

OHS MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide equal access to all curricula by forming a partnership with families, by communicating our expectations clearly and often, and utilizing the resources of FCPS in challenging all of Oakton's students to achieve their academic and personal best.

OHS VISION STATEMENT

We agree that all students should have access to a rigorous educational experience, and we are dedicated to helping students achieve the individual goals that will strengthen their intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development. We understand that in order to lead youth, we must be willing to model a passion for lifelong learning and personal growth and development.

SUBMIT

If you have an article that you would like to have included in Access Oakton, please forward it to Kirsten Rucker at: kkunklerrucker@verizon.net. The due date for articles for the last publication of this academic year is June 2.

"Race to Nowhere" and All Night Grad events end year

Pam Burke, PTSA President • Pam.a.burke@gmail.com

We are nearing the end of another successful year at Oakton High School.

The Oakton High School PTSA presents "Race to Nowhere" on Wednesday, April 27, at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. Tickets are \$10 online

and \$15 at the door (for any remaining tickets). "Race to Nowhere" is a call to action for families, educators, and policy makers to challenge current assumptions on how to best prepare the youth of America to become healthy, bright, contributing and leading citizens. A panel discussion will follow the show.

To learn more about this film, please visit the "Race to Nowhere" website at:

<http://www.racetonowhere.com>.

To purchase tickets, please visit:

<http://rtnOaktonva.eventbrite.com/>.

All Night Grad is fast approaching! The All Night Grad committee continues to work

hard for this event. We still need help! Please come to a planning meeting April 14 at 7 PM in Room 175 and see how you can be a part of this wonderful event. Please go to

Signupgenius.com and go to our event, OHS All Night Grad 2011 and volunteer to help work a shift, before, during or after the event. There are set up, running the event and cleanup volunteer positions that all need to be filled.

Through your generous donations and membership in Academic Boosters, every student taking an AP test in May will have water bottles and a treat available for a boost during the test.

Thank you for your continued support.

"Race to Nowhere is a call to action for families, educators, and policy makers to challenge current assumptions on how to best prepare the youth of America to become healthy, bright, contributing and leading citizens."



Letter from the Principal: Fourth Quarter Updates

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

Dear Parents, Registration for 2011-2012 is now complete, and we will soon begin the staffing and master scheduling for next year. If your students have reconsidered any course selections for next year, please let the counselors know immediately. By the time you receive this month's issue of Access Oakton, we will be in the fourth quarter and the final push for May and June end of course exams in Advanced

Placement and SOL courses.

This month we are continuing with the third in our series on "Everything You Always Wanted To Know" about each of the various departments at Oakton High School. This month will highlight the Oakton Social Studies Department brought to you by Mr. Chris Fowler, the Social Studies Department Chair.

Enjoy a great Spring Break!

Guidance Department prepares for fourth quarter

SCHOOL DIRECTORIES

If you missed purchasing a directory at the Back-to-School Nights, don't worry! Directories are still available. You can purchase them in the Main Office from Beth Speed or you can contact Liz Krage at 703.620.9747 or kragedesign@aol.com. Directories are \$5 each and support PTSA programs.

It is hard to believe, but the students are quick to remind us that the year is coming to an end in less than 3 months. Looking back over the past few weeks, the counseling office has met with all students to register them for the upcoming year. The final date for changes is June 10, but some courses are at capacity at this time. For those courses, counselors have set up a waiting list.

In March, we ran a Junior program for students and a parent information night on beginning the college selection process. Many thanks are due to the English department for their collaboration on the College Research Project. It is a great way to tie things together for our students.

More recently we hosted the Sophomore Parent Night program and ACT testing at Oakton. As testing season is upon us, please remember to check our calendar online for details about SOL, AP, and final exams. It is important to keep absences from interfering with the testing process.

The Counseling department has also implemented a new system for students to contact us. From any computer in the building, they can send us a message using Internet Explorer. Counselors can then send for the student at a time that is appropriate for both parties. This will streamline the process of scheduling appointments and save many students a trip to the office. Our goal is to increase the time the students are in class while still maintaining our ability to support them.

