

## OHS MISSION 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.

## OHS VISION STATEMENT

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

## 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](mailto:mpickett6@verizon.net). The due dates for articles for future publications are: February 2, April 12, and May 31.

## Letter from the President:

## Update on Recent Events

Kirsten Rucker, PTSA President • [kkunklerrucker@verizon.net](mailto:kkunklerrucker@verizon.net).

**T**hank you for taking the time to check out what is going on at Oakton High School. I know it has been a busy year for everyone, including your PTSA.

I am sure many of you have seen discussions regarding surveillance cameras in the schools in Fairfax County high schools. This topic was discussed at our October PTSA meeting and surveys were taken by the parents that attended the meeting. Survey results were returned to the school board. At this time, the school board has recommended changes to the surveillance policy. Among the proposed changes included in Policy 8614.5 is that the principal of a school may decide on the necessity of cameras and their locations. Locations may NOT include areas such as restrooms, locker rooms or classrooms. Action on the proposed policy changes is expected by the school board on December 15.

A coffee for freshmen parents was hosted by the PTSA on November 11. Administrators and staff welcomed the parents, made presentations and answered parents' questions. The PTSA hosted Dr. Charmaine Ciardi, child and family consultant, speaker and author, for its first "Ask Dr. Ciardi" session of the 2011-12 school year on November 30 in the evening in the library. Dr. Ciardi has come to Oakton HS for years to meet informally with parents to discuss issues they are facing with their children and families. It's always a casual gathering and parents offer insight to each other as well. Dr. Ciardi is very positive and supportive and always gives refreshing, hopeful and honest feedback. She will return for two more sessions during this school year, so watch for notices!

Your Oakton High School Honor Committee of administrators, teachers, parents and a student representative have been working together to prepare for a roll-out on Oakton

Honor. The topic of honest and honorable work was presented to your children on December 8. The students were given feedback regarding a survey they took on the subject of honest work; the new honor code and its consequences were presented; and the students were tasked with re-writing the OHS honor pledge. Big thanks go to the teachers who put their time, effort and passion into helping to provide wonderful guidance to our children on the topic of honor. Thank you very much for your support of the efforts of Oakton High School to become a place where honest and honorable work is held in high esteem.

For parents of seniors, you will be receiving a mailing from the All Night Grad committee regarding discounted early purchase of tickets for the June 19 event. Consider buying your child's ticket as a holiday gift!

And lastly, the PTSA is still short of our membership goal for the year. Please recognize the importance of the PTSA and its work at Oakton on behalf of the entire school community and go to our website, [www.oaktonhsptsa.org](http://www.oaktonhsptsa.org) and become a member now. We also welcome you at our meetings which resume on Wednesday, February 2. The February meeting will be held earlier than usual, at 6 pm, to allow parents to attend the AP/Honors Night being held at Oakton that evening starting at 7 pm. Refreshments will be provided, so please join us!

Thank you for your help in making Oakton High School a great place for our children to learn. Please enjoy your well-deserved winter break!

Best regards,

Kirsten Rucker

### Cougar Mart

Please Support OHS Band  
by Purchasing Delicious  
Citrus!

The Oakton High School  
Band offers fresh citrus  
once a month from Novem-  
ber through March. Orders  
can please placed on-line  
through the band website,  
[http://oaktonbands.com/  
floridacitrus](http://oaktonbands.com/floridacitrus), with payment  
made at pick-up. If you  
have any questions, please  
contact Robyn Barbaris at  
703-860-2953.



## Message from the Principal

John A. Banbury, Principal • [john.banbury@fcps.edu](mailto:john.banbury@fcps.edu)

