

THE PATRIOT PRESS

Thomas S. Wootton High School



From the Principal's Desk...

Ms. Kimberly Boldon

Happy Second Semester, Wootton!

We are three weeks into the second semester and our students seem to be settling into their new schedules beautifully. We just wrapped up National Counselor Appreciation Week. I would like to once again thank our talented, dedicated counseling staff for their hard work and commitment to the social, emotional, and academic well-being of our students and families. Our school is a better place because of the counseling department, and we are fortunate to work with such an outstanding group of counselors. I would also like to thank all of the parents and students for reaching out directly to your student's counselor and sharing your appreciation with them. And I would like to give a huge shout out to the PTSA and the Staff Appreciation Committee Co-Chairs, Dottie Gottfried and Margy Levine, for providing breakfast for our counseling department! It's not too late to show your appreciation for our counselors. Please feel free to send an email to your student's counselor and let them know they are appreciated!



WOOTTON
PATRIOTS



We are celebrating Black History Month at Wootton. Please join our talented students on Thursday, February 27th for Wootton's Black History Month program. The program will take place in the Commons at 6:30 pm! All are welcome to attend!

As always, thank you for partnering with us to ensure that our students are thriving.

Patriots Rule!

Class News

Class of 2020 - Dr. Tiffany Awkard



Class of 2020 Highlights!

Can you believe we are already in 2nd semester? This is a critical time for seniors as they prepare for a strong end to the school year in preparation for graduation. As you all know, Wootton's tentative graduation date is Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at 10:00 AM at DAR. How exciting! I am looking forward to our seniors walking across the finish line. In preparation for graduation, there are a few dates of importance coming up:

- **Mandatory Senior Parent Meetings** are scheduled in the Auditorium for the following dates and times: March 13 at 8-9:30 a.m. ; March 26 at 7-8:30 p.m. and April 1 at 7-8:30 p.m. You may choose to attend one of the three meetings. At the meeting, we will provide additional information about graduation and distribute graduation tickets.
- **Mandatory Graduation Rehearsal** is scheduled for Tuesday, May 26, 2020 beginning at 9:00 am. Students should arrive to school by 8:45 am.
- **Senior Prom**- Friday, May 15, 2020

As a reminder, the last day to submit SSL hours is April 3, 2020.

As always, it is such a pleasure to work with our Seniors every day. This is an exciting year for our students, and I am happy to be a part of their journey as they transition out of high school. I will continue to commit to our students' success and appreciate the partnership with our families.

All the best, Dr. Awkard

Class of 2021 - Ms. Jane Cocker

It is hard to believe that the junior class is over half way through their high school journey! Time has gone by very quickly and we are now in the final semester before senior year!

Juniors have a few important dates coming up this semester that I want to bring to your attention:

- **March 25** is the date of the school based SAT that MCPS offers free of charge to students. Students who do not wish to take the SAT and have opted for the ACT should ensure that they collect their ACT vouchers from the counseling office.
- **March 28** is the Junior Banquet which promises to be a great event. If any parents are able to offer any donations or help with fundraisers to offset the costs please contact, Mr. Keith Schwartz or Ms. Lindsey Roberts, sponsors of the class of 2021.
- **April 1** the junior class will attend the MCPS college fair. This will take place in the morning and transport is provided to and from the event. Parents are welcome to attend the evening events.

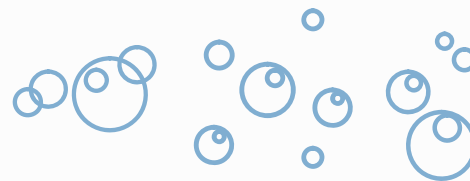
Juniors are also meeting individually with their counselors to go over schedules for senior year. If your child is unsure of what classes to take senior year this is a great opportunity to discuss options with their counselor. I would also encourage all juniors to begin to visit the college and career center and start to research colleges and careers that may interest them.

As our students move towards their senior year I urge all of them to ensure they continue to strive for excellence, incorporate balance in their lives and always make wise decisions.

As always please do not hesitate to contact either myself, or your child's counselor should you have any questions!

Keep shining on class of 2021!

