

Upcoming Events[\(view more online\)](#)

Sat Feb 04

PSAT sponsored by WHS
PTSASat Feb 04 @ 9:30AM -
11:00AM[BITS Tutoring](#)Tue Feb 14 @ 7:00PM -
Partners for Safe Teen[Driving program](#)Thu Feb 16 @ 7:00PM -
PTSA meeting

Mon Feb 20

[Presidents Day](#)Tue Feb 21 @ 7:00PM -
Parent Coffee Minority[Achievement](#)[Committee\(MAC\)](#)

Thu Feb 23

[PTSA Newsletter](#)[Submissions due](#)Tue Mar 06 @ 7:00PM -
Orchestra Pre-festival[Concert](#)Sat Mar 10 @ 9:30AM -
11:00AM[BITS Tutoring](#)Thu Mar 15 @ 7:00PM -
PTSA Saturday Night in the[Suburbs Presentation](#)**Board Officers****President**[Mary Coleman](#)**Past President**[Jennifer Campbell](#)**1st VP:**[Jenni Aiello](#)**2nd VP:**[Marjorie Willard](#)**Recording****Secretary:**[Suzanne Olijar](#)**Treasurer:**[Kym Sunday](#)[View more board
members](#)**Links of Interest**[More Resource Links
Online](#)[Fairfax County
Public School](#)[Fairfax County
Council of PTAs](#)[Northern Virginia
District PTA](#)[Virginia PTA](#)[National PTA](#)**Reminder**

Items to be included in the
March 2012 Bulldog Bulletin
must be submitted to
[newsletters@
westfieldhs.org](mailto:newsletters@westfieldhs.org) on or
before Feb 24, 2012.

President's Message

News from our President, Mary Coleman February 2012

[View Archived Messages](#)

It doesn't seem possible but we are already at the end of the first semester of the school year! **Report cards will be distributed via 3rd period classes during Bulldog Block on Monday, February 6th.** Please ask your student to review it with you. Remember if your student is having problems with a subject, it is not too late to improve their performance for the remainder of the year. **There is free tutoring** available through the PTSA BITS tutoring program. Go to http://www.fcps.edu/WestfieldHS/student_services/bits.htm for more details. BITS takes place on Saturday mornings and all of our students are welcome.

[Read More](#)

PTSA Tidbits and FCPS News

You may wonder how achievement gap is defined by FCPS?

FCPS defines an achievement gap as the difference between our highest performing sub-groups and all other sub-groups of students. The achievement gap will be considered closed when the disparity in academic achievement between the two groups no longer exists. You can find answers to other questions at <http://www.fcps.edu/news/closingthegap/faq.pdf>.

Transcript Information

A minimum of 15 school days is required to process your college transcript request. Submit a completed Transcript Release Form for each college to which you are applying to the Transcript Office along with two First Class Stamps. A transcript packet is mailed from the school and will include:

- * An Official Transcript, which lists all final grades through the end of the junior year and senior courses in progress. If you wish to have your First Quarter grades included on the Transcript you must write that on the Transcript Request Form (1st qtr grades available after 11/14/11)

- * A College Secondary School Report

- * Counselor Recommendation if requested (packet/profile must be submitted to your Counselor in order for a letter of recommendation to be written!)

VA PTA recognizes Super Teachers

The Virginia PTA is again partnering with Virginia Lottery to promote and recognize the Super Teacher award with nominations due by February 14, 2012. Eight teachers from around the state will be recognized in the spring. Check the VA PTA and VA Lottery Super Teacher web sites for more information about nominations and awards.

Northern Virginia District PTA

The Northern Virginia District PTA is looking for a slate of officers to be elected at the annual meeting in the late spring including District Director, Assistant District Director, Secretary and Treasurer. Candidates should be motivated, energetic, and enthusiastic regarding PTA work, dedicated to the PTA purpose and willingness to work harmoniously with others, have experience with PTA work or other organizational work and must be a PTSA member. This is a great opportunity or someone to learn about the inner workings of the PTA as well as help represent our local high school's interest at the larger PTA level.

If anyone is interested, please have them contact me at jcampbellpta@aol.com. I can let them know what the specific duties are of each position at that point. More information can also be found at <http://www.novadistrictpta.org/index.html>

Allergy Management Guideline Handbook

A new handbook, Management of

Your feedback is important to us. Send to newsletter@westfieldhs.org comments or suggestions to make your PTSA better

The first 3 Transcript Requests are free. For every transcript after 3 there is a \$5.00 fee. In addition, there will be \$5.00 LATE FEE for Transcript Requests submitted after the deadline. Payment of a LATE FEE does NOT guarantee mailing by deadline. It is the student's responsibility to research their college to see what recommendations, if any are needed, as well as obtain the necessary forms for submission.

