and address with the camera; you will receive a donation letter for tax purposes.

*Patricia A. Washburn  
Art Department Chairperson*

## **Need a Brake Job?**

Fairfax High's Automotive Technology program offers 30-, 60-, and 100,000 mile check-ups, complete brake jobs, tune-ups, oil changes and used car check-outs.

We also are part of the Student Auto Sales, a County-run used car dealership. We accept cars, watercraft and motorcycles for a 100% IRS donation. Students do a 12-point checklist on donated vehicles, then do the work required to get the vehicle in shape to pass state inspection and emission tests. These vehicles are then sold and 70% of the profits are returned back into the program so that we are able to purchase the most up-to-date equipment. To donate a vehicle or schedule service, call the Auto Shop at (703) 591-8589 or e-mail [less.steger@fcps.edu](mailto:less.steger@fcps.edu).

## Academic Boosters

The Academic Boosters Committee is already planning our first big event, the **Academic Lettering and Awards Ceremony**, which will be held on **November 17** during the school day. All eligible students will be sent an invitation and family members will be invited to attend.

Our committee would also like to thank all the families who sent donations and volunteered for our events (donations received through Sept. 14). These wonderful people are:

Paulette Donnelly  
 Chris and Juliette Davis  
 Julia Cini  
 Lisa Evers  
 Aissata Decosse  
 Susan and Brad Rawls  
 Lisa and David MacCammon  
 Patty Ryan and John Riley  
 Scott Coombe  
 Chris and Kathy Duda  
 Lynn Latimer  
 Michelle McCrave  
 Lok Shrestha  
 Shelly and Fred Bechert

Laurie and Jeff Ross  
 Laurie Barnes  
 Tom and Dawn Southerly  
 Caroline Thompson  
 Elsa Shaefer  
 Patricia Miers  
 Maureen and Steve Bayne  
 Gail and Phil Mangano  
 Cindy Ortega  
 Randy Deasy  
 Clare Talbert  
 Riza Harild  
 Marcy Dilworth  
 Pam Jones

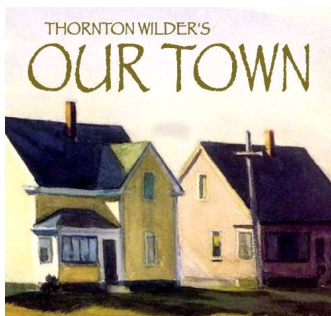
Sheetal Lakhia  
 Kelly Kang  
 Supriya Bhatnagar  
 Kelly Baugh  
 Patti Higginbotham  
 Susan and David Norland  
 Donna Guernsey  
 Susan and Ken Kuck  
 Shirlye McManus Hunt  
 Mena Wendling  
 Adina Horvath  
 Nermeen Kava  
 Anonymous (3)

Your support is critical to our committee as parent donations are our only source of funding. It's never too late to make a donation. If you have misplaced the form, contact us at the email addresses below and we'll be happy to send you a new one.

*Susan Kuck; [sjkuck@msn.com](mailto:sjkuck@msn.com); Shelly Bechert; [Shellybechert@verizon.net](mailto:Shellybechert@verizon.net)*

### FX Players perform *Our Town* and *Lucky Stiff*

Don't miss the FX Players' first production of the year – the Pulitzer Prize winning play *Our Town*. November 4 & 5 in the Black Box Theater. \$10



Also, make plans to catch *Lucky Stiff* (Dec 3-6), a musical murder mystery with a “Weekend with Bernie” twist. A mild-mannered shoe salesman inherits a fortune from his murdered uncle, but to seal the deal he has to take his uncle’s corpse on a last fling to Monte Carlo, keeping his demise a secret. (This show replaces the originally scheduled “Little Shop of Horrors.”)

**FX Players – The Next Generation** – Students in Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade can get a head start on high school drama – by attending our one-day drama camp on the Nov. 3 teachers’ work day. See [www.fxplayers.org](http://www.fxplayers.org) for more information.

**Theatre Booster Bus To New York!** All Theatre Booster families are invited to a chartered-bus, low cost, do-your-own-thing day trip to NYC on Saturday, December 19. For info, come to the **Oct 14th FHS Theatre Boosters Meeting 7:00 p.m. in F111.**

## Music Department



### Masquerade Concert – October 28

Wednesday, **October 28<sup>th</sup>** at **7:30 p.m.** in the FHS auditorium.