It has come to our attention that students may be approached by various groups such as The National Society of High School Scholars offering various awards or memberships. Oakton cannot monitor, nominate to, or endorse all of these organizations. Many are reputable, but some are not. Please investigate them fully before sending them money or personal information.

The end of the year is a busy time for everyone, but as always, please contact your student's counselor with concerns and we will be happy to help.

Drama prepares for Oklahoma! musical and trip to Kennedy Center

News from Theatre Arts - www.oaktondrama.org

Congratulations to Henry Ragan who won the Vienna Optimist Award for Fine Arts last month! Henry is dedicated to a life in the theatre and we are so happy that he was recognized for his hard work and devotion. Aidan Smith, Joe Flynn and Nick Mims were also acknowledged for their commitment to theatre arts.

The Theatre 2 class wrapped up their unit on Shakespeare with a fun field trip to see "Cymbeline" downtown at the Shakespeare Theatre. The students were able to have a talk back with the cast after the performance to find out more about the experience of working on a professional production as well as being exposed to one of Shakespeare's lesser known plays.

Our Cappies critics are off to a magnificent start. They have been published 21 times collectively this year and we are only half way through the season! Keep up the good work!

Our musical "Oklahoma!" opens in a few short weeks. The cast and crew have been spending many hours working on building the set and learning the songs and dances. Mark your calendars now for May 5-7 to be in our audience. I would also like to say a special thank you to junior Sarah Smith who has dedicated many hours to choreographing this huge and beautiful production. With a cast of 43, this is no small task.

Our last hurrah of the school year will be a field trip to the Kennedy Center to see one of Stephen Sondheim's greatest works, "Follies". Most of the students were able to see Bernadette Peters in "A Little Night Music" on our trip to NYC in December. It is a rare and wonderful experience to get to see her twice in one year.

Happy Spring everyone. See you in the theatre.

Vanessa Gelinas

U.S. Department of Transportation and Consumer Reports Launch Partnership to Fight Distracted Driving

YONKERS, NY—The U.S. Department of Transportation and *Consumer Reports* today announced a new partnership to educate parents, teachers, and teens about the dangers of distracted driving. *Consumer Reports* released the results of a new poll that shows younger drivers are more likely to use handheld devices while driving – and less likely to view them as a danger.

Starting today, a free guide for parents and educators called “Distracted Driving Shatters Lives” is available at the Department of Transportation (DOT)’s web site <http://Distraction.gov> and at <http://www.consumerreports.org/distracted>.

Copies will be distributed to schools and volunteer groups by the National School Safety Coalition. The DOT and *Consumer Reports* are sending a public service announcement to TV stations nationwide, and the guide will be highlighted in a *Consumer Reports* video to air in retail stores across America in April, where it is expected to reach as many as 100 million people.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood joined Jim Guest, the president of Consumers Union, the nonprofit publisher of *Consumer Reports*, at the organization’s headquarters this morning to discuss the risks of distracted driving at a panel discussion by safety experts representing schools, families and law enforcement. LaHood is the first member of a Presidential Cabinet to visit the *Consumer Reports* HQ in Yonkers, NY.

Secretary LaHood said, “Distracted driving has become a deadly epidemic on America’s roads, and teens are especially vulnerable because of their inexperience behind the wheel and, often, peer pressure,” Secretary LaHood said. “Behind the statistics are real families who have been devastated by these tragedies. We’re pleased to be working with *Consumer Reports* to raise awareness and help communities fight this problem.”

Guest said, “It only takes a moment of distraction to cause a tragedy. No text or call is worth a life. We know

that educating people about the risk of distracted driving works. This partnership is devoted to spreading the word about the dangers of distracted driving and specific steps you can take to make a difference.”

A new, nationally representative survey by *Consumer Reports* National Research Center showed how widespread distracted driving is, especially among younger drivers:

- 63 percent of respondents under 30 years old reported using a handheld phone while driving in the past 30 days, and 30 percent of them texted while driving during the same period. That compares with 41 percent and 9 percent, respectively, of respondents who were 30 or older.
- Among the 30 respondents, only 36 percent were very concerned about the problem of distracted driving, and only 30 percent felt it was very dangerous to use a handheld phone.

