

THE PATRIOT PRESS



Wootton High School

From the Principal's Desk...

Ms. Kimberly Boldon

A Happy New Year, Wootton!

I certainly hope you had a wonderful winter break and that you found time for the people and activities that matter the most to you and your family. As we head into 2020, we are resurrecting a "blast from Wootton's past" by launching a monthly newsletter, Patriot Press, as another way to strengthen our home/school partnership by keeping our community informed of important information and upcoming events. At the beginning of each month, you will receive information from grade level administrators, department heads, and program coordinators about upcoming events and about news pertinent to our students and community. We hope you will find this publication useful. I would appreciate your feedback on what else you would like to have included in this publication. Please feel free to send me an email with your suggestions or feedback! The publication will only be available digitally, so please be sure to check our website the first of each month.



As we head into January, I want to remind you that the end of the first semester is right around the corner! 1st semester and 2nd marking period ends on Friday, January 24th (an early release day). Please be sure to check in with your students about their progress this marking period, and help them to organize their time and efforts to finish strong. If you have any grading questions or concerns, please remind your students to check in with their teachers. And if you have questions or concerns regarding your child's progress, please reach out to the teacher directly first.

Thank you for your continued support of our students! Wishing you only the best for 2020!



WOOTTON
PATRIOTS

Class News



Class of 2020 - Dr. Tiffany Awkard

Happy New Year! Can you believe the 1st semester is almost done? Seniors are in full swing and we are excited for what the new year will bring. Many of our seniors have received acceptances from various colleges and universities and have solidified some very exciting post-graduation plans. I am so proud of each and every one of our students. What an exciting time of the year. We have a few upcoming events and deadlines for seniors that I want to make you aware of.

Senior Graduation Form- Please make sure you fill out the senior graduation form if you have not done so already; this is important for graduation. This form can be found on Wootton's Website at: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/woottonhs/students/seniorclass.aspx>.

SSL Hours- The deadline to complete SSL hours for 1st semester is January 3, 2020. Please make sure students submit their SSL hours to Ms. Stroot in room 109.

Parking- We are now accepting online applications from 12th grade students for Parking Permits for the 2nd semester. There will be no permits available for 11th grade students during the 2nd semester. The deadline to submit your online application and supporting documents is Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 3 pm. Approved applicants will receive an email from Mrs. Walsh by January 22, 2020 with instructions on how to remit the \$37.50 payment and when to pick up the permit.

Senior Dues- Please be reminded that Senior dues (\$60.00) are due on January 15, 2020. This is a mandatory fee that covers the cost of graduation expenses. You can make a payment on the Wootton website on the online store at the following link: Wootton online store. 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.

Class of 2021 - Ms. Jane Cocker

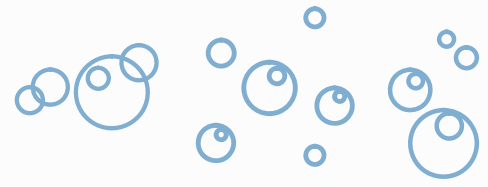
A happy new year to the class of 2021! This year promises to be a great year!

Junior year is a big year for high school students. For many students this may be the first year that they are taking one or more AP classes, the academic load students often carry this year is significant. I encourage students to work hard, in all their classes to start building their GPA and improving their study skills. Students will also begin taking the SAT and ACT this year, including the SAT that the school offers free of charge on March 28th 2020, which will be held at Wootton. This is also the year that college starts to loom as students try to figure out what they want to study and where they want to study. Many students are not sure yet and that is perfectly okay, the more they start to explore careers and colleges, answers will become clear, looming adulthood and all its responsibilities can be daunting at 17! As this journey begins I am strongly encouraging all students to get involved in activities and clubs, either in or out of school as this will be important when it comes to completing resumes and applications. This is also a great way to find balance as it is important that we are mentally, emotionally and physically fit, if one of those areas isn't doing well it affects all and impacts everything.

Class spirit is outstanding with the junior class! We are now three-time POTH winners, Homecoming hallway and float winners! We are fortunate to have dedicated class sponsors in Ms. Lindsey Roberts and Keith Schwartz along with keen and enthusiastic class officers and helpers. They are busy organizing fundraisers to help with junior banquet, as well as senior year expenses. If you are able to help support the class with time, talent or donations please contact the class sponsors as we have many activities planned for the remainder of the year.

