



# 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

### January

- 18 Martin Luther King Jr. holiday
- 20 ASVAB testing, 7:20 am
- 22 "Henry V" one-act sneak preview, 7:30 pm
- 23 Audition Workshop for Chicago, 1-3 pm
- 25 Rising 9<sup>th</sup> grade orientation at Lanier
- 25 PTSA Meeting, 7 pm
- 27 Rising 9<sup>th</sup> grade orientation at Rocky Run
- 27 FX Theatre Improv Show, 7:30 pm
- 28 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter ends
- 28 College Planning Night, 7 pm
- 29-Feb 1 Teacher workdays; student holidays
- 30 District VHSL One-Act Competition

### February

- 1 Academy Skills USA district competition
- 3 Curriculum Night, 6:30 pm
- 4 Chorus Cabaret night (rescheduled)
- 5 Dessert One-Acts, 7:00 pm
- 9 All-Night Grad committee meeting
- 10 Theatre Boosters, 7:00 pm, F111
- 11 African American Achievers 7 pm
- 12 Music & Computer Technology showcase, NVCC Annandale, 6:30 pm
- 18-20 All-District XI Chorus, Lake Braddock
- 21 Black & Blue Student Choreography Showcase, 12:30 pm, FHS Auditorium
- 22 PTSA meeting, 7 pm
- 23 Military Night at Madison HS, 7 pm
- 24-26 "Pippin" Academy Musical, 7:30 pm
- 25 Rebels on the Rise breakfast, 7:20 am
- 25-26 "Chicago" auditions 2:00-4:00 pm

### March

- 1-5 SOL writing test for 11th grade
- 4 Academy Info Night
- 9 All-Night Grad committee meeting
- 11 Sophomore College Planning Night, 7 pm
- 11 Third quarter interims issued
- 11 African American Achievers 7 pm
- 15 Pyramid Pre-Festival Choral Concert
- 16 Rebel Roundup 7:20-9:30 am  
3-hour late opening for students
- 16 March Madness Student/Teacher Basketball
- 17-19 "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" 7:00 pm

## A Message from the Principal

Dear Fairfax Parents and Students –

I hope all of you had a wonderful winter vacation and start of 2010. I anticipate there will be many wonderful events for Fairfax High School in 2010, including graduation for our seniors. Mother Nature provided us an early start to our vacation, and I hope everyone enjoyed their extended time to spend with family and friends. I was very grateful for the extra time to dedicate to my family.

Believe it or not, we must start turning some of our attention to the 2010-2011 school year. Specifically, our 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students will be starting the course registration process for the following school year in the weeks ahead. I encourage parents to partner with their children as they select courses for next year. There is a large quantity and wide variety of outstanding courses at Fairfax High School, Fairfax Academy, and academy programs throughout Fairfax County schools. Please consider several factors when helping your child select courses. These factors include graduation requirements, career interests and goals, college entrance requirements, and any commitments within or outside of school that might limit your student's preparation and study time.

I encourage students to choose a rigorous schedule, including Advanced Placement (AP) and Honors classes, that will provide them a balance of challenge and comfort in their academic pursuits. Having been an AP coordinator as well as a teacher of several AP and Honors social studies classes, I found that students who enjoyed success in these accelerated academic programs shared several qualities. One is an intrinsic appreciation for learning. Accelerated classes challenge students' abilities and efforts, sometimes even their confidence as well, especially at the start of the year. Learning at high levels requires great effort, intensity, and motivation even when one's intense efforts do not result in initial

success. Students who truly see learning as a goal in itself have less difficulty developing the skills and confidence needed as the year progresses. Another trait is a sustained work ethic. AP and Honors classes place increased demands on students in the amount of time and independent study. Along with greater efforts, students should feel comfortable advocating for themselves and asking for assistance whenever needed. Requesting support should not be seen as a sign of weakness but rather a natural step in the growth process.

Many teachers of advanced classes expect students to generate their own meaning – including developing their own opinions and perspectives – of the curriculum. This is easiest when students have a desire for academic and intellectual challenge. If students have not previously taken advanced coursework, it is often suggested their first such course be in a subject area where they have strong personal interest or even professional aspirations. Students who enjoy problem-solving or multiple solutions find such challenge in AP and Honors classes.