- 64 percent of respondents overall said they had seen other drivers texting using a handheld device in the past 30 days. 94 percent had observed drivers talking on a mobile phone and 58 percent had seen a dangerous driving situation related to a distracted driver in the past month.

- 78 percent of respondents overall said they had reduced or stopped behaviors related to distracted driving. Of that group, 66 percent said they did so because of reading or hearing about the dangers. The survey was fielded in November 2010 with a total of 1026 respondents.

Secretary LaHood also unveiled the latest video in the Department of Transportation’s “Faces of Distracted Driving” series today on Distraction.gov, featuring Miss South Dakota Loren Vaillancourt, who has been speaking to teens about the dangers of distracted driving since her brother was killed by a distracted driver in May 2009.

“Secretary LaHood said, “Distracted driving has become a deadly epidemic on America’s roads, and teens are especially vulnerable because of their inexperience behind the wheel and, often, peer pressure,” Secretary LaHood said. “Behind the statistics are real families who have been devastated by these tragedies.”

The Fight to stop Distracted Driving (cont.)

According to the Department of Transportation, nearly 5,500 people in the U.S. were killed and almost half a million were injured in accidents related to distracted driving in 2009. Eighteen percent of those fatal accidents involved the use of a cell phone.

The free brochure "Distracted Driving Shatters Lives" produced by DOT and CR recommends six steps for parents:

- Set a good example by putting down your phone while driving.
- Talk to your teen about the risks and responsibilities of driving and the danger of dividing their attention between a cell phone and the road.
- Establish ground rules for not texting or talking on a handheld device while behind the

wheel.

- Have your child sign a pledge to not use a cell phone while driving, agreeing on penalties for violating the pledge.
- Educate yourself about the problem at Distracted.gov and ConsumerReports.org/Distracted.
- Spread the word by communicating with friends and family.

CONTACTS:

Olivia Alair, Department of Transportation,
202.366.4570 or olivia.alair@dot.gov

Douglas Love, Consumer Reports, 914.378.2437 or
dlove@consumer.org

David Butler, Consumers Union, 202.462.6262 x1116
or dbutler@consumer.org

National Distracted Driving Awareness Month

April 01, 2011 - April 30, 2011

Oakton High School Distracted Driving

Awareness Day is April 28, 2011.

2011 Best Buddies Virginia Friendship Walk

The Best Buddies Friendship Walk is a fun-filled community fundraiser to support your local Best Buddies programs of inclusion. Our friendship, integrated employment, and leadership programs educate people with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities to be advocates for social inclusion in your community.

Event Information

When: Saturday, May 14th, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Where: Oakton High School

Schedule: 9:00 a.m.: Registration Opens

10:00 a.m.: Warm-Up with Laurent Amzallag of the YaLa Workout

10:45 a.m.: Walk/Run begins

- 1 mile "Track Trot" in the Oakton Stadium

- 3 mile Walk or Run through Nottoway Park

11:30 a.m.: Party & Award Ceremony

- Gourmet BBQ featuring Chef David Guas of Bayou Bakery

- Live Music

- Field Day Games

- Award Ceremony

(Prizes include: 2011 Walk t-shirt designed by Romero Britto; water bottles; long-sleeve t-shirts; iPod Nanos; Kinect X-box. Trophies for the top chapter and community groups.)

Registration

You can also go online now and register as a member of the Oakton Team. Just follow these steps:

1. Visit www.bestbuddiesvirginia.org/walk
2. Click the "Register Here" button located at the top of the page.
3. Read the agreement and click "I agree".
4. Click "Join a Team" and select "Oakton High School" from the drop down menu.
5. Enter your information and you will be a member of Team Oakton.

It's a New York ART Marathon!

The AP Art History class is preparing for their annual trip to New York City, April 8-9, 2011. The objectives of this trip are to give students an opportunity to view famous artworks and architectural sites, and to allow them to study with museum professionals at the Museum of Modern Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Guggenheim Museum of Art. The College Board recommends that AP Art History students study from actual objects whenever possible, and we're fortunate to be so close to NYC.