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

Class News



Class of 2022 - Mr. Joseph Mamana III

I hope everyone had a restful and well-deserved winter break. Here is to a happy new year to the class of 2022.

What a great start for the Sophomore class. We showed a lot of spirit during homecoming with our hallway decorations, class float and skit. We also showed dedication and coordination during our class performance in "Putting on the Hits" (POTH). The Sophomore class has two awesome sponsors Mr. Neil Klees and Ms. Victoria Barry who are dedicated to their students and work closely with the class officers in planning activities and fundraising for the class.

Now that we are approaching the end of the first semester you need to finish strong in your classes especially since your semester final grade is determined by your first and second quarter grades. You should also be looking at the courses you want to take next year as a junior. You should start thinking about what classes interest and challenge you. With this being your second year at Wootton many of you have established great study habits and are advocating for yourselves more. You should have conversations with your teachers and counselor about what classes you want to take next year. I always encourage students to find a healthy balance between their academics, their extracurricular, and their time with friends and family.

I have gotten to know and talk to many of you about grades, sports, clubs, attendance and school in general. My office has moved and is now across from the media center, room 101, so please drop in and see me any time. I also encourage parents and guardians to contact me if you have a question, concern, or something you would like to share that would help me or the Wootton team better support your child. Remember your teachers, counselors, Wootton staff and myself are committed to supporting you as you continue your journey here at Wootton.

I look forward to continuing a great start of the year and please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

Class of 2023 - Ms. Jaclynn Lightsey

Greetings, Wootton families! I hope that all of you had a restful and enjoyable winter break. Over the course of the past few months, I have been able to get to know a good number of our 9th grade students, and I have been honored to support them as they have transitioned to high school. Now that we are approaching the end of the first semester, I have a few pieces of important information to share.

- The last day of first semester is **Friday, Jan. 24**. Remember that the semester grade is what will appear on the official transcript. Students, it is important to keep working hard through the end of the semester to ensure that your final semester grades reflect your best effort!
- **Monday, Jan. 27** is a professional day for teachers, so students do not attend school. On the first day of second semester (**Tuesday, Jan. 28**), students will report to homeroom to receive their schedules for second semester. Most students' schedules will change slightly for the new semester. If students see errors on their new schedule, they should see their counselor during the class period with the error (for example, an incorrect course is listed or the student has a hole in his or her schedule).
- By now, students should have made course selections for sophomore year and submitted their planning card to their social studies teacher. Students will be meeting individually with their counselors soon to review their selections. Students, if you have changed your mind about any courses for next year, you may have your counselor make those changes for you when you meet. Please make sure that your course selections provide you with a balance – sign up for courses that will challenge you, but do not overwhelm yourself!
- Parents, if you have a child in 8th grade, please note that our Rising 9th Grade Parent Meeting & Open House is on Thursday, Jan. 9 at 7 pm. Please plan to come and learn about course registration for our incoming 9th graders! As always, please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

Department News



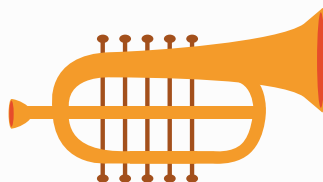
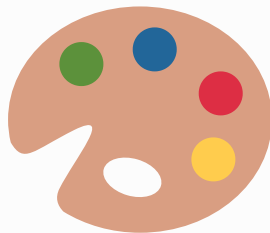
Arts, Family and Consumer Science, and Physical Education- Ms. Stephanie Labbe