**D**ear Oakton Parents,  
In the October edition of Access  
Oakton, I provided an overview  
of Oakton's fresh and exciting goals  
for this school year, particularly our  
emphasis on twenty-first century skills,  
real-world connections, ethical research,  
and reflective, interdisciplinary learning.  
Students and teachers are steadily  
working toward these goals. Recently,  
freshmen completed their first-quarter  
portfolio reflections on their progress  
in biology; during second quarter, they  
will reflect on their progress in history.  
Teacher leaders on our Instructional  
Leadership Council are busily researching  
progressive practices and planning for  
our school-wide Exhibition of Learning  
to occur on the evenings of March 20  
and 21; meanwhile, the Honor Code  
Committee is educating Oakton students  
on the new Oakton Honor Code. In  
essence, we are ever-improving to  
provide your students with a world-class,  
relevant and rigorous education.  
No teachers understand the concepts

of relevance and real-world application  
better than the teachers of electives at  
Oakton High School. From our innovative  
technology and business courses to the  
performance-based arenas of art and  
music, Oakton students are learning how  
to think critically, collaborate, create, and  
perform. In this and upcoming editions  
of Access Oakton, the department chairs  
for our elective programs will introduce  
you to course offerings and their teachers  
just as core departments did in last year's  
newsletters. Believe it or not, course  
selection for 2012-2013 is just around the  
corner in February. If you haven't done  
so already, I am confident that you will  
discover a program that suits your child's  
interests as you read about our various  
electives. Enjoy!

Sincerely,

Dr. John Banbury

### 2011 White House Christmas Ornament

The Oakton Band Boosters  
proudly offer the 2011 White  
House ornaments for sale  
through early December.  
Perfect for Holiday gifts,  
these one-of-a kind collect-  
ibles have become a must  
have tradition.

Go to the band website at  
[www.oaktonbands.com/  
ornaments](http://www.oaktonbands.com/ornaments) for ordering  
information. If you have any  
questions please contact  
Susan Fuchs at [susanfuchs@  
hotmail.com](mailto:susanfuchs@hotmail.com) or call 703-989-  
1703.

## COUGAR CALENDAR

December 13 - Financial Aid Night at Marshall High School. 7:30pm in  
the Marshall w Lecture Hall  
December 15 - "Sounds of the Season" Winter Choral Concert, 7:00pm.  
December 20 -Band Concert, 7:00pm  
December 21-Interim reports distributed  
December 23-January 2 – Winter holiday, no school  
January 16 – Martin Luther King Day, no school  
January 17 – End of 2nd quarter  
January 30, 31 – Student holiday, no school  
February 1 – No collaboration

# Everything You Always Wanted to Know About the World Languages Department

BIENVENUE!

WILLKOMMEN!

¡BIENVENIDOS!

SALVETE!

ようこそ!

I am Emily Fugate-Brunino and am the department chair for the World Languages Department at Oakton High School. It is a true pleasure for me to write this article for the PTSA newsletter and to have the opportunity to introduce you to our department. The World Languages department offers a variety of languages and levels; it is our hope that your student will take a minimum of four during his/her time here at Oakton.

Who we are:

Our department consists of 15 very dedicated teachers. You may have already met your student's teacher this year, but I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the entire department. Fran Jones teaches Latin levels 1-5; Jonathan Lawless teaches Japanese levels 1-5 & AP; Ina Laemmerzahl teaches German levels 2-4 & AP, and Catherine Burns teaches American Sign Language (ASL) levels 2 & 3. Our French team consists of Inge Pisano, levels 3 & 4 Emily Fugate-Brunino, levels 2, 5 & AP and Kelsey Clark, levels 1 & 2. Our Spanish team consists of Mayna Losada levels 4 & AP, Janice Taylor, levels 3 & 4, Angels Natal Asensio, levels 2 & 3, Bobbie Olson, levels 3 & 5, Steve Eslami, levels 1 & 2, Kristi Layman, levels 2 & 3, Michael Vargo, levels 2 & 3 and Sarah Bock, levels 1 & 2.

Collectively, the World Languages department teaches 67 sections, consisting of beginning, intermediate and advanced courses. Students pursuing an advanced diploma are required to complete three years of one language or, alternatively, 2 years of two different languages. The diagram below shows all the language courses we teach and the general sequence of classes that students at Oakton can take.

What we do:

Each quarter, all students enrolled in a World Languages course complete PALS (Performance Assessment for the Language Student). This assessment is both spoken and written in French, German, Japanese and Spanish, and is written in Latin and signed in ASL. Our goal in World Languages is to ensure

that students enrolled in World Languages courses meet expectations (a score of 80% or better) on the cumulative PALS given at the end of fourth quarter. In addition to this goal, we encourage all students to complete four years of a language and, ideally, to continue into a fifth year or AP course in their senior year. The benefits of continuing with a language throughout high school cannot be stressed enough, and it has been our experience that most universities look favorably upon students who continue language study into their senior year.