I suggest students seek advice from their teachers, counselors, and parents about what courses provide students the best opportunities for academic growth and success. Please feel free to contact your student's teachers via email for a recommendation, asking them if your student's performance is likely to lead to success in advanced studies. My hope is that our students are looking to continue their education after graduating from Fairfax High School. Admissions offices from most colleges and universities closely examine the courses taken by applicants, as it is seen as a reflection of academic ability as well as an indicator for future personal growth.

Please be very thoughtful in deciding what courses students want to take next year. The course selections of our students are compiled and lead to the creation of a master schedule. Developing a master schedule that accommodates the requests of nearly 2,400 students is a complicated and time-staking process. This master schedule tells us the instructional needs and staffing for our school for the following year. It impacts our hiring practices as well as our curriculum decision

making. For these reasons, no course changes will be allowed after June 24, 2010. No students who enroll in AP classes will be allowed to change during the first marking period of the 2010-2011 school year. I implore you to make course selections with a high level of care because the times, locations and teachers will have been set. Course changes during the school year cannot always be made and often require other adjustments in the student's schedule in order to allow the desired change to happen.

Course registration for students currently in grades 9-11 will happen from the start of February through the end of March. We will hold our Curriculum Night on Wednesday, February 3, starting at 6:30 p.m. Curriculum Night is an opportunity for all parents to hear about graduation requirements, course offerings for the 2010-2011 school year, advanced academic programs, and electives. You will be able to have conversations with faculty who can answer questions about course selection for the upcoming school year. You will receive a letter from the school (handed out to students) within the next few weeks with further details about this informational program. It will also be posted on the school's website

I want to remind students and parents that we will continue to hold our "Boot Camp" during the summer for students enrolling in AP and Honors classes. This enrichment program, which runs over four two-hour evening sessions, will likely be held in early August. In recent years, more and more students are enrolling in Advanced Placement courses, accepting the challenge, and finding success. Over the past three years, students have enrolled in over 500 more AP classes. Our students' passing scores have climbed over 10% during this time. As a school, we look to continue building bridges in our curriculum from grades 9-12 to support student growth and help all interested students in taking advanced coursework before they graduate.

I hope to see many of you at Curriculum Night on Wednesday, February 3.

Sincerely,  
*Dave Goldfarb*



### PTSA Meeting Dates

- 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  
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### Newsletter Submission Guidelines

This PTSA newsletter is a monthly publication. Deadline is usually the second Tuesday of the month. Next issue articles due: February 11.

- Editor.....Joan Szabo  
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### Rebel Roundup

#### Wednesday, March 16, 7:30-9:20 am.

This parent/teacher event is a great way to connect with teachers and discuss your son's or daughter's academic achievement as they approach the final quarter of the year. 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.

*Diane Mortiere*

### Bottom Line – FCPS Budget Info

The Bottom Line is a new publication sent to FCPS parents and employees every two weeks while the budget for next school year (FY 2011) is proposed, discussed, and approved. It contains the latest budget news, facts, dates, and rumor-busters to help the FCPS community better understand the budget and the budget process. To read the premiere issue, please go to:

[www.fcps.edu/news/fy2011/bottomline.html](http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2011/bottomline.html)

## FHS Academic Advising

During the months of February and March, Student Services will be working with your students to select courses for the 2010–2011 school year. Students need to consider graduation requirements, career interests and goals, and college entrance requirements.

You, the parents/guardians, know your student better than anyone. Though we want every student to take the most rigorous schedule that they can successfully handle, consider commitments outside of school that would limit study time. As part of the selection process please seek advice from teachers and counselors to make informed decisions.

The Course Description Guide will be on Blackboard and the school website, and attending the Curriculum Night on February 3, 6:30–9:00 pm is crucial. If you are also a parent of a rising 9<sup>th</sup> grader please be aware that they have new graduation requirements.

Fairfax High School selects its teaching staff for the school year based on your student's course selections. **Due to budget cuts and increasing enrollment, course changes will not be made after June 24, 2010.**

The Fairfax High School Student Services Staff thanks you for your help with this important academic advising process.

*Candy L. Contristan  
Acting Director of Student Services*

## Career Center News...

### **Junior Parent/Student College Planning** **Thursday, Jan. 28, 7:00 pm; FHS auditorium**

Admissions representatives from the following schools will be at FHS to discuss the college application and admissions process, as well as answer questions from parents and students:

**Marymount University**

**NOVA Pathway Program \***

**Ohio State**

**Virginia Tech**

**University of Virginia**

We are honored to have Greg Roberts, UVA's Dean of Admission, joining our panel this year!

