

# ACCESS

# Oakton

oakton high school ptsa • vienna va • [www.oaktonhsptsa.org](http://www.oaktonhsptsa.org)

February 2012

## OHS MISSION STATEMENT

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

## OHS VISION STATEMENT

Through a culture of collaboration, continuous improvement, accountability, and community involvement, Oakton High School will provide rigorous, relevant, and well-rounded education for all students.

## SUBMIT

If you have an article that you would like to have included in Access Oakton, please forward it to Marcia Pickett at: [mpickett6@verizon.net](mailto:mpickett6@verizon.net). The due dates for articles for future publications are: April 12, and May 31.

## 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](mailto:kragedesign@aol.com). Directories are \$5 each and support PTSA programs. Student planners are still available; they are now FREE! Please inquire in the main office.

## Letter from the President

KirstenRucker,PTSAPresident•[kkunklerrucker@verizon.net](mailto:kkunklerrucker@verizon.net)

Dear Oakton Parents,

Despite the weather, we are in the middle of winter and at the dawn of the third quarter. This is a great time to review how your children are feeling about their classes and if there are any adjustments that can be made as they go into the second half of the year. Planners are still available—and now are free (!), so if you believe planners would help your children or if theirs have been misplaced, please inquire in the office. The high school has many other resources available, so if you need help and are not sure where to turn, check in with your children's teachers or counselor.

The review of how your children are feeling about the year will be beneficial as they consider which classes to take in the coming years. As you well know, it is not a simple task to balance their academic requirements, their academic desires, their elective passions and their outside activities. For each of my children the path has been different. It has been especially useful for us when sitting down with them to include planning several years out as much as possible. The new honors choices, while providing more options in English and social studies also make course selection more complicated, especially given that the vote for these courses took place on January 26 and so the curriculum has yet to be developed. Please be patient with this process. Oakton's teachers are among the finest in the country and they have a complicated task before them. There is a retreat occurring at the county level where the curriculum is being defined, then it will come into the schools where our teachers will take that input and turn it into what it looks like when it is taught to our children. Our teachers are familiar with our population and with how our courses flow from year to year. These classes will need to be integrated into our existing offerings such that they make sense in the context of our children's high school education. The teachers and administration have chosen to offer these classes in the way that they feel will allow the most options while hopefully preserving the widest range of electives possible. Your understanding and support as everyone

adjusts to these new options will help to make the transition as easy as possible.

Keep an eye out in the school hallways. The new Oakton Honor initiative will soon include the addition of fabulous visuals throughout the building to remind our children of the importance of honor. We owe a huge thank you to Oakton teachers, Margaret Sharkoffmadrid and Cara Burke for their incredible outpouring of energy towards creating these visual efforts.

As always, encourage your children to be involved at school. There are an enormous range of clubs, activities and sports teams. If your child is interested in something that does not exist, encourage him or her to start something new.

Plans are in full throttle for the All Night Grad celebration for seniors. Tickets have already been sold to over 150 seniors. Past years' experience tells us that most of the kids in each class will want to attend and many of them pay full price in the weeks just ahead of graduation. By purchasing your tickets before March 31, you will pay just \$55 and your child will get 5000 Cougar Bucks to spend during the evening. After this date, ticket prices go to \$75. For more information and to register, go to: <http://www.oaktonhsptsa.org/ang.htm>. Forms can also be downloaded and manually completed if you prefer.

Finally, keep in mind that Dr. Banbury shows up to the monthly PTSA meetings 30 minutes before the formal meetings begin to share valuable insight and to answer any questions. Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 7 at 7 p.m., informal portion begins at 6:30. Take advantage of this generous opportunity to understand what goes on behind the scenes and to share any of your concerns, interests or insights with our administration. We welcome everyone. Understanding goes a long way towards making our community a vibrant and strong place.

Best regards,  
Kirsten Rucker



## Letter from the Principal: New Classes Next Year

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

Dear Parents,

I hope that you enjoyed a peaceful and warm holiday season. With second semester already underway, the Oakton High School community has much to anticipate in this new year: course registration for 2012-2013 will occur during February and March; our very first Exhibition of Learning will unveil on March 20 and 21; AP and SOL Exams are just around the bend; and before we know it, the summer will be upon us.

Recently, the FCPS School Board approved the addition of five new courses to our curriculum: English 11 Honors, English 12 Honors, World History 2 Honors, US/VA History Honors, and US Government Honors. Since Oakton High School has historically prioritized options for interdisciplinary learning through course offerings that combine the study of history and English, the inclusion of new honors courses requires us to reconsider the configuration of our humanities options. Administrators, department chairs, and teachers engaged in many discussions and meetings to devise course offerings that best meet the needs of our community and the constraints of our master schedule. Below are the English and social studies offerings for the coming school year.