Our curricula are aligned with national standards in foreign language and the five Cs of foreign language education: Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities. These themes are emphasized on the AP language exams and we work diligently to develop students' competency in interpersonal, interpretive and presentational communication from level one on. In their statement of philosophy, the National Standards in Foreign Language Education states that, "Language and communication are at the heart of the human experience. The United States must educate students who are linguistically and culturally equipped to communicate successfully in a pluralistic American society and abroad." (National Standards in Foreign Language Education, 1993)

The teachers in the World Languages department strive to impart this philosophy to our students every day and hope to enlighten students through the study of language and culture. We encourage full participation both in and outside of class, and many of the language students at Oakton High School participate in Honors Societies for their language as well as in various competitions and national exams. Students also have the opportunity to apply to Governor's Academies for their language. If selected, students take part in unique immersion programs lasting three weeks during the summer.

The World Languages 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 Wednesday morning, but unofficially, collaboration takes place every day. Research shows that achieving success and meeting standards is best achieved by the use of collaborative teams.

Our collaborative teamwork has allowed all of our World Languages teachers to feel part of a community

dedicated to improved language learning for all of our students. We develop assessments designed to address all themes and topics proposed by Fairfax County's World Languages department,

which align with the National standards highlighted above. Instructional techniques are discussed and best practices are shared throughout the teams and across the department. In many of our classes, we utilize project-based learning in order to engage our students and help them master content. In addition, we have begun the practice of analyzing results of our end-of-year PALS to guide our instruction and to improve the number of students meeting expectations on this assessment.

What you can do to ensure your student's success in world languages:

Remember all the resources that are available to you as a parent. All World Languages 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 and explore external links provided for additional practice and enrichment.

Attendance is crucial to success in World languages. If students are absent and miss the speaking and listening practice that occurs in class, it is difficult to duplicate

the learning that occurs. Similarly, homework is important for students to complete. It provides essential practice for skills necessary to be successful in the language being studied. Learning a language requires much patience and perseverance; please remind your student that engaging with the language everyday is the best way to improve his/her skills. There are so many wonderful tools available thanks to the internet, and we strongly encourage students to do as much practice at home as possible. Please feel free to contact any of us with suggestions about websites and other additional resources.

World Languages 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 teacher. It takes a community to educate students and paren-

tal involvement is a crucial part of the community. As the scheduling process continues, we encourage you to have a discussion with your student about which language to take and through which level. 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 this goal is for students to take language throughout their four years at Oakton High School.

In Conclusion:  
Thank you for the opportunity to showcase the World Languages Department at Oakton High School and all that we have to offer your student. My email address is Emily.fugatebrunino@fcps.edu and my phone number is 703-319-2904.

Remember, parent involvement is crucial. I look forward to hearing from you.

World Languages Courses

ASL	FRENCH	GERMAN	LATIN	JAPANESE	SPANISH
Level 2	Level 1	Level 2	Level 1	Level 1	Level 1
Level 3	Level 2	Level 3	Level 2	Level 2	Level 2
	Level 3	Level 4/AP	Level 3	Level 3	Level 3
	Level 4		Level 4/AP	Level 4	Level 4
	Level 5			Level 5/AP	Level 5
	AP				AP



# The National Honor Society Inducts New Members

The National Honor Society Induction Ceremony was held in the Robert "Skip" Bromley Auditorium on Wednesday, November 9 2011. OHS Madrigals opened the ceremony with the singing of the National Anthem. Mr. Joshua MacNabb, Social Studies teacher, was the keynote speaker. The following is the list of student inducted.