Happy New Year from Wootton Arts, Family and Consumer Science, and Physical Education! We closed 2019 with our annual Celebrate the Arts assembly, with over 175 student participants. The assembly included performances by our Marching Band, Show Choir, Jazz Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Symphonic Orchestra, our all male A Capella group, Supertronics, our all female A Capella group, Acabellas, our youngest singers in the Child Development program, Theatre 2 student performances and various Artworks were displayed by Drawing, Painting, Ceramics, Fashion and Photography students. It was a pleasure for our students to engage their peers and share these talents with the student body. We have had many individual celebrations as a department since September. The Wootton Marching Band finished their fall season earning 2nd place at the Maryland State Marching Band Championships, 4th place at the National Championships, and also bringing home The Cadets Award for Excellence. The Instrumental and Choral departments have had numerous concerts during school and after school hours, giving students and the Wootton community an opportunity to engage with beautiful music. The Jazz Band participated in the MCPS Big Band Festival and earned superior ratings. Wootton's own Jehoon Seo won the first annual Chris Vadala Most Outstanding Soloist award, named after Chris Vadala, a driving force in jazz and music education in the state of Maryland and who served as the MCPS Jazz Clinician. His death in January 2019 has left an immense void in Maryland's Music Community and it is an honor for our own Jehoon, to bring home this award. Congratulations to Jehoon, and the entire instrumental department. We celebrate with you!

The following students have earned a chair in the MCPS Honors Bands: Jackson Bernal, Sara Bock, Kristina Chan, Anna Chen, Claire Du, Jasmine Gong, Alyssa Herman, Christian Jeon, Daniel Lee, Maxwell Li, Sebastian Lising, Chris Liu, Shannon Newell, Eric Oh, Boxuan Song, Stacy Sun, Clair Throckmorton, Riehan Walsh, Daniel Wang, Tara Wasik, Kyle Wasserman, Margarita Williams, Ethan Wong, and Achintya Yedavalli. The following students auditioned and earned a chair in the MCPS Honors Orchestras: Anderson Bernal, Jacqueline Cao, Amy He, Vincent Huang, and Emma Song. Jay Kannan auditioned for and was selected to be a member of the MCPS Jazz Ensemble. Congratulations to these students and their families for these accomplishments.

The Instrumental Department is planning two major travel events. Students and staff will be traveling to Hershey Park in May 2020 and Hawaii during Spring Break 2021. Permission slips and forms have been distributed and are due back by the end of the month (January 2020). If you have questions about either trip, please contact Carolyn Herman at Carolyn_M_Herman@mcpsmd.org. Our Indoor Guard and Indoor percussion look forward to their first competition on January 18th at East Pennsboro High School in Enola, PA.

Wootton Center for the Arts presented two fun shows this fall that included numerous cast and crew members. The fall musical, High School Musical was directed by Choral teacher Keith Schwartz and the fall play, She Kills Monsters was directed by Theatre teacher Jessica Speck. Last month there were opportunities to audition for the Spring Musical, Freaky Friday. Although auditions are past and the show is cast, there are plenty of opportunities to still be involved in building sets, designing lighting, working with sound and playing in the pit. Contact Jessica Speck at Jessica_L_Speck@mcpsmd.org with questions.



Department News

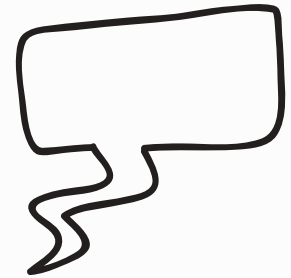
Modern World Languages - Mr. Anthony DeRosa

Hello, everyone, please allow me to introduce you to two special members of my department – with some information about what they and their special programs of Latin and Chinese offer to our students.

Meet the teachers - in their own words...

Latin teacher Eric Sasse is passionate about the history and origin of words and languages. With three degrees in the fields of language, linguistics and education, he studied abroad and worked as a teacher overseas before coming to MCPS 13 years ago. Through the instruction of Latin grammar and vocabulary, he introduces students to the universal, underlying structures of English and all languages while connecting these concepts to the history and cultural understanding of the ancient Romans whose legacy has left an enduring influence on modern academic institutions and Western thought.

Chinese teacher Hsiujane Chang has been enjoying guiding students on their adventure to become masters of the Chinese language for nearly 30 years. She majored in Economics and Curriculum & Instruction. She introduces basic concepts of Chinese linguistics and teaches communicative Chinese language and Chinese culture to different levels of students. Through her classes, students connect traditional and simplified writing styles to the formation of Chinese characters. She links the teachings of language with Chinese culture to build a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Chinese history, Chinese culture and the Chinese language.