\*The Pathway Program helps seniors transition from FHS to NOVA, and then transfer to George Mason University.

Get your questions ready and join us for this very informative evening!

### **Military Service Academy/ROTC Night** **Tuesday, Feb. 23, 7:00 pm** **Madison High School – Warhawk Hall**

Please note this is a shared event with Oakton, Woodson and Madison High Schools @ Madison High School. Representatives from the following academies and ROTC Programs are scheduled to attend:

**US Air Force**

**US Army**

**US Navy & Marine Corps**

**US Merchant Marine**

**US Coast Guard**

There will be a five-minute presentation from each representative, followed by break-out tables to visit individual representatives for specific questions and answers.

*If you have any questions* or need additional information, please contact: Maureen Kim, FHS Career Center Specialist, at 703-219-2204 or [Maureen.Kim@fcps.edu](mailto:Maureen.Kim@fcps.edu).

## **Students Against Destructive Decisions Club (S.A.D.D.)**

Members Presented a Workshop at Daniels Run Elementary School

“Wow! That was great. I think they learned a lot. I hope we made a difference in their lives!” was only one of the comments made by Fairfax High School S.A.D.D. Club members and students who presented a workshop regarding dangers of alcohol consumption and promoting safe, healthy decisions to Daniels Run Elementary School sixth grade classes on Thursday, December 17, 2009. Twelve high school students volunteered their afternoon, with back-up support from their SADD Club sponsors, and led interactive workshops in each of the four sixth grade classrooms.

“Our students really participated and were interested. We hope you’ll come back for a follow-up sessions during the spring months!” was a comment from one of the sixth grade teachers. Ms. Kathy Mullenix, the elementary principal, and Mr. Steve Singman, the high school administrator, plan to coordinate another workshop for the sixth graders. The transition from elementary to middle school can be challenging as students face more situations in which they need to make safe decisions. Fairfax High School students are being solid models for these younger students who will soon enter another phase in their lives.

“It takes only 2-3 alcoholic drinks for younger people to end up in a coma. Alcohol prevents proper physical and brain development,” are examples of what high school students taught their younger counterparts. To prepare for Daniel’s Run, S.A.D.D. Club members attended alcohol awareness workshop training provided by Ms. Diane Eckert and Ruth Cotter, from the FCPS Office of Student Safety and Wellness. They discovered many alarming facts about alcohol and became even more motivated to arm younger students with accurate information.



## **African American Achievers (AAA)**

AAA ended the 2009 year with a wonderful Christmas Fellowship. One of our very own parents, Steve Robinson, inspired the students with his personal testimony of going to college against all odds. He talked about the need to persevere and seize opportunities presented to you. Mr. Robinson distributed some very important information to students desiring to attend college and participated in a awesome question and answer session.

Scheduled for our January 14 meeting is Mrs. Darryle Craig, program manager for the College Success Program in Fairfax County Public Schools. She is responsible for the supervision of five programs: AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination); The Early Identification Program (EIP); The College Partnership Program (CPP); Pathway to the Baccalaureate; and Project Discovery. Mrs. Craig will present a workshop on Cultural Competence and Conversations about Race. The purpose of this meeting is to properly communicate and educate students and parents on the strategies for eliminating the racial achievement gap.

Mark your calendars for our February 11 meeting. We look forward to having the award-winning journalist, Mr. Leon Harris, who anchors the 5 pm and 11 pm newscasts for ABC7/WJLA-TV.

*Teryl Baker*



## FX Players Present “Henry V”, Gear Up for “Chicago”

Thank you for coming out to see our hilarious fall musical “**Lucky Stiff**.” Now that you’ve seen what an amazing show our talented students can put on, you won’t want to miss any of our other productions this year! Check out our newly revamped [www.fxplayers.org](http://www.fxplayers.org) for information about our upcoming shows and great pictures of our past plays.

A number of our students attended the annual **International Thespians Conference** at GMU January 11. This was a great opportunity for students to attend workshops on a variety of topics, exchange ideas with other high school thespians around the state, and audition for colleges. A big thank you to Mrs. Knight and the parent chaperones!



Our students are now immersed in preparing their one-act entry, “**Henry V**”, for the Virginia High School League competition this winter. A sneak preview will be held on Fri., January 22. Please come out to support us at the District competition Jan. 30 at Marshall HS. The Regional competition will be held Feb. 6 at Lake Braddock HS. For more details, see our website.