## Inductees

Abutaleb, Karima	Divleli, Meryem	Lewis, Emily	Savino, William
Aiello, Kamille	Dodge, Lachlan	Lizardo, Jackson	Schulman, Jared
Akunia, Jacqueline	Drake, Elizabeth	Loftus, Riley	Seastream, Andrew
Ambrose, Brad	Driscoll, Gabriela	LoRusso, Michelle	Sellers, Henry
Amruthur, Rohith	Fabian, Kathleen	Macaluso, Giuliana	Shebat, Melissa
Atkinson, Adrienne	Farmer, Madeline	Maloney, Molly	Sheffield, Gianna
Bachelet Sanhueza, Esteban	Filipponi, Michael	Mann, Rebecca	Shih, Jeffrey
Bailey, Jennifer	Fleckenstein, Katarina	Manner, Elizabeth	Sickels, Angela
Bailey, Kevin	Folta, Naomi	Martin, Dominique	Sommese, Alexandra
Banville, Nicole	Folta, Nestor	Mehegan, Mary	Sood, Christina
Batchelder, Mitch	Fradette, Michael	Mekelburg, Madlin	Springer, David
Bauman, Bailey	Gaughan, Kayla	Moore, Patrick	St. Louis, Quinn
Bauman, Bridget	Gehring, Jeffrey	Moran, Grady	Stackman, Madison
Beck, Daniella	Geshan, Megan	Morgan, Alyssa	Staniszewski, Dylan
Belmondo, Reece	Gibbons, Kimberly	Mullis, Morgan	Stewart, Briana
Bennett, Erin	Gill, Christina	Munshi, Viraj	Sturm, Zachary
Bhargava, Varsha	Gillespie, Karli	Nero, Ashley	Sturm, Micaela
Bhatia, Ria	Goetz, Lauren	Newberry, Nicholas	Testoni, Cole
Bundren, James	Golden, Grant	Norris, Emily	Torres., Gabriel
Byrne, Jeremy	Golombik, Alyssa	Nyman, Kyra	Townshend, Brooke
Carney, Shannon	Gorle, Ambareesh	Oh, Brenda	Toye, Margaret
Carrigan, Kristi	Grasso, Stephanie	Ong, Nathan	Tsang, Thomas
Carroll, Emily	Gujral, Rahil	Ostick, Jillian	Turk, Allison
Chau, Alycia	Hall, Marissa	Ott, Peter	Villafior, Elizabeth
Chen, Nathan	Hartin, Ian	Padula, Brett	Voudouris, Eleni
Chen, Sonny	Hawkins, Hayley	Pandit, Lori	Waltrich, Jacob
Chintagunta, Prathibha	Hawkins, Marcela	Park, Ga Youn	Waters, Spencer
Choi, You Jin	Hawkins, Kali	Parthasarathy, Maia	Werenskold, Caroline
Christie, Lorelei	Hegerle, Alexandra	Pasha, Nazia	Wolf, Joshua
Clark, Kathryn	Holcombe, Shannon	Pierce, Chloe	Womble, Alan
Clements, Anna	Homyk, Kaylee	Pisaro, Jonathan	Yang, Alyssa
Colturi, Matthew	Hong, Sarah	Plecity, Kayla	Yang, Marilyn
Cooney, Ciara	Hunzeker, Dylan	Powell, Nicki	Yaremchuk, Emily
Crail, Chauncey	Ichord, Gregory	Prakash, Kavita	Yen, Henry
Crapco, Chris	Johar, Imren	Radhakrishnan, Roshan	Yin, Nicole
Crews, Gillian	Kirk, Hannah	Rasooly, Mona	Yook, Hu Min
Crowley, Mark	Kitchen, Emma	Ricketts, Alexandra	Youn, Miran
Dahal, Shreyaska	Kralick, Stephen	Rieden, Jennifer	
Datoc, Alison	Lau, Chi Ying	Ro, Joanna	
DeRosa, Gregory	Lee, Hanbin	Rock, Brianna	
Desbiens, Erin	Lee, Irene	Roepe, Daniel	
Despins, Nicholas	Lee, Emory	Roller, Elizabeth	
Dettmar, Michael	Leonard, David	Rosenblatt, Lauren	
Dillon, Garret	Levinson, Kellen	Rossini, Rayna	
Dilworth, Caroline	Levy, Jessica	Sandler, Drew	

## VHSL Scholastic Bowl Team

The Oakton High School Scholastic Bowl Team, coached by Marianne Scales and Jackie Fernandez, scrimmages teams from other Fairfax County Schools biweekly in preparation for the Regional and District Tournaments that will take place in late January at Edison High School. Oakton's team has had a busy schedule since the beginning of the school year. Oakton attended the taping of the NBC4 show "It's Academic" on Sept. 17, competing against Dominion High School and Rockville High School. The show aired on NBC4

on Oct. 22. Oakton was represented by Cameron Lindsay, Kristi Carrigan, Katherine Croote, and Alycia Chau (alternate). The Oakton freshman and JV cheerleading squads, coached by Ms. Sara Licklider, attended the taping and provided enthusiastic support.