Jennifer R. Campbel
Transcript Assistant

Girls and Boys State

Applications are now available for Girls and Boys State. Girls State will be held June 17 – 23 at Longwood University. Boys State will be held June 17– 23 at Liberty University. If selected this is a FREE program. Students will apply and then be invited to interview with a member of the American Legion Auxiliary.

If you enjoy history and government this may be the program for you. It is a unique summertime educational program that does not emphasize classroom lectures and textbook learning. Instead, it focuses on participation and personal experience in a model state, complete with governing bodies and elected public officials.

Participation in Girls and Boys State is viewed positively by college. Interested students should have leadership ability, strong character and academic record, evidence of community service and have a strong interest in the local and state governing process.

Applications are available in the Career Center and the application deadline is Wednesday, February 15, 2012.

Life-Threatening Allergies, is now available online to assist schools to care for students with life-threatening allergic conditions and to provide parents guidance about how allergies are addressed in Fairfax County Public Schools. Topics includes allergies and anaphylaxis, prevention, emergency procedures, best practices, and emotional wellness.

The manual was developed as a result of a collaborative effort between parents, community members, Fairfax County Public Schools, and the Fairfax County Health Department who were part of an Allergy Review Team.

FCPS Guidelines - Management of Life-Threatening Allergies:

<http://www.fcps.edu/dss/osp/healthservices/AllergyHandbook.pdf>

Fairfax County Council PTA

Senator George Barker (D-39) voted against Senate Bill 457, School calendar; local school boards responsible for setting and determining opening of school year. This is unacceptable. Fairfax County's other two Senators on the Senate Education Committee, Dick Saslaw (D-35) and Janet Howell (D-32) voted to bring the bill to the floor of the Senate.

All is not lost. House Bill 1063 is still alive and supported by all of Fairfax County's Delegates who sit on the House Education Committee including: David Bulova (D-37), Mark Keam (D-35), Jim LeMunyon (R-67) and Tom Rust, (R-86).

Please send a message to Senator Barker, regardless of whether he represents you, that you support giving local school boards the responsibility of setting and determining the opening of the school year and that you expect him to do the same.

Committee News

WHAT HAS THE PTSA DONE LATELY?

- Provided volunteers for the ethics day
- Supported the academic letter ceremony
- Supported Student Services department
- Parent Coffee
- Distributed certificates to 1450 students who earned honor roll

REFLECTIONS

Three WHS Students have won the First Place (Outstanding Interpretation Award) at the Fairfax County Council of PTAs judging round for Cluster 8.

This is unprecedented for Westfield to have won first place for each of the 3 categories in

Provided 600 gift certificates to honor roll students

Donated \$500 towards white board purchase

Held MAC parent coffee to discuss efforts towards elimination of the minority achievement gap

Coordinated reflections submissions with Westfield 5 Westfield students being selected with winning entries.

Donated \$200 towards books for students.

Supported the blood drive with volunteers.

Supported all the Boys Leadership group for a field trip

Provided volunteers for International Night

Represented WHS at the FCPS Superintendents meeting

Provided tickets to select teachers for free attendance to a GMU basketball game in cooperation with the VA state PTA and the Virginia Lottery

Represented WHS at the Dulles Chamber of Commerce Casino night benefitting WHS scholarships

Began planning of All Night Grad Party and Mulch sale fundraising effort

Provided volunteers for judging of the school science fair

Represented Westfield high school at the District PTA Emerging Minority Leadership Conference

and more.....

which works were submitted from our school. All 3 of these entries will now continue on to the Northern Virginia District round of judging. Please congratulate your fellow students whose work was selected for recognition:

1st Place: Outstanding Interpretation of the Theme

Masie Chong (Photo)

Marisa Grayson (Literature)

Sahaja Yerramsetti (Visual Arts)

The theme this year was “**Diversity is...**”. The theme for next year’s program has already been announced and is, “**The Magic of a Moment....**” . You may wish to consider working on an entry over one of your breaks from school between now and the submission date which is typically the third Friday in October.

Check the PTSA Newsletter for regular updates on the PTSA Reflections Program.

ACE

The Academic Committee for Excellence is preparing to generate 2nd quarter Honor Roll certificates. We will also hold a drawing for gift card prizes. All students who qualify for the Honor Roll are entered into the drawing for the gift cards! Last quarter, nearly half the student body was entered into the drawing and we awarded gift cards and coupons to Rita's!

PRACTICE ACT AND SAT

On February 4th, the PTSA sponsored a practice SAT/ACT for students, designed to help students and their parents identify whether one test might be better suited for the student than the other. Additionally, when scores are returned and interpreted in March, students will be able to identify areas for focused study when preparing for the actual college entrance exams.