Student-directed one acts are now in rehearsal for our **Dessert One Acts** performance Fri., February 5 at 7:30 pm in the Blackbox.

Rehearsals continue for the Production Class Theatre Arts 2-4 students’ next Pulitzer Prize winning show, Tennessee Williams’ “**Cat on a Hot Tin Roof**,” to be performed in March.

Our next mainstage production will be the sizzling musical “**Chicago**,” April 30-May 2 and May 7-8. Students are encouraged to attend an audition workshop Sat., Jan. 23, 1-3 pm in the Blackbox. Bring your audition monologue and song and wear comfortable dance clothes. Actual auditions are February 25-26, 2:30-4:00 pm in the Auditorium.

You can help support our talented actors and technicians by joining the FHS Theatre Boosters (see the website for a membership form) and by coming out to our terrific shows. Our next meeting is Wed., February 10 at 7 pm in F111.

## Chorus Cabaret Night

**Rescheduled! Now Thursday, Feb. 4 at 7:30 p.m.** in the FHS café, doors open at 6:30.

Individuals, small groups, and your favorite Fairfax choirs will perform classic jazz and Broadway songs. Dessert and drinks will be provided, and the evening will include a raffle for some fantastic gift baskets. Tickets are on sale now; see your neighborhood chorus student or check [www.fhschorus.net](http://www.fhschorus.net) for the order form and additional information.

## Chorus News

The **Winter Concert** on December 17<sup>th</sup> was awesome! All choirs sang beautifully and took the stage with precision, and both made the concert seem too short. The orchestra ably accompanied the featured selection, Mozart’s Te Deum, and the traditional closing, Handel’s Hallelujah Chorus. Many Fairfax families and alumni enjoyed this festive concert.

The **choral lock-in** on January 8<sup>th</sup> was another big success. Nearly 60 students spent the night eating nutritious homemade snacks, playing games, giving makeovers, and debating world

issues in the chorus room. Mr. Frels and several adult chaperones also survived the night, but napping for all participants was very popular that Saturday.

Coming up soon are All-Virginia Chorus Auditions on Thursday, Feb. 18; and **All-District Chorus** on Saturday, Feb. 20 at WT Woodson High School at 1 pm. Plan to see and hear more than 30 top Fairfax students lead this robust choir comprised of the 200 best singers in the district.

March events include the **Choral Pyramid Concert** on the 15<sup>th</sup>, the **District XI Choral Festival** on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, and the **Music Department Spring Competition Trip** to Myrtle Beach from the 25<sup>th</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup>.

## Band News

The bands would like to thank everyone for the wonderful support received during the silent auctions held at the December concerts. Due to the success of this event, you can look forward to similar auctions at other concerts throughout the year.

Please plan to join the bands at Ledo's Pizza in Fairfax on January 19 or 20. The restaurant is located at 11725 Lee Highway. They will be donating a portion of their profits from these two nights to the FHS band program. It's an easy way to offer your support and you don't have to cook dinner, either!

The bands are also selling pizza of their own. See any band member to place an order for Gianni's Pizza and other frozen snacks. Orders will be taken until January 21 and the treats will be delivered on February 2, just in time for the Super Bowl!

Finally, please look for the next FHS band concerts coming in late February. These will be the pre-festival concerts and are sure to provide even more of the wonderful music we have come to love. Come and show your support and enjoy a wonderful evening.

## SMART MONEY

Have you registered your frequent buyer cards so Fairfax can earn cash each time you make purchases? It's simple but you need to renew each year! Please register today!



[www.giantfood.com/aplus](http://www.giantfood.com/aplus)

School code: 01873



Safeway

[www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com)

School code: 2145176.

**Escrip** also earns credits at many VISA locations, including Macys, Eddie Bauer and more!



Bloom

[www.bloomforyourschool.com](http://www.bloomforyourschool.com)

School code: 01053.



School code: 70103644

## TARGET REDCARD

[www.target.com/tcoe](http://www.target.com/tcoe);

School code: 103609

*Lora Brzezynski*

Fairfax High School's  
**MARCH MADNESS**  
Student/Faculty  
Basketball Game



BRING YOUR ATTITUDE  
BRING YOUR MUSCLE  
BRING YOUR SKILL  
BRING YOUR GAME...  
JUST BRING IT!

