



THE TALON

Winters Mill High School
 560 Gorsuch Road
 Westminster, MD 21157

410-386-1500 Main Office
 410-386-1502 Counseling
 410-386-1513 fax
www.carrollk12.org/wmh

Dear Parents,

Where does the time go? It seems like just a little bit ago I was sitting in my office in shirt sleeves enjoying the solar heat waiting for our students to return to school from their summer vacations and now it is December!

So many events in such a short time. December 2nd brings our college and career night. The next week brings our Instrumental & Choral winter concerts. Our Grade 10 students have their ring ceremony on the 14th and all around these dates winter sports are beginning. We hope to be as successful this season as we were with teams making the playoffs. Cross Country Boys brought home their second straight state title!

I hope you have had an opportunity to log into the Home Access Center on the Carroll County Public School website, www.carrollk12.org. Here you can get a live status report on your student's grades, check their attendance, view their transcripts & much more. Many of our teacher's also list future assignments; so it's a great tool to assist with time management planning.

We as a school need your help. Whenever your son or daughter is going to have a planned absence for a college visit, vacation or family event please send in a note with your student, e-mail the attendance office (wmhattendance@carrollk12.org) or fax us at (410)386-1513 a week in advance. We are to approve these absences prior to them occurring and we need communication directly from you as a parent.

I hope all of you have a restful winter break – see you in January.

Sincerely,

Ruthanne Kenney
Principal

December 2010

Vision and
Mission
Statement



Vision

Winters Mill is a school community where all activities focus on learning, achievement, and involvement. Rigor, relevance, and relationships are the foundations for our success. It is a place where involvement breeds excitement for learning as we develop the leaders of tomorrow.

Mission

The mission of Winters Mill High School, an academy school with diverse learners, is to create a rigorous, supportive learning environment where each and every student and member of the staff can develop their individual potential and prepare for their roles as productive citizens, leaders, and life-long learners.

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HSA FAIRE for PARENTS

The *HSA Faire* will be held on Wednesday, 1 December 2010, from 5:00-6:00 p.m. or from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the Media Center for the Algebra, Biology, English, and Government HSA.

The *HSA Faire* is designed for parents to learn about and experience the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Algebra, Biology, English, and Government High School Assessments (HSA). Parents will learn how to navigate the MSDE site and take a public released version of the HSA's their student will take in January 2011 and/or May 2011.

Seating is limited to 30 participants per session; reservations can be made by e-mailing Mr. Elliott at reellio@carrollk12.org



WMHS College & Career Extravaganza Thursday, December 2, 2010 @ 5:45 pm

College is one of life's great adventures!! More and more employers are looking for that college

education, so college should figure into your future plans regardless of the career you hope to pursue. Whether or not you are a freshman, sophomore, junior or senior, you need to attend the 3rd Annual College Night at Winters Mill High School on December 2nd starting at 5:45 pm in the rotunda, sponsored by the Counseling Department.

Sessions being offered are: Financial Aid - a general overview, FAFSA - Q & A regarding financial aid, NCAA clearinghouse, SAT vs. ACT, PSAT Interpretation, the 2-year college experience, the 4-year college experience, AP information, college visits, and the college search process.



Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

The 2011-2012 FAFSA forms should be available in December, but may not be submitted until January 2011. Forms are available in the WMHS guidance office, college financial aid offices, public libraries, or online at www.fafsa.ed.gov (preferred way of applying). Please file the FAFSA between January 1 and March 1 each year to be eligible for state aid.

UPCOMING SENIOR EVENTS

A number of senior events will be taking place in the new year. Please mark your calendars for these important events:

- Senior Thank-You Breakfast - March 4th
 - Prom on May 21st
- Senior Exams - May 23rd - May 27th
- Commemoration - June 2nd - 7:00 pm
- Farewell Assembly - June 3rd - 8:00 am
- Senior Picnic - June 3rd (following Farewell Assembly)
 - Graduation Ceremony on June 5th - 7:30 pm

Please watch for further information (permission forms, costs, etc...) in the coming months.



Weather Advisory

Please consult the Board of Education calendar for radio stations that announce school closings. On bad weather days, it is best not to allow students to drive to school. When schools are dismissed early or closed due to inclement weather, school sponsored activities and use of facilities activities are automatically postponed/canceled in the entire school system.

Late Bus Information

Parents should listen daily to **WTTR, 1470 a.m.,** for late bus information.

Winter Holiday

- Schools will dismiss two hours & 45 minutes early on Thursday, December 23, 2010 to begin the winter holiday.
- Schools will remain closed through Friday, December 31, 2010.
 - School resumes Monday, January 3, 2011.

WINTER MUSIC CONCERTS



December 7, 2010

INSTRUMENTAL WINTER CONCERT

**7:00 pm – Auditorium
NO ADMISSION COST**

The Winters Mill Percussion Ensembles, Orchestra, Concert Band & Wind Ensemble will all be performing.

December 9, 2010

CHORAL WINTER CONCERT

7:00pm - Auditorium

The cost of the concert is: \$3.00 Adults, \$2.00 Senior citizens, \$1.00 Students

Four choirs will be featured: Concert Choir, Women’s Select, Select Choir and Vocal Ensemble, plus student soloists. We will begin with the traditional “Carol of the Bells” and conclude with Handel’s “Hallelujah” Chorus from Messiah. We welcome any alumni and audience members who know the Hallelujah Chorus to join us on stage. We will provide small scores. So go practice and join us; it is always a thrill to hear the sound!



After our concert is over we will be traveling to some of the feeder schools to perform for their students, possibly the ARC.