During October and November, the team hosted scrimmages against Falls Church and Madison, and visited Langley. Oakton tied with Fall Church, lost to Madison, and beat Langley.



Katherine Croote, Kristi Carrigan and Cameron Lindsay, with host Hillary Howard, at the taping of It's Academic.



Scholastic Bowl Team members Claire Mahoney, Kelly Dwier, Jackie Akunda, and Dylan Staniszewski during a scrimmage at Oakton.



Scholastic Bowl members Eric Carstens, Sofia Crutchfield, Tamera Lanham, and Dylan Staniszewski during a scrimmage at Oakton.



Scholastic Bowl Team sponsors Jackie Fernandez and Marianne Scales.

## News from Theatre Arts

[www.oaktondrama.org](http://www.oaktondrama.org)

As we close down our wonderfully successful fall season we are opening the scripts for our Spring Musical of Footloose. This upbeat popular musical will be our next production on March 29th – 31st.

We are celebrating our busy year so far by heading north to NYC where we will be seeing TONY Award winning productions of Memphis and War Horse.

If you missed our hugely popular production of THE 39 STEPS in November, never fear! We are working on re-staging the piece this coming May – stay tuned for more details. Have a very happy holiday season.

- Vanessa Gelinas

### Cougar Mart

Please Support OHS Band by Purchasing Delicious Citrus!

The Oakton High School Band offers fresh citrus once a month from November through March. Orders can please placed on-line through the band website, <http://oaktonbands.com/floridacitrus>, with payment made at pick-up. If you have any questions, please contact Robyn Barbaris at 703-860-2953.

### 2011 White House Christmas Ornament

The Oakton Band Boosters proudly offer the 2011 White House ornaments for sale through early December. Perfect for Holiday gifts, these one-of-a kind collectibles have become a must have tradition.

Go to the band website at [www.oaktonbands.com/ornaments](http://www.oaktonbands.com/ornaments) for ordering information. If you have any questions please contact Susan Fuchs at [susanfuchs@hotmail.com](mailto:susanfuchs@hotmail.com) or call 703-989-1703.

## "Sounds of the Season"

The Oakton Choral Department will present "Sounds of the Season", a Winter Choral Concert, on Thursday, December 15th at 7:00 PM. Audience members will be filled with holiday cheer as the choirs perform some seasonal music selections as well as general concert works. The concert will feature performances by all of the Oakton choral ensembles including: Madrigals, Chamber Choir, Select Women's Ensemble, Men's Choir, Jazz Choir, Show Choir and the student-directed A Cappella Groups. Student instrumentalists from the Oakton music department will contribute their talents and accompany the choirs on various selections helping to add to the spirit of the season. Admission is free and all are invited to attend.

# Prescription for Disaster: How Teens Abuse Medicine

Increasing numbers of teens are using prescription and over-the-counter medications to get high. Many parents don't know enough about this problem, and many teens don't understand the dangers.

This full-color guide helps parents understand and identify the current medications teens are abusing. An invaluable resource for parents, "Prescription for Disaster" presents prescription drug basics, includes information about commonly abused drugs, lists steps parents can take to keep their teens drug free, and more.

Link: [http://www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com/hot\\_topics/dea\\_publications.html](http://www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com/hot_topics/dea_publications.html)

Take the National Drug IQ Challenge! Test your knowledge on drugs and drug abuse by taking the interactive National Drug IQ Challenge quiz!

<http://drugfactsweek.drugabuse.gov/iqchallenge.php>

## Financial Aid Night at Marshall High School

December 13, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the Lecture Hall

Come hear an informative presentation on financial aid, the FAFSA and understanding your aid award packages from GCMarshall staff and guest speaker Erik Melis of the U.S. Department of Education, past President of the Virginia Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators and former Associate Director of Financial Aid from George Mason University