Don't miss the popular Masquerade Concert! Music from Fairfax's award-winning choral groups, band and orchestra will be fun and funky (and maybe even spooky...) and the costumes wild and wacky. Prizes for the scariest, funniest, and most creative costumes will be awarded at the end of the concert. **Admission is free.**

Tables in the commons area will feature various music department fundraisers, including Chorus **White House Christmas ornaments, desserts, soy candles, and musical magnets** and Fairfax Band **car magnets and spirit wear**. A limited quantity of **fresh flowers** will also be on sale, so stop by to jump start your holiday shopping and procure your tokens of appreciation for the performers.

### Band News

Please join us for The 2009 Marching Rebels new show, "Herods, Gods and Mythical Creatures."

- Oct. 2 - Homecoming Parade and Game
- Oct. 17 - Oakton Classic
- Oct. 24 - JMU Parade of Champions
- Oct. 31 - VBODA Regional
- Nov. 6 - Final Game/Senior Night

The Fairfax Band Tag Day was 12 September. The Band Boosters and students would like to thank the

community for their generosity. Your donations exceeded the amount we collected last tag day (over \$18,000). We are still accepting donations from the "Sorry we missed you" envelopes left behind. If we missed your neighborhood (our school boundary is large), feel free to mail in a check to the FHS Band Boosters to the school address (Fairfax High School, Fairfax Band Boosters, 5301 Rebel Run, Fairfax, VA 22030). The band budget is over \$100,000 a year. This includes competition fees, bus fees, uniforms, music, instruments. Thanks again for your generosity.

The Band Fall Fundraisers will run 5-28 October and will benefit both the band and the students, providing a way for students to earn money toward our Music Department Spring Trip to Myrtle Beach, SC. This year the fundraisers include Christmas Greens, Citrus Fruit, Poinsettias, Cookie Dough, Cheesecakes and Nuts. If you have any questions, email Joan Szabo, [sailboatjs1@verizon.net](mailto:sailboatjs1@verizon.net).



### Late Buses

Late buses are available on Wednesday and Thursdays. Departure times vary depending on traffic and previous routes, but on Wednesday the late buses are scheduled to depart Fairfax High School between 3 and 4 pm. On Thursdays buses depart between 4 and 5 pm. The late buses are provided to enable students to stay after school and do homework, meet with teachers or attend meetings. The library is open on days the late buses run.

Late bus routes can differ from the normal route your student is used to. Each subschool office has a complete list of the late buses and their routes posted on their hall window. Your student simply needs to find the correct bus number and get on at the assigned time.

## Register Your Grocery Cards Earn Money For FHS

Fairfax High School is registered to earn money back at several local stores. It costs you nothing, but brings the school money that can be put directly back into your child's education! Simply follow the directions below and together we can make a difference! *Please remember that you need to re-register each year for this program.*



Sign up for the new Bloom - Breeze Rewards Card at Guest Services inside any Bloom store or online at [www.ShopBloom.com](http://www.ShopBloom.com). Our high school code is #01053.



Log on to [www.GiantFood.com](http://www.GiantFood.com), click on **Our Stores** and go to **A+ Register your card**. Fill in the two blanks with the first three letters of your last name and your Giant Card number. The program runs from October 3<sup>rd</sup> to April 2<sup>nd</sup>.



The Safeway Club Card contributes up to 3% of your purchases to our school. Register at [www.escrip.com/](http://www.escrip.com/) Fairfax High School ID 2145176. You can also designate purchases made with other cards to benefit FHS.



Office Depot also offers a percentage back to Fairfax High School if you mention the school when you make your purchase.

## Governor's School

There will be a Governor's School interest meeting held after school on Wednesday, October 7 at 2:15 pm. All interested **juniors and sophomores** are invited to attend.

The Governor's School program began in 1973 when Gov. Linwood Holton established the first summer residential program for 400 gifted students from across Virginia. The program has expanded to serving more than 7,500 gifted students from all parts of the commonwealth. Governor's School offers the state's most able students academically and artistically challenging programs beyond those offered in their home schools.