To prepare for the trip, students complete online



Oakton AP Art History students discuss a Picasso painting at the MoMA in New York, April 2010

activities to familiarize themselves with the different museums' exhibitions and collections. While at the museums, students divide into small groups which rotate time with teachers, museum educators, and peer study groups. Upon return to school, post-trip activities give students time to process what they saw. It's an invaluable review as we prepare for the upcoming AP Art History exam.

- Margaret Sharkoffmadrid; AP Art History Consultant, The College Board; masharkoffmad@fcps.edu; 703-319-2700 x 2865

Fairfax Regional Science Fair Results

We wish to congratulate our students for a successful competition at the Regional Science Fair. This competition was held at Robinson Secondary School the weekend of March 18-20. Seventeen projects from students in Senior Science Investigations and other Honors science classes were selected to compete at Regionals. We are pleased to report that Oakton students won many Category and Organizational Awards.

Category Awards

Grand Prize Nominee and First Place Winner:

Alex Atkinson (Physics).

First Place: Kiren Ajrawat (Environmental Analysis) and Emily Lewis (Physics).

Second Place: Maggie Hollingsworth (Zoology); Hannah Nelson (Zoology); Jack Stoney (Plant

Sciences); Greg DeRosa and Imren Johar (Engineering); Shannon Hees, Connor Johnson & Alex Le (Environmental Management); Blake Douglass & Alicia LeBerre (Physics); Shannon Bliss, Emily Farmer & James O'Brien (Physics);

Third Place: Aneesh Sandhir (Engineering); Olivia Peterkin (Physics); Maricielo Ampudia (Environmental Analysis); Erin Degutis (Environmental Management).

Honorable Mention: Rayna Rossini & Kyra Nyman (Chemistry); Omar Farooq, Evan Leverett & Richard Misawa (Engineering).

Special congratulations to Alex Atkinson, Kirin Ajrawat and Emily Lewis for being First Place Category Winners. These students competed in the State Science Fair at Old Dominion University April 1-2.

News from the combined class of AP Japanese, Advanced Japanese 12th, and Japanese 5.

The students in the combined class have been academically active and competed in various contests. In addition, they are involved in the Japan relief effort.

Modern Foreign Language Tournament (MFLT): Three students, Ashleigh Oberg-Porter, Katherine Murphy, and Adrianna Thomas participated in MFLT on April 2. It was

held at South Lakes High School. The results will be available shortly.

MAATJ Haiku Contest: Haikus in Japanese by the following students: Melissa Katz, Katie Murphy and Kayla Stamey were entered in the contest. The results will be available soon.

Calligraphy and Haiku Project Display in the Library: I would like to thank Courtney Pinkard and Kayla

Stamey for displaying the students projects in the library.

Japan earthquake and tsunami relief: The students are making origami cranes and messages to be sent to the evacuation centers in Japan in order to let the Japanese students and other evacuees know that we care.

Yoko Thakur, Japanese teacher

Fall Sports Tryouts and Physicals at OHS Thursday, May 5th

Tryouts for the 2011 fall season are scheduled to start Monday, Aug. 8 (Tuesday, Aug 2 for golf). Fall sports include football, field hockey, girls' volleyball, golf, cheerleading, and cross country. For dance team tryouts, contact Coach Karen Rowley (karen.rowley@fcps.edu). All athletes must be there for the tryouts. Please plan your family vacations accordingly. All athletes must have a physical to participate in sports next year. Also, this year they are requiring the physical be turned in before any preseason conditioning. The physical is good for the entire school year for all three seasons of sports, but must be done after May 1, 2011 to be valid. Physicals must be on the

official VHSL form (available in the Activities Office, at www.vhsl.org, or www.oaktonathletics.org). Physicals should be mailed to the Activities Office, 2900 Sutton Rd., Vienna, VA 22181 prior to doing conditioning/trying out. **DO NOT GIVE THEM TO THE COACHES.** Fall athletes will also need an Emergency Care Information form (available at oaktonathletics.org) that will be turned into the coach - please write the sport on the upper, right-hand corner if you are sending it in with the physical. Athletes will not be able to try out without these two forms. Make a copy of the physical for your records before mailing it in. If you have questions, call the Activities Office at 703-319-2760.