When: Tuesday, March 16, 2010  
Time: 7:30 pm tip-off  
Where: Fairfax High School Field House  
Tickets: \$5.00 at the door  
Why: All Proceeds Benefit All-Night Grad Party

Faculty members, come join your colleagues in takin' it to the kids...contact [Nancy Melnick](#) and let her know [YOU'VE STILL GOT GAME](#). For those of you who prefer to stay on the sidelines...come and help [CHEER](#) on the teams! [The FHS Leadership Class is coordinating the student team...so, STUDENTS, let them know you want to play!](#) You do not want to miss the halftime show! HEY FACULTY, You're not going to let the children win ARE YOU??~!!!

## 2010 ALL-NIGHT GRAD PARTY



Date: June 18, 2010 - **GRADUATION DAY!!!**  
Time: 11:00 pm-5:00 am  
Place: Fairfax High School

Parents –Every school in Fairfax County, as well as the entire commonwealth of Virginia, participates in *All-Night Grad* sanctioned celebrations. The motivating factor behind *All-Night Grad* is to provide our graduating seniors a safe, fun place to spend graduation night and celebrate with their fellow students and friends. Since *All-Night Grad's* inception, no teen in Virginia has been involved in a traffic fatality on graduation night!

*All-Night Grad* is a no-alcohol, no-drugs, parent and volunteer chaperoned event that takes place here at FHS the evening of graduation and lasts all night. If you'd like to help out with the *All-Night Graduation Party*, contact Becky Andrewes at [andrewes@verizon.net](mailto:andrewes@verizon.net) or call (703) 815-7204.

The *All-Night Graduation* Committee will be hosting numerous exciting events to help raise money for the extravaganza and will be seeking your help to make these activities a success.

Please contact Kim Newman, [newmanka@aol.com](mailto:newmanka@aol.com) or (703) 818-1429 with questions or concerns.



## FAIRFAX ACADEMY INFO NIGHT

For interested students and parents

**Thursday, March 4, 7:30-9:00 pm**

FHS Auditorium

*Snow Date: Tuesday, March 9*

### APPLY NOW FOR NEXT YEAR'S ACADEMY CLASSES!

**Applications for the 2010-11 school year are being accepted through March 26.**

Fairfax Academy offers 2-credit advanced elective classes for juniors & seniors. The courses are especially helpful for students considering a future college major or career choice in any of the Academy's subjects, or for students who appreciate challenging, hands-on skills training. Interested students may schedule a visit to observe an Academy class on Tuesdays and Thursdays, February 2 through March 25. *See your school counselor right away for more information!*

### Fairfax Academy Courses for 2010-11:

Chinese, Dance, Fashion Design, Korean, Music & Computer Technology, Professional Graphics Studio, Professional Musical Theatre & Actor's Studio, Professional Photography Studio and Professional Television Production.

**Other FCPS Academies:** Did you know that there are six academies in Fairfax County Public Schools? *Fairfax Academy is the only academy to offer courses exclusively in the career*

*pathway of Communications & the Arts.* Other academies at Chantilly, Edison, Marshall and West Potomac High Schools offer courses in multiple career areas: Health/Human Services, Engineering/Scientific Technology, International Studies/Business and Communications & the Arts. Falls Church High School also offers academy classes, primarily in the Health Sciences. Fairfax High School students often travel to Marshall, Falls Church & Chantilly Academies for coursework offered in these additional career areas. Specific information can be found on the websites of each high school.

### ACADEMY HIGHLIGHTS

**SkillsUSA:** The *District competition for Skills USA will be held on Monday, February 1* at Chantilly High School. Fairfax Academy students from Pro Graphics Studio, Pro Photography Studio and Pro TV Production, along with FHS students from Auto Tech, will participate and we look forward to having another team of qualifiers for the state competition in April. The Fairfax Academy/Fairfax HS chapter of SkillsUSA is a 100% membership chapter this year – one of only a select few chapters in Virginia to attain that membership honor!

**MCTfest 2010:** Music and Computer Technology students have organized and will both manage and perform in their annual fundraiser showcase to be held *Friday, February 12, 6:30-9:30 pm, in The Forum, Ernst Center, NVCC-Annandale.* All of the bands and solo musicians are required to perform original music and all are current MCT students and friends. It is a great evening of jazz, blues, rock and pop music -- and all for a good cause! Funds raised will go toward MCT program activities, including their Boston trip in March. MCTfest is open to the public, with \$15 tickets available

### **Newsletter Submission Guidelines**

Next newsletter will be in January; Deadline for articles is December 23.

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