Class News



Class of 2022 - Mr. Joseph Mamana III

We are halfway through the year with a great start to the second semester. I know students are working hard and are getting settled in with their new schedules and teachers. Finishing your sophomore year off strong is important in setting the tone for next year especially with the classes that you just finished signing up for that interest and will challenge you for your junior year. The Sophomore class sponsors Mr. Neil Klees and Ms. Victoria Barry continue working hard with the class on fundraising and class involvement. They are planning several activities and fundraising opportunities for the class. Below are the next three opportunities for Wootton students and parents to support the class of 2022.

- 1) Wednesday, February 26, there will be a Town Hall meeting during lunch in room 183. The class of 2022 will talk about, fundraising opportunities, class and school concerns, school spirit, and class officer elections.
- 2) Wednesday March 4, there will be a fundraiser at Jersey Mikes from 10:00am until 9:00pm. This is a great opportunity for parents and students to get a great sub while supporting the class. Just mention Wootton when you place your order.
- 3) Tuesday April 28, election day bake sale at Cabin John Middle School. Parents and students can volunteer their time or donate bake goods.

Class of 2022, you have shown perseverance and self-advocacy with your teachers so continue having those conversations with your teachers and counselors and stay on top of your grades and assignments. As I always say to students and parents you need to find a healthy balance between your academics, your extracurricular, and your time with friends and family.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

Class of 2023 - Ms. Jaclynn Lightsey

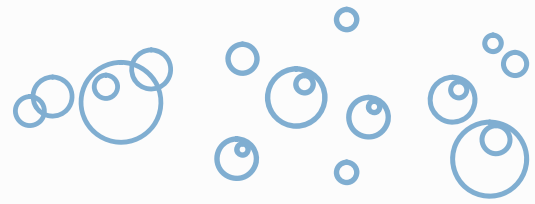
Greetings, Wootton families, and welcome to the second semester of freshman year! The beginning of a new semester is always exciting, as it offers students a fresh start and an opportunity to experience a new schedule, possibly with some different teachers and/or courses. While continuity can be helpful for students, it is also important that they have the chance to work with a number of different teachers over the course of their time in high school and hone their skills in adapting to new situations. Students, if you have a concern about your second semester schedule, we ask that you give it some time to see how you adjust. If you are looking to make a change to a course you have signed up for (such as switching levels or dropping a class), please note that the last day for changes is March 3.

Some other upcoming dates to remember:

- Thursday, Feb. 27, 6 p.m.: Black History Month Program
- Friday, Feb. 28: Half day for students

As always, please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

Department News



Arts, Family and Consumer Science, and Physical Education- Ms. Stephanie Labbe

As a department embarking on a new semester, we look forward to meeting and building relationships with new students, and strengthening relationships with continuing students.

Our National Art Honor Society spent a Saturday at the end of January at Travilah Elementary school painting the school logo in the Main Office. We love to see our students working with our feeder elementary schools.

During a wintry mix, 14 students in Play Directing class gathered with their actors on January 17-19 to perform One Act plays as part of the curriculum. The students chose plays, held auditions to cast actors and directed shows open for the Wootton community to enjoy. Material presented challenged students creatively as directors and actors and all stood to challenge set before them.

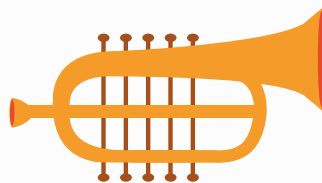
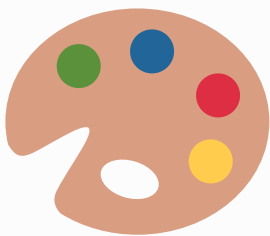
The Indoor Guard and Percussion have their first competitions in February. The Guard show title is "Sweet Dreams." The premise is "We always wish our young ones "sweet dreams," but whose dreams are really sweet? Who knows what kind of creatures feast on nightmares?". The Percussion show title is "Time Waits for No One" and it is based upon the idea that time truly does not stop. "Enjoy today because everyday might not be good, but there is good in every day." The Jazz Band is performing and competing in the Mid Atlantic Jazz Festival on Saturday, February 15 at 9: 30am at the Rockville Hilton on the Discovery Stage.