	English	History
Freshman	English 9 English 9 Honors	World History 1 World History 1 Honors
Sophomores	English 10 English 10 Honors World Civilizations 2 (English 10 Honors combined with AP World History)	World History 2 World History 2 Honors AP World History World Civilizations 2 (AP World History combined with English 10 Honors)
Juniors	English 11 English 11 Honors AP Language & Composition American Civ (English 11 Honors combined with AP U.S. History)	Virginia and U.S. History Virginia and U.S. History Honors AP U.S. History American Civ (AP U.S. History combined with English 11 Honors)
Seniors	English 12 English 12 Honors AP Literature & Composition Senior Seminar (English 12 Honors combined with AP U.S. Government); Super Seminar (AP Literature combined with AP Comparative Gov & AP U.S. Government)	Virginia and U.S. Government Virginia and U.S. Government Honors Senior Seminar (AP U.S. Government & Politics combined with English 12 Honors) Super Seminar (AP Comparative Government & AP U.S. Government combined with AP Literature)

The new honors courses will add depth and complexity to the Program of Studies of the regular curriculum at each grade level. Over the next several months, teachers and county specialists will be working to define the curricula for these courses more specifically. We are particularly excited about the opportunities that these new courses will provide for interdisciplinary studies in grades ten through twelve.

As you consider the best coursework for your child, I invite you to challenge your child with at least one Advanced Placement course before graduation in expectation of the rigors of college. Oakton High School offers 22 AP courses, so I have no doubt that one will interest your child. If you have any questions about our course offerings, please feel free to consult your child's school counselor.

Once again, I would like to invite you, your family, and your friends to attend our inaugural Exhibition of Learning on March 20 and 21 at Oakton High School from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. All Oakton students will have the opportunity to present meaningful learning experiences of their choice to our community at this open house. I hope you will set a couple of hours aside to see the variety and quality of our students' many accomplishments. The Exhibition of Learning affords us an opportunity to rally as a community behind the significance of learning beyond report cards and test scores. See you there!

Sincerely,

Dr. John Banbury

The counselors have continued to focus on the needs of the students both individually and by grades. In our next installment of the Freshman Transition Program, counselors met with the 9th graders to review time management strategies. The lessons also included the importance of becoming involved in the school through sports, clubs and other activities.

Registration becomes a major undertaking as we first visited class rooms to familiarize students with the courses available for the upcoming year. For this year, the department has developed an extended schedule to increase one-on-one time with each student, while reducing the time missed from instruction. Counselors will meet with each student to discuss their progress and develop a four year plan. We will start with rising 10th graders Feb. 13 -24, Rising 11th Feb. 28th – March 9th and rising 12th March 12th through the 23rd. Visits to middle schools are also part of the process. Please be aware that this may impact counselor's turnaround time for emails and phone calls.

A note to parents of Juniors - We have not forgotten the college application process. As spring approaches, SAT/ACT season is upon us and information can be found at [sat.collegeboard.com](http://sat.collegeboard.com), and [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). The department will be holding junior programs for par-

ents and students later in the year to begin the college search, touching on web resources, college visits, etc. Making certain your student is registered for this testing (and doing well in classes) is the top priority right now. Please look for Keep in Touch emails and future newsletters for more information.

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, requires an annual English language proficiency assessment of all limited English proficient (LEP) students who are either receiving or not receiving English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) services. To meet this federal requirement, the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs® test will be given at Oakton during the month of February. Letters with details and dates have been mailed (and students received a copy) if testing is required. Please make every effort to have your child in attendance on the day his or her test is scheduled. If you have any questions feel free to contact Michael D. Bojtos at [MDBojtos@fcps.edu](mailto:MDBojtos@fcps.edu) or at (703) 319-2813.

As always, the counseling department is prepared to support students with a wide variety of issues that may arise over the course of the school year. Please contact your counselor with any concerns you may have.

## NEWS FROM THEATER ARTS

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

**Everybody cut FOOTLOOSE! March 29, 30 & 31st at 7:00 p.m. We are well underway with our rehearsals and this show promises to be an upbeat, energetic and fun production. With choreography from our CAPPIES nominated choreographer Sarah Smith and musical leadership by Mrs. Powell and Dr. Newton, you will not want to miss this show!**

**We will celebrate Spring with our 4th annual Cougar Dinner Theatre on Monday April 30th. Our theatre 2, 3 and 4 classes will present four one-act plays. Dinner will be served in the lobby including our traditional chili cook-off and dessert served during intermission.**

**We are excited to announce that we will be re-staging our hugely popular production of THE 39 STEPS on MAY 11th and 12th with proceeds going towards our KT Smith scholarship. More details will be announced soon.**

**Thanks for your continued support.**

**Vanessa Gelinis**

## HELP PREVENT THEFTS FROM VEHICLES

Recently, SRO Darrell Estess has noticed numerous vehicles being parked at Oakton High School with valuables inside in plain view. The following security information is available on the Safety & Security tab on the Oakton High School home page.