The areas of study are visual and performing arts; humanities; agriculture; math, science, and technology; and foreign language. Mentorships are also offered in Life sciences and medicine, Marine science, and engineering/NASA.

Students focus on one special area of intellectual or artistic strength and interest and study in a way that best suits the gifted learner's needs. Each program stresses non-traditional teaching and learning techniques. Students are involved in classroom and laboratory work, field studies, research, individual and group projects and performances, and seminars with noted scholars, visiting artists, and other professionals. Students live on a college campus up to 5 weeks during the summer and have the opportunity to live, study and get to know other students with similar interests and abilities from across Virginia.

Students are chosen based on academic records, test scores, extra-curricular activities, honors and awards, creativity, original essays, teacher recommendations, strong desire to learn, and a clean discipline record. For more general information concerning Governor's School visit [www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Instruction/Govschools/](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Instruction/Govschools/).

## 2009-2010 Attendance Procedures and Policies

Fairfax High School students are expected to be in attendance every school day unless special circumstances warrant their absence from school. Period-by-period attendance will be reported to the subschool office. As a courtesy, FHS uses an automated e-mail and telephone system daily to notify parents that their student has been marked absent in one or more classes.

**The following is a review of selected FHS attendance policies. For full details, go to [www.fcps.edu/FairfaxHS/attendance2009\\_10.pdf](http://www.fcps.edu/FairfaxHS/attendance2009_10.pdf)**

### **If your student is going to be absent or late:**

- It is the parent's responsibility to call the school attendance line, 703-219- 2211, to report the absence/tardy.
- If you do not contact the subschool office on the day of the absence/tardy, you must send a note or call **within 48 hours** after the student's return or the absence will be unexcused.
- Unexcused absences will result in disciplinary action:
  - **First Unexcused absence in a class** – 2 hour after school detention
  - **Second Unexcused absence in a class** – 2 hour after school detention
  - **Third Unexcused absence in a class** – 4 hour Saturday School detention
  - **Fourth Unexcused absence in a class** – mandatory parent conference.
- **Students who arrive late must report to their subschool office** and get a tardy pass. Students arriving more than twenty minutes after the class begins are marked unexcused absent (not unexcused tardy). **Two unexcused tardies equal one unexcused absence.**

**All attendance notes should state the first and last name of the student, reason and date of the tardy/absence/check-out (including time), your name and relationship to the student, your daytime phone number, and your signature.**

### **Excused absences or tardies:**

Reasons for **excused** absences/tardies include: illness of the student, medical or dental

appointments, religious observances, death in the family, court, suspension, area-wide power outage and approved prearranged absences.

### **Unexcused absences or tardies:**

Reasons for **unexcused** absences/tardies include: overslept, alarm did not go off, missed the bus, ride was late, car trouble/accident, traffic, weather conditions, babysitting siblings, working on a project, personal appointments, typing a paper, studying for a test, parent's fault, individual home power outages, etc.

**If your student is going to check out before the end of the day:** A written note is required. Write a note, including time and reason for check-out, and have your student bring it to the subschool office before 7:20 am. If no note is sent, the parent/guardian must come into the subschool office and sign out their student. **Students will not be released by phone calls.**

**Unexpected check-outs:** You must come into the subschool office to sign out your student. Please try to call ahead.

If a student becomes ill during the school day, he/she must go to the school clinic. The clinic aide or nurse will contact the parent/guardian and the student will be checked out from the clinic should it be necessary to go home.

**If your student is going to have a *prearranged absence*** for specified reasons, i.e., business and family trips, college visits, medical treatments, funerals, or religious holidays should be prearranged. To prearrange absences, a written note should be sent to the subschool office. Two days notice is necessary to allow teachers to advise students regarding assignments. The subschool office will issue a prearranged absence form, which the student will share with his/her teachers to obtain assignments for the period of absence.

**SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LINE: 703-219-2211**  
**Subschool information:**  
**12th Grade: Ms. Parrish 703-219-2224 Rm A129**  
**11th Grade: Ms. Kreisel 703-219-2395 Rm D116**  
**10th Grade: Ms. Mall 703-219-4988 Rm G157**  
**9th Grade: Ms. Bacus 703-219-2231 Rm G135**