

# John Handley High School

*Learning for all, whatever it takes*

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The start of the school year is almost here! We are so excited to welcome our Judges back to school. The first day of school will be Thursday, August 10. Class will start at 8:25 a.m. each day and end at 3:15 pm. Students can start being dropped off at the Handley Circle at 8:05 a.m. The doors at Jefferson St. Circle entrance will also be open for walkers at 8:05 a.m. We will not allow students to enter the building before 8:05 a.m. due to supervision. If students start their morning at the Innovation Center they may be dropped off in the loop at 536 Jefferson Street. WPS buses drop off students at the Innovation Center before dropping students off at Handley. It is important that students remember to bring their Chromebook charged each day. Students will need to access their courses through Canvas. We encourage them to check their email daily and check their grades weekly. Powerschool is the official gradebook of Winchester Public Schools.

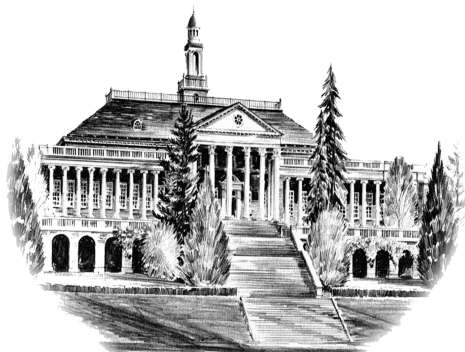
Students may access their schedule in PowerSchool. If you or your student need PowerSchool access, you may email Brandy Woods, Registrar ([woods@wps.k12.va.us](mailto:woods@wps.k12.va.us)). Please understand that changes are still being made to schedules and your student should continue to check PowerSchool for updates as we get closer to August 10. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your student's schedule you may contact the assigned school counselor directly. Our counselors are assigned alphabetically by last name.

Lara Maquera (A-C) [maqueral@wps.k12.va.us](mailto:maqueral@wps.k12.va.us)  
B. Scott Valyear (D-K) [valeyyearb@wps.k12.va.us](mailto:valeyyearb@wps.k12.va.us)  
Chyanna Jones (L-Ri) [jonesc@wps.k12.va.us](mailto:jonesc@wps.k12.va.us)  
Elizabeth Cranford (Rh-Z) [cranforde@wps.k12.va.us](mailto:cranforde@wps.k12.va.us)

Schedule adjustment request forms will be available at Come Find Your Handley Pride Scavenger Hunt and Meet the Teacher events. Students should turn in the adjustment request forms to their counselor. Counselors will review the requests in the order in which they are received. Requests to review your student's schedule for possible adjustments will not be honored after **Wednesday, August 23rd**.

On **Monday, August 7 from 5:00-7:00 p.m** we will host our **Meet the Teacher & Open House** event. During this time, there will be an opportunity to meet your child's teachers and receive a syllabus for each course. The syllabus will explain the course content, necessary materials, and include teacher specific information. If you are unable to provide materials for your child, please let us know. We will have a bus available in the back of John Handley High School to shuttle families to the Innovation Center. We will have a variety of tables set up in the wooden hallway and cafeteria at John Handley High School that will provide further information regarding clubs and athletics, bus routes, PTSO, and PowerSchool/Canvas. Counselors will also be available to discuss schedules in the cafeteria.

If you need to update your contact information, to include your email address in PowerSchool, please email Brandy Woods at ([woods@wps.k12.va.us](mailto:woods@wps.k12.va.us)). Every Sunday evening, my weekly newsletter, The Judges' Docket, will be emailed to the email address listed in Powerschool. This weekly newsletter will include important information and dates, as well as news and teacher communications.



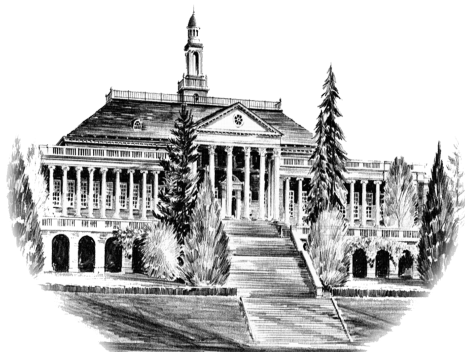
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Our primary communication for parents to get into contact with teachers is Talking Points. Talking Points is a multilingual, family-teacher engagement program which communicates through SMS or a downloaded Android/iOS app. For more information, you can access the Getting Started Guide and other materials from the district website (<https://www.wps.k12.va.us/Page/12528>).

Below are important dates I wanted to make you aware of so you can plan accordingly. Dates are subject to change. We will communicate any changes in a timely manner.