The OHS Athletic Training program will host physicals for about \$50 at Oakton on Thursday, May 5. Registration information will be posted on the oaktonathletics.org website in April.

There will be a mandatory fall sports tryouts walk-in registration on Tuesday, Aug 2 from 5-6 p.m. in the cafeteria. At that time, fall coaches will confirm that all the correct paperwork has been turned in and will give out last minute instructions about tryouts. The County will have physicals for about \$50 at a local high school on August 3rd. That information will be posted at www.oaktonathletics.org in July.

CALENDAR

- 4/14 All Night Grad Meeting, 7 p.m., Rm 175
- 4/27 "Race to Nowhere," 7 p.m., Auditorium
- 4/28 OHS Distracted Driving Awareness Day
- 5/5 Sports Physicals at OHS
- 5/5-5/7 "Oklahoma!" Musical
- 5/14 Best Buddies Friendship Walk
- 6/2 Submission Date for Articles for June Access Oakton

Everything You Always Wanted To Know About the Social Studies Department

I am Chris Fowler and I am the department chair for the Social Studies Department at Oakton High School. I am excited to be able to write an article for the PTSA newsletter and to have the opportunity to introduce you to our department. I also welcome the opportunity to inform you of the wide variety of courses within the Social Studies department. Your student will take a minimum of four of these courses during their time here at Oakton.

Who We Are:

Our department consists of 20 Social Studies teachers and 5 Special Education teachers. Based on state test scores, Oakton High School ranks as one of the best Social Studies departments in the county. You may have already met your student's teacher but I will take this opportunity to introduce you to the entire department.

The World History and Geography One Team consist of Team Leader Meghan O'Malley, Mary Patterson and myself. John Gluffling is the special education teacher assigned to World One team taught classes.

The Honors World History and Geography One team consists of Team Leader Meghan O'Malley, Adam Cheney and Brandon McCulla.

The World History and Geography Two team consists of Team Leader Catherine Browning, Mary Patterson, Charlotte Salzman and Joe Neuman. Betty Schelhorn is the special education teacher assigned to World Two team taught classes.

The Advanced Placement World History team consists of Team Leader Tanya Insanally and Charlotte Salzman.

The United States and Virginia History team consists of Team Leader Jason Lucas, Joshua MacNabb, and Don Clark. Ben Anderson is the special education teacher assigned to team taught US/VA classes.

The Advanced Placement United

States and Virginia History team consists of Team Leader Jason Lucas and Jacqui Talton.