The Wind Ensemble has three guest clinicians coming this month to rehearse the band in preparation for the MCPS Band Festival. Dr. Andrea Brown, UMD Associate Band Director, Mr. Richard Bergman from Fairfax, VA, and COL Timothy Holtan, retired leader from The U.S. Army Band will all visit Wootton.

Wootton High School is well represented in the MCPS Honor Bands with 20 students participating. Their final concert is Saturday, February 8, 2020, at Richard Montgomery High School, The Junior Honors Band concert is at 7:10 p.m. and the Senior Honors Band concert is 8:40 p.m.

Jehoon Seo and Simon Glueck auditioned and made the Maryland All State Jazz Band. This band rehearses two days and then presents a concert on Saturday, February 22, 2020 3:30 p.m., University of Maryland Baltimore County, UMBC Performing Arts & Humanities Building, 1000 Hilltop Cir, Baltimore, MD 21250.

On February 28 and 29, Wootton students are performing and being graded at the MCPS Solo and Ensemble. Tri M members are also volunteering to help run the Solo and Ensemble event at Frost Middle School.



Department News

Modern World Languages - Mr. Anthony DeRosa

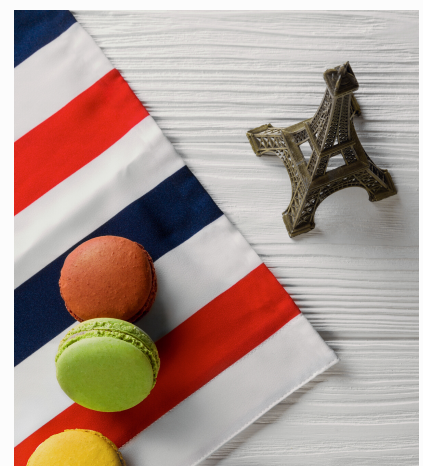
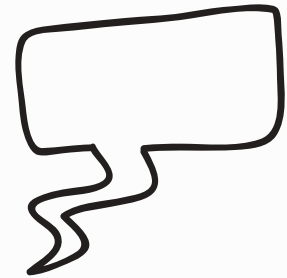
As the chill of winter wears on, we wish you the warmest of Wootton welcomes from the World Languages Department. This month, please allow us to highlight the French Honor Society.

Sponsor Madame Maass and her elected officers lead the group through a series of initiatives focusing on cultural and linguistic enrichment, charitable fundraising, and ecological amelioration. Wootton students of French can take advantage of the peer-tutoring opportunities offered by the members of the society. All year long, the special mentor program pairs honor society students with those currently taking French 1. In addition, honor society members are available during lunch every Thursday to help any students of French at whatever level.

In February the society comes together for a movie night where classic and current films (en français) are screened. In March, it has become a tradition to sponsor a gallery walk of francophone art in D. C. under the expert leadership of retired art teacher Jessica Coleman. The entire Wootton community is invited to join in. Also in March, the society enjoys an outing to the Mon Ami Gabi restaurant. Fundraising is an integral part of the society. All money raised goes directly to Les Médecins sans frontières (Doctors Without Borders). In October, a partnership with the Crêpes-à-go-go restaurant saw part of their revenue on a particular day go to the honor society. In November, a society-sponsored bake sale at a local shopping center netted \$1,000 for the doctor's society. The funds were earmarked to combat the continuing Ebola problem in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Lastly, respect for and protection of the environment has been a critical focal point for the society. All year, they collect used batteries and Brita filters to ensure they are disposed of properly. (There is even a school-wide contest to see which first-period class can bring in the most items.) On April 28, the focus will be on the Paris climate accords. On that day, the society will sponsor a visit to a local recycling plant. Members of the entire Wootton community will be invited - limited to 60 participants.

In addition, members of the society are taking part in a contest to design a reusable stainless-steel bottle with the FHS logo. The completed bottles will be gifted to seniors as soon as they complete their required FHS hours.

Each year, current students of French 3 are invited to apply for membership. Formal inductions will take place at a ceremony in the auditorium on the evening of May 27.