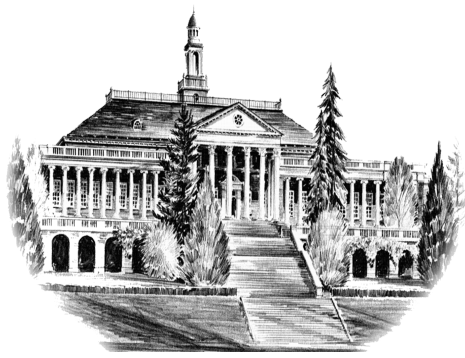
<p><i>"Come Find Your Handley Pride" Scavenger Hunt</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Freshmen &amp; New Students - July 31, 1 - 3 pm (Freshman Parent Information Session in the Main Cafeteria during the Scavenger Hunt - bring your questions)</li> <li>Sophomores, Juniors &amp; Seniors - August 1, 1 - 3 pm</li> </ul> <p><b>Wear Tennis Shoes - You will be walking to EGSIC</b></p>	<p><b>Monday, July 31 and Tuesday, August 1 from 1 - 3 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Admin Meet &amp; Greet</li> <li>Chromebook Distribution</li> <li>Dual Enrollment Information</li> <li>Beginning of the Year Paperwork</li> <li>Powerschool Login Information</li> <li>Athletic Club Information</li> <li>Parking Permits</li> <li>PICK- UP Schedule</li> </ul>
<p><i>Fall Athletic Practices Start</i></p>	<p><b>Tuesday, July 25, 2023 - Golf</b></p> <p><b>Thursday, July 27, 2023 - Sideline &amp; Competition Cheer <u>and</u> Football</b></p> <p><b>July 31, 2023 - Cross Country <u>and</u> Volleyball</b></p>
<p><i>Meet the Teacher</i></p>	<p><b>Monday, August 7 from 5 - 7 pm</b></p>
<p><i>First Day of School</i></p>	<p><b>Thursday, August 10, 2023 (A Day)</b></p>
<p><i>Underclass Portraits</i></p>	<p><b>Monday, August 21, 2023</b></p>
<p><i>Senior Portraits (Day 1)</i></p>	<p><b>Tuesday, August 22, 2023</b></p>
<p><i>9th Grade SGA Elections Assembly</i></p>	<p><b>Wednesday, August 30, 2023</b></p>
<p><i>PBIS Incentive</i></p>	<p><b>Thursday, August 31, 2023</b></p>
<p><i>No School - Teacher Professional Development Day</i></p>	<p><b>Friday, September 1, 2023</b></p>
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<i>Senior Portraits (Day 2)</i>	<b>Friday, September 1, 2023</b>
<i>No School - Division Holiday</i>	<b>Monday, September 4, 2023</b>
<i>Senior Portraits (Day 3)</i>	<b>Friday, September 15, 2023</b>
<i>Senior Meeting</i> <i>(Jostens will be presenting information regarding purchasing of cap and gowns, and other graduation materials)</i>	<b>Wednesday, September 20, 2023</b>
<i>Cap and Gown orders</i>	<b>Thursday, September 28, 2023 during lunches</b>
<i>Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences</i>	<b>Thursday, September 28, 2023 from 4:30 - 7 pm</b>
<i>PSAT Testing</i>	<b>Tuesday, October 3, 2023</b>
<i>Homecoming Spirit Week</i>	<b>Monday, October 9 through Thursday, October 12, 2023</b>
<i>Underclass Portraits (make-up day)</i>	<b>Thursday, October 12, 2023</b>
<i>End of First 9 Weeks Grading Period</i>	<b>Thursday, October 12, 2023</b>
<i>No School - Teacher Work Day</i>	<b>Friday, October 13, 2023</b>
<i>Homecoming</i>	<b>Saturday, October 14, 2023</b>
<i>No School - Teacher Professional Development Day</i>	<b>Monday, October 16, 2023</b>
<i>Senior Portraits Make-Up Days</i>	<b>Monday, October 30 through Wednesday, November 1, 2023</b>
<i>PBIS Incentive</i>	<b>Thursday, November 2, 2023</b>
<i>Winter Sports Tryouts</i>	<b>Basketball, Indoor Track, Swim &amp; Dive, and Wrestling</b>
<i>No School - Teacher Professional Development Day</i>	<b>Tuesday, November 7, 2023</b>
<i>PBIS Incentive</i>	<b>Thursday, November 9, 2023</b>
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<i>Veteran's Day Assembly</i> <i>(outside guests by invitation only)</i>	<b>Friday, November 10, 2023</b>
<i>End of Second 9 Weeks Grading Period/Early Dismissal</i>	<b>Thursday, December 21, 2023</b>
<i>No School - Holiday Break</i>	<b>Friday, December 22 through Friday, January 5, 2024</b>
<i>No School- Teacher Work Day</i>	<b>Thursday, January 4, 2024</b>
<i>No School - Teacher Professional Development Day</i>	<b>Friday, January 5, 2024</b>
<i>Rising 9th Grade Parent Night</i>	<b>Wednesday, January 17, 2024, Time TBD</b>
<i>Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences</i>	<b>Thursday, February 15, 2024 from 4:30 - 7 pm</b>
<i>No School - Teacher Professional Development Day</i>	<b>Friday, February 16, 2024</b>

**Transportation:** Students who are riding a bus can look up the bus information at this link:

<https://bit.ly/3DhP1Lw>

The **WPS calendar for the 2023-2024** school year can be accessed through the JHHS website at <https://www.wps.k12.va.us/Domain/13>, then click on the "Calendar" tab on the top right of the screen. Then click on the 2023-24 School Calendar on the upper left. This calendar contains all holidays, teacher work days, etc., for the school year.

Included in this mailing is the Parent Permission Form for Student Involvement (Policy JFC-R2), Device Learning Agreement Form, and Student Residency Information Verification form. Every student needs to have these forms completed. After completion, these forms can be dropped at the Main Office between the hours of 8:00 am to 4:00 pm prior to August 10th. They can also be turned in on your child's designated Scavenger Hunt date.

I am thrilled to be your child's principal and I cannot wait to work with you and your child to ensure they have an amazing experience at John Handley High School. As always, I appreciate your support of John Handley High School. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Susan N. Braithwaite  
Principal