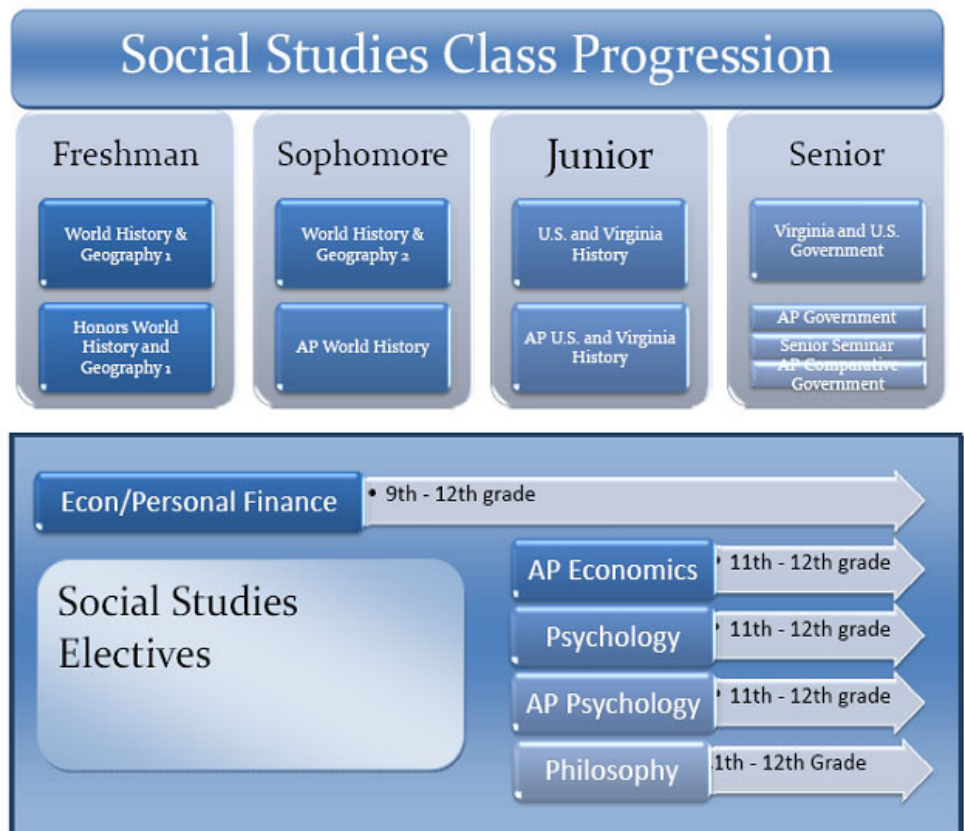
The Virginia and United States Government team consists of Team Leader Hester Lawver and Meghan Hunter. Joe Thompson and Lou Harkness are the special education teachers assigned to the Virginia and United States Government team taught classes.

The Advanced Placement Government team which includes Senior Seminar and Advanced Placement Comparative Government and US Government and Politics consists of Team Leader Josh Henry and Rebecca Small.

Elective Social Studies courses include: Philosophy, taught by Joe Neuman; and Psychology taught by Kelly Butterfield. Other electives

are taught by the Economics and Personal Finance team consisting of Team Leader Luke Haen, Brandon McCulla and Mary Patterson. We also offer Advanced Placement Economics, taught by Hester Lawver and Advanced Placement Psychology, taught by Sue Anna Clark and Adam Cheney.

Collectively, The Social Studies department teaches over 100 individual sections, otherwise known as classes. Students are required to take a Social Studies class each of their four years of high school. They are also required to take the applicable Virginia Standards of Learning Assessment their freshman, sophomore and junior years. The graphic below depicts the progression students follow during their career at Oakton High School.



What We Do, Now vs. Then:

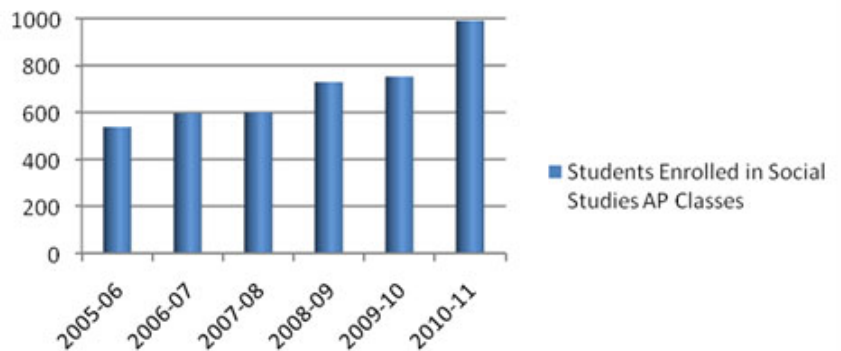
Our goal at Oakton is to have every student take one or more Advanced Placement course during their time here. The graphic to the top right shows the increase in enrollment in Advanced Placement Social Studies classes from 2005 to 2010.

The Social Studies department also has the goal of achieving a 100% enrollment in its Honors World History and Geography One class for incoming freshman. The graphic to the bottom right shows our progress.