Department News

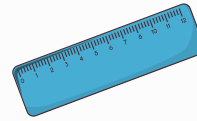
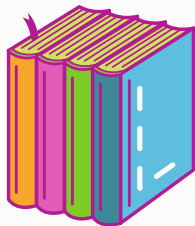
English Department - Mr Nicholas Hitchens

Hello again from the English Department! We have just started the second semester and already the department is abuzz with new students and new teachers. We are diving right in and continuing our work with analytical, argumentative and narrative writing. The English teachers are all looking forward to getting to know our new students and doing some meaningful and challenging work with them. It is going to be a great semester!

There will also be another round of English Progress Checks administered later in the quarter. While we finalize a date for these, please remind all students that they can always come in for extra help in their English classes. Most teachers are available before and after school as well as during lunch. Please speak with them personally to make an appointment. The Writing Center in room 243 is always an option during lunch as well. Staffed by our fantastic composition assistants, Ms. Gretschel and Ms. Twigg, students can get help with essay writing or other writing assignments.

We would also like to say goodbye to Ms. Mellownie Ho, as she departed at the semester break to pursue other career opportunities. Ms. Ho has been a wonderful teacher and colleague during her tenure here and while we are sad to see her go, we are excited for all her new endeavors. In that vein, we are also excited to welcome Mr. Luke Hensley, who will be taking over Ms. Ho's classes as a Long-term substitute. Mr. Hensley has been working in the Wootton English department as a composition assistant for the past several years. As such, he is very familiar with both the curriculum and the entire community here. Welcome Luke!

As a final note, please remember what British writer Roald Dahl said about reading: ***"If you are going to get anywhere in life you have to read a lot of books."***



Math Department - Mr. Keith Burnham

Welcome to 2nd semester!

This is an exciting time for both staff and students as second semester classes begin. Parents and students are reminded that math teachers are available for help during the last 20 minutes of lunch on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. One Math Honor Society student is assigned to each teacher during lunch help to offer additional support. In addition, many of the teachers offer extra help before and/or after school. Please have your child check with the teacher if they want to meet outside the lunch tutoring sessions. I also encourage parents to email teachers directly whenever they have concerns about their child's performance in class. Communication is key to a smooth academic semester

Career & Technology Education - Ms. Bethany Petr

The Career & Technology Department is excited for second semester learning! Students enrolled in our Technology courses that count towards the graduation requirement will investigate a variety of exciting content this semester. Students in FOCUS will engage in units built around programming, data analysis and representation, and robotics. Students in AP CS Principles will learn how the Internet works, how computers represent and store digital information, examine the use of big data and how its use affects issues of privacy, as well as complete the Explore task for their AP Exam Portfolio.

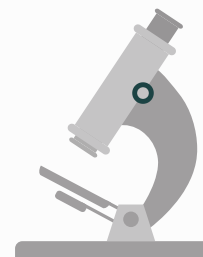
Juniors in the Academy of Information Technology (AOIT) program will participate in a mock interview session on Wednesday, February 19, 2020 from 2:45pm-5:00pm in the Wootton HS Media Center. This event helps them practice and develop professional interviewing skills.

If your workplace has need of an IT intern, our AOIT juniors are actively seeking internship positions for this coming summer. They have a variety of skills including web development and design, IT support and network management, as well as programming. If your company might like to host an intern, please reach out to Bethany Petr at Bethany_A_Petr@mcpsmd.org.

Department News

Science Department - Mr. Michael Thompson

The Wootton Science Department is very excited to begin semester 2! All classes have been shuffled a little bit, and students are finding themselves with new seats, new classmates, and often new rooms and new teachers. Biology classes are taking on cellular respiration and other major processes in cell cycles, which will set them up for genetics and evolution. Chemistry classes will tackle gas laws, bonding, and solutions. Physics classes are integrating a study of the earth's climate with basic thermal transfer processes as well as principles of waves and sound. All of these classes are designed to pique student curiosity and prepare them for upper level courses and electives. As parents who attended the December Information Night discovered, we have many options that match student interests.