Career & Technology Education - Ms. Bethany Petr

January is Create Performance Task month for AP Computer Science Principles! Students enrolled in AP CSP will spend all of January planning, implementing, and reflecting on the Create component of their portfolio submission for the AP CSP exam.

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. As part of the event, we are always seeking members of the community who would be willing to interview some of our students and provide some immediate feedback to them. We are looking for anyone who has had experience interviewing in their workplace; background in IT is not required. If you are interested in volunteering to help us out with this event, please contact Bethany Petr at Bethany_A_Petr@mcpsmd.org.



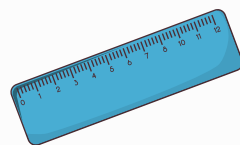
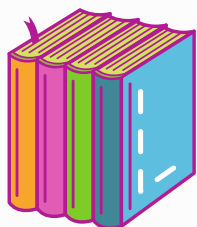
Department News

English Department - Mr Nicholas Hitchens

Hello from the English Department! Teachers and students alike have been busy, as this semester comes to a close. Each grade level is continuing our focus on writing instruction with an emphasis on analysis and argument. It is our sincere hope that through this process, students develop an appreciation and love for literature, writing and analytical thinking. We look forward to continuing this important work as we look ahead to 2nd semester. Additionally, our 2nd quarter county Progress Check is being given on January 6th and 7th. In it, our students answer reading comprehension questions and write an analytical essay.

For interesting and fun additional exposure to language and literature, we also suggest registering for our wonderful English electives: Newspaper/Journalism, Yearbook, Film, Creative Writing, Graphic Novels and Eco-Awareness. These exciting English electives offer a unique perspective on many more areas of English than students might be exposed to in a grade-level English class.

Lastly, please encourage students to come in for help from their English teachers before school, after school or during lunch. The Writing Center in room 243 is a valuable resource that is staffed by our two composition assistants and student tutors. They are ready to work through any questions students may have about essay writing or other writing assignments, including college essays! And remember: READ, READ, READ! To quote, arguably, the greatest philosopher of our time (Dr. Seuss), "You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax, all you need is a book".



Math Department - Mr. Keith Burnham

Welcome to the Math Department updates. Math Teachers submitted next year's student math class recommendations in December. Teachers looked at each student's performance and mastery when making these decisions. Teacher recommendations include a specific course and level (i.e., on-level, honors, or AP). In some cases, upper level students are recommended for multiple classes. Parents and students may select either or both courses. If parents and students have questions about the recommendation, please reach out to the respective teacher to inquire about their decision. Communication is essential in this process. If, after speaking to the teacher, parents and students do not agree with a recommendation, students may fill out an appeal form. The appeal form must be submitted to the counselor with the student's registration card. Mr. Burnham will review all appeal forms and give his feedback to the respective student.

This is a reminder that all math teachers have formal tutoring sessions the last 20 minutes of lunch on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. One Math Honor Society student is assigned to each class to offer additional support. In addition, many of the teachers also offer extra help before or after school. Please have your child check with the teacher if they want to meet outside the formal times. Students are encouraged to meet with their teachers whenever they are confused on a topic.

If your child is interested in participating on the math team, please encourage them to go to the math team meetings which are held every Wednesday after school in room 281. Ms. Alexandra Brasoveanu-Tarpy is the math team sponsor. We are very proud of our math team - they consistently rank in the top three teams in the county.

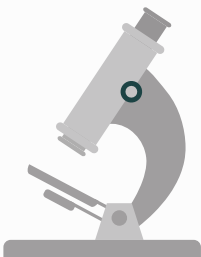
Science Department - Mr. Michael Thompson

Greetings from the wonderful world of the Wootton Science Department! It has been a very busy semester across the board, with many exciting learning activities. Biology classes recently used pig dissection to complete a study of body systems, and have moved into cell transport. Chemistry classes recently tested on all things MOLE related (sorry, not synchronized with 6:02 on October 23rd), and are now prepared for full analyses of chemical reactions. Physics classes used a study of fundamental 'action at a distance' forces to provide background for a unit on circuits and electrical energy production. Forensic Science is looking at how dental x-rays can be used in crime scene investigations. AP Environmental Science is taking on the very important topic of Global Warming from greenhouse gas emissions in the month of January. Wootton students get a great and varied exposure to the scientific world and how it intersects with human life!