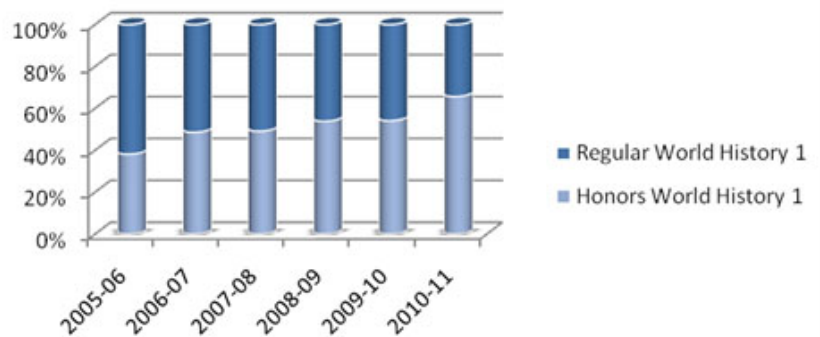
We also have two new courses at Oakton High School. Last year we introduced Economics & Personal Finance. In Econ/Personal Finance students learn how to navigate the financial decisions they must face and to make informed decisions related to career exploration, budgeting, banking, credit, insurance, spending, taxes, saving, investing, buying/leasing a vehicle, living independently and inheritance. Development of financial literacy skills and an understanding of economic principles will provide the basis for responsible citizenship and career success. In addition to developing personal finance skills, students in the 36 week course will also study basic occupational skills and concepts in preparation for entry-level employment in the field of finance. Next year we are introducing Advanced Placement Human Geography. In this course students are introduced to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human social organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their science and practice.

The Social Studies department works in groups of highly effective collaboration teams. Fairfax County strongly encourages, and in most cases requires, the use of collaboration teams. Our principal, Dr. John Banbury, not only encourages the teams, but offers and teaches challenging graduate-level courses to our teachers and administration for curriculum development and collaborative growth. Our teams meet officially every

Students Enrolled in Social Studies AP Classes



Percentages of students enrolled in Honors and Regular World History 1



Wednesday morning, but unofficially we do very little with our classes without consulting our teams first. We no longer have a simple set of guidelines to teach by. We now have benchmarks and standards that we need every student to meet every year. Research shows that this is best achieved by the use of collaborative teams.

Our collaborative teamwork has allowed all of our Social Studies teachers to feel part of a community dedicated to improved education for all of our students. We develop assessments designed to address all Fairfax County Public Schools Curriculum strands and indicators to maximize student success on SOL tests and AP Social Studies tests. Grades for assessments and homework are weighted the same in a given curriculum. Instructional techniques are discussed and best practices are shared throughout the teams and across the department. We have begun the practice of comparing results of assessments to guide our instruction.

What You Can Do To Insure Your Student's Success:

Remember all the resources that are available to you as a parent. All Social Studies teachers have a Blackboard site available to your student with regular updates documenting happenings in the classroom. Your student can download worksheets and PowerPoint presentations. Many teachers provide external links for additional practice and enrichment. You can have parent-access to that site by contacting the main office. I recommend that you get this access immediately if you do not already have it. Even if you don't use it on a regular basis, when you do need it, it will be there.

Attendance is crucial to success in

Social Studies. If students are absent and miss the discussion, it is difficult to duplicate the learning that occurs. Similarly, homework is important for students to complete. Homework provides essential practice for skills necessary to be successful on SOL tests and AP Social Studies tests.

Social Studies teachers welcome questions and concerns that you may have about your student's progress. We encourage you to talk with your student about their progress in class, but please feel free to email their Social Studies teacher. It takes a community to educate students and parental involvement is a crucial part of the community.

As the scheduling process

continues, we encourage you to have the discussion with your student about which path through the Social Studies courses at Oakton High School will best prepare him/her for life after high school. We have a strong Social Studies curriculum that will allow your student to keep options open for future career goals. We are in a highly competitive region with many students with high grade point averages. We want our students to stand out from other high school students. An important way to achieve that goal is for students to take challenging Social Studies courses throughout their years at Oakton High School.

In Conclusion:

Thank you for the opportunity to showcase the Social Studies Department at Oakton High School and all that we have to offer your student. As previously stated we rank among the best in the county. We achieved this ranking because of our students, parents, teachers and administrators. If you have any questions, comments or concerns my phone number is 703-319-2913 and my email address is christopher.fowler@fcps.edu. Your student's success is our number one concern. Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you.