In January, we administered the Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) to over 400 students, mostly juniors. Taking this meets the science testing requirement for current classes of 2020, 2021, and 2022. Current 9th graders will have a minimum required score to meet their graduation requirement. The test spans topics from Biology to Chemistry to Physics, with integrated Earth and space science components as well. We expect Wootton students to be well-prepared when the exam has the minimum score requirement.

But for now, we continue to share our love for all things science-related with Wootton students!

Counseling Department - Ms. Arielle Markiewicz



With the end of the first semester and the beginning of the second semester the counseling department has been quite busy working with our students. From social emotional needs to academic supports to scheduling the counselors have been there to advocate and help our students as best as possible. In January we had a phenomenal college panel night where six college admissions representatives spoke about the college application process. It was a phenomenal evening filled with extraordinary information for parents and students to learn. All students have hopefully submitted their online submission for course selections next year and turned in their planning cards. Counselors are meeting individually with all students from February 3 until February 24. We are excited to spend time with every student to support them in finalizing their 2020-2021 school year course selections. We look forward to a fabulous 2nd semester with our students!

Department News

Social Studies Department - Ms. Laura Parsons

A BIG congratulations to Amy Buckingham and Wootton's Model United Nations for being ranked in the nation's top 25 of US High Schools! Ms. Buckingham has been working with the MUN for several years as their sponsor and as one parent has stated, "Wootton's MUN would not be where it is" without her dedication. Are you looking to get involved with a club here at Wootton? Ask a social studies teacher! Wootton social studies teachers sponsor some great extracurricular clubs:

Ms. Pollin

LINK (Liberty in North Korea Foreign relations club)

Ms. Rice

Wootton Wellness Warriors
Graduation Coordinator
Public Policy Club

Ms. Barclay

Black Student Union

Mr. Bauer

BBQ Club

Ms. Buckingham

Model UN
Ski Club

Ms. Bauer

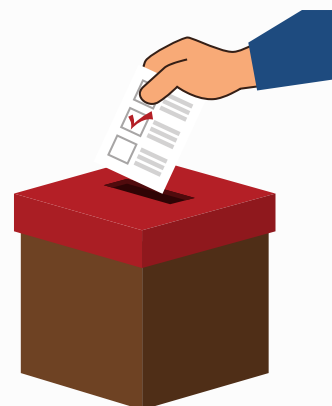
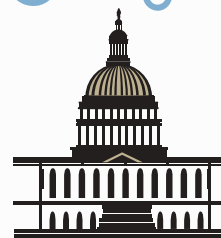
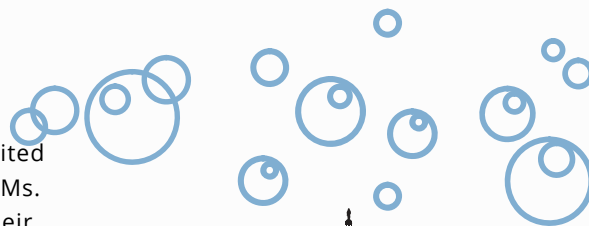
NHS with Steppling
BBQ Club

Ms. Steppling

Patriot Ambassadors
NHS
H & A Board

Ms. Bauer

Student Government Association
Varsity Tennis Club
H & A Board
Special Olympics Club



Important Information

AP News

This is a reminder to all students that Advanced Placement (AP) testing will be occurring during the first two weeks of May (May 4- May 15). The deadline for registration was November 11 and final payment was January 5. The testing schedule is posted on the Wootton Webpage and the AP teachers have posted their exam dates as well. Our testing locations will be in classrooms at Wootton High School and at The Universities at Shady Grove (USG). There will be several student administrative meetings in April during lunches. Students will get test security, logistics, and testing requirement information during these meetings. There will also be a final list of specific room locations for each exam during the administrative meetings.

Students who have testing accommodations in their classes need to make sure they have those accommodations. Parents and students should check in with their counselors to make sure the accommodations have been accepted by College Board. Students taking an AP exam on a specific day are excused from school for that day.

If you have any questions about AP exams (ordering, schedules, what to bring to the exam etc....) please contact Ms. Carr in the College and Career Center or Mr. Mamana in the main office.