While we place a high priority on building strong understanding of content in all of our courses, the 'extra' activities are what can provide the most benefit to students. Our AP Physics C classes recently incorporated 'soup can races' into their rotational mechanics unit and were able to make a significant contribution to the school food drive. Our Honors nutrition course chemically extracted iron out of breakfast cereal, and they had a 'homemade food' day that celebrated contributions to healthy nutrition from the various cultures represented by our students. The Applied Science course used Halloween as an appropriate time to investigate tensile and compression strengths of various candies at different temperatures. When students go through the course selection process, we hope that they take the excellent preparation for college as well as these 'extras' into consideration.

One last note about state testing: in January, all 11th graders who have not yet taken the MISA (Maryland Integrated Science Assessment) will take the exam during the school day, over multiple days (week of January 13-17th). The exam consists of four 40-minute sections, and it covers topics from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth Science, and Space Science. There is no required passing score yet, but all students must take the test in order to graduate. Current ninth graders will have to meet a minimum score when they take the test in their 11th grade year.

Counseling Department - Ms. Arielle Markiewicz



The Wootton counseling department has 8 phenomenal counselors that have been working with 9th-12th graders in many different ways. We started the year working with the 12th graders on finalizing their plans for after high school and assisting them with the final steps in the college application process. We then got to meet and greet our 9th graders and had them work on their 4 year high school plans.

Signs of Suicide is a program that we also implemented with our 9th graders to emphasize how important mental health is. Then we met with our 10th graders and had them start thinking about careers and their strengths by taking a career interest inventory on Naviance. 11th grade was our last stop where we met to discuss the college search process in Naviance having them complete a supermatch. We are currently working on articulation and having students register for classes in the 2020-2021 school year. All cards and online registration printouts were due January 3rd.



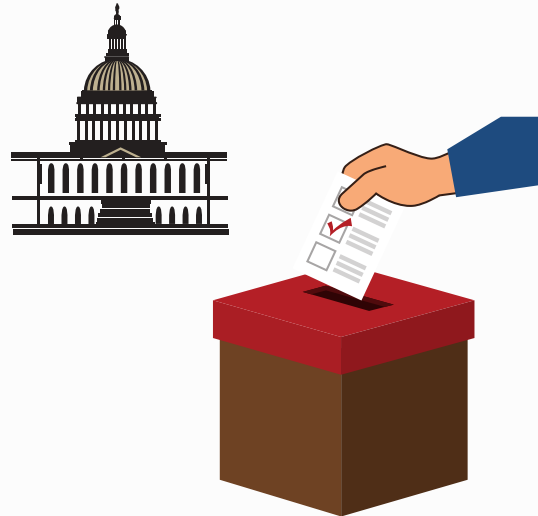
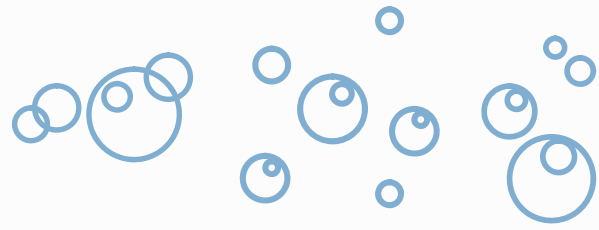
Aside from all of the counseling lessons in the classrooms we are always supporting students with their academics, social/emotional concerns and anything else they may need a trusted adult to talk with. We enjoy advocating for our students and helping them in any way we can. We look forward to continuing to support our students in the New Year.

Social Studies Department - Ms. Laura Parsons

The social studies department is gearing up for course selection for the next school year! We have several new course offerings for the next school year, 2020-2021.

- Global Military History.
- Philosophy.
- African American History.
- History of Hip Hop.

All of these new classes are 1 semester courses and are pure electives that we feel are a great balance to the many AP electives that we offer. The social studies teachers are happy to answer any questions you may have about what can be taken next year.



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 filed with College Board by January 17. 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.