Keep valuables out of sight. In fact, keep anything portable out of sight. Cars have been entered for a few CDs left on a seat. An empty car interior is not very appealing to a thief. If you must park with valuables, place them in the trunk and be sure it is properly locked. At the very minimum, locking items in your glove compartment provides some increased security. Always remember to lock your car doors and activate your car's security system.

It is recommended that you record the serial numbers of any electronic devices and

mark your property with an electric engraver. Operation Identification is a nationwide program designed to discourage theft of valuables and provide a way for you to easily identify stolen property.

If you mark all valuables with permanent identification numbers, the thief will find it difficult to sell them to a "fence." It also helps security or the police to contact you when the property is recovered and lets you easily identify it so it can be returned to you.

For more information on how to avoid becoming a crime victim, we encourage you to contact the Oakton High School Security Office at 703-319-2716 or the Fairfax County Police Department's School Resource Officer at 703-319-2705.

### DO NOT LEAVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN PLAIN VIEW IN A PARKED CAR:

- Briefcases, purses, tote bags, luggage, musical instruments
- Electronic devices - Laptops, cellular phones, Ipods, GPS navigation devices, CD players, pagers, calculators, etc.
- Watches, jewelry
- Cash – Loose change is often a target
- Keys
- Personal papers – Personal information is often used for Identity theft
- Sunglasses
- Packages
- Shopping bags
- CDs
- Gym bags
- Sporting gear, ski equipment
- Wrapped gifts
- Golf clubs

## SPRING SPORTS BEGIN MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20

The following spring sports are set to begin tryouts on Monday, February 20: baseball, lacrosse, soccer, softball, tennis, crew and outdoor track and field. The newsletter with specific information is now available only on-line. It is no longer mailed out. Go to [www.oaktonathletics.org](http://www.oaktonathletics.org) to view the newsletter. There will be a MANDATORY spring sports drop-in registration for athletes only on Wed., February 15 in the cafeteria, 2:30-3:30. At this time, coaches will check to make sure all athletes have turned in their paper work and give out last minute instructions before tryouts. Each student needs a doctor's physical dated after May 1, 2011 on file in the Activities Office in order to try out. (If you played a fall or winter sport, your physical is already on file.) The official VHSL physical form must be used. Each student also needs to give the coach a new Emergency Care Information Form. The emergency care form you turned in at the beginning of the year or to another coach cannot be used. All forms can be found at [www.oaktonathletics.org](http://www.oaktonathletics.org) or on the Activities Office door. Call 703-319-2760 for more information. Also, this year every athlete and one parent must view an on-line power point about concussions before tryouts. Go to [www.oaktonathletics.org](http://www.oaktonathletics.org) and click on Announcements to link to the concussion website.

(ALL NEW PHYSICAL FORMS SHOULD BE TURNED IN TO THE ACTIVITIES OFFICE BY February 10th. PLEASE MAKE A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS BEFORE TURNING IN. ALL EMERGENCY CARE INFORMATION FORMS MUST BE TURNED IN TO YOUR COACH BEFORE TRYING OUT. COACHES HAVE MAILBOXES IN THE ACTIVITIES OFFICE.)

## The Visual Arts Department

The OHS Visual Arts Department is very proud to present Matters of HeART. The show will take place in the Gallery located by the Gold office. It is a salon style showing of heARTS created in a variety of mixed media created by the students of Oakton's Visual Arts Department.

Please stop in the gallery anytime during February 8th through the 17th to see and

enjoy the artwork! On February 13th many of the heARTS will be for sale for \$5.00; you may purchase them during Cougar Time, all lunches and after school, first come first serve exclusively on the 13th! Take advantage of this opportunity to purchase a one of kind heART for your sweetie this Valentine's Day. All proceeds will benefit the Visual Arts Department at Oakton High School.



## Cougar Calendar

- February 6- Ask Dr. Ciardi @ 7 PM in the library
- February 8-17 – “Show of Hearts” gallery in the Gold Office
- February 8- Senior Capitol Hill Field Trip
- February 9 - Parents for Safe Driving @ 7 PM
- February 11 - ACT Testing @ 7:30 AM
- February 14 - Juniors Parent Night @ 7 PM
- February 15 – Mandatory spring sports registration, 2:20-2:30 p.m. in the cafeteria.
- February 16 - Band Pre-Festival concert @ 7 PM
- February 20 - Federal Holiday - No School
- February 20 – Spring sports tryouts begin.
- February 23 - Orchestra Pre-Festival Concert @ 7 PM
- March 7 – PTSA Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- March 30 – End of third quarter
- March 29-31 – The Drama Dept. presents Footloose at 7:00 p.m.
- April 30 – 4th annual Cougar Dinner Theatre