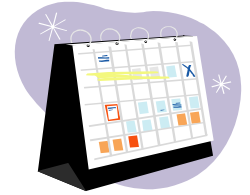
Other dates:

Festival Concert – March 3, 2011 at 7pm (no charge)

Spring Concert – May 19, 2011 at 7pm (tickets priced same as Winter)

Course Selections for the 2011/2012 School Year

It is time to begin preparing for the 2011-12 school year. We are starting the scheduling process for next year. In December, students will be working with their advisors and counselors to update and/or create their Educational Career Plan. The Educational Career Plan is an outline of the courses students would like to take during their four years at Winters Mill to prepare them for post secondary school/career plans. The Educational Career Plan will guide the student with their selection of classes for 2011-12. Please begin discussing with your child their plans for future. On February 2nd & February 10th, Winters Mill High School will be holding conferences with students, parents and their advisors to finalize the students' course selections. Please mark your calendars!! Conferences will be held in the evenings. It is extremely important that all parents are involved in this important process in your child's school career.



Greg Knill
Academic Facilitator

Joe Guerra
Assistant Principal

Quarter 2 Grade Reporting Dates:



**December 17, 2010-
Q2 Interim Reports
Distributed in Advisory**

**January 28, 2011 -
2nd Marking Period Ends**

**February 3, 2011 -
Q2 Report Cards Distributed in Advisory**

High School Assessments

All Students are required to take the Maryland High School Assessments as part of their graduation requirement. The five different assessments are end-of-course tests and scores are recorded on a student's transcript. The assessments are given twice each year, in January and in May. All students that entered grade 9 after 2005-06 are required to pass these assessments in order to graduate.

The following courses will administer the assessments in January:

<u>Assessment</u>	<u>Date</u>
English (GP Perspectives)	1/10/11
Biology	1/11/11
Algebra/DA	1/12/11
Government	1/13/11

****Make-up exams will be given January 18th - January 21st***

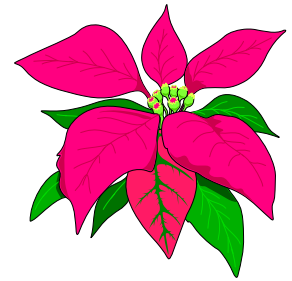
Class Ring Ceremony

A ring ceremony will be held on [Wednesday, December 15, 2010 at 7:00](#) pm in the auditorium. Sophomores that purchased their school ring through Balfour and have paid their balance in full by December 8, 2010 will be presented their ring on stage. All rings will be distributed to students during this ceremony, if you are unable to attend please e-mail Mr. Winters at wlwinte@carrollk12.org before December 10th. Balfour will be at Winters Mill on December 7th & 8th during all lunch mods (11am-1pm) to accept final payments for rings. Balfour will return to WMHS on December 15th to handle any ring issues, such as sizing.



POINSETTIA SALE

The Winters Mill FFA will hold a Poinsettia Sale at the school greenhouse beginning December 1st. The greenhouse will be open from 3PM until 4PM on December 1st, 2nd and 3rd, for your Holiday Shopping.



TRAVEL ABROAD!!

Experience the culture of a foreign country for yourself
AND
use those skills from your German and French classes in an authentic setting!

Sign up to travel abroad this summer to:
GERMANY, ITALY, SWITZERLAND and FRANCE— July 2011



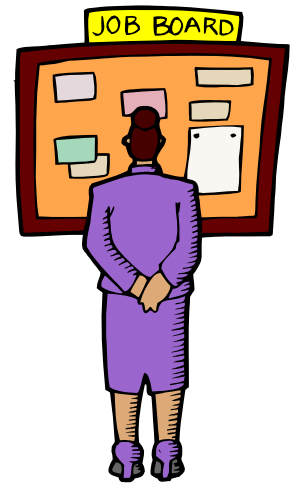
All parents and students are welcome to travel with us!
A language background is helpful, but *not* a requirement!

Contact **Mrs. Rill** at adrill@carrollk12.org for

Career Connections

Career Ready and Academically Prepared

Carroll County and Winters Mill High School are encouraging students and parents to seriously think about taking advantage of in house Completer Programs that will enable students to be successful in immediate employment or academically prepared for further schooling after high school. The Pathways to Careers book that is available to parents and student through guidance or advisory. Listed in this book, are available programs for your student to participate. The state of Maryland recommends that all students take courses that will prepare them for a very competitive job market. Planning and taking courses in a concentrated area helps prepare students academically for the rigor of the labor market and advanced educational training. In this guide book contains the required courses for programs offered by CCPS.



The Business Academy offers many completer programs such as Marketing, International Business, Accounting, Administrative Services, and Business Administration & Management. In addition, the program National Academy of Finance can earn up to 6 credits articulated with CCC.

Those that are interested in Science need to be taking all of the science and math courses at Winters Mill plus additional opportunities at the CCCTC. Vet Science completer programs help prepare students for career related to animals. Those students also get to participate in an internship during their senior year if the course work is completed.

Culinary career program, Prostart, is available at WMH for those students interest in careers in restaurant management. This course work is recommended by the Restaurant Association of Maryland as a way to prepare students for immediate employment within this field. These students also participate in an internship during their senior year.

Students that are interested in the field of education have 2 completer programs offered at Winters Mill. The Early Childhood Program is for those students interested in working with young children, preschool through grade 3. Students get to intern in a Carroll County school or approved preschool setting. The Teacher Academy Program is also available at WMH which offers 3 courses in house, that will help prepare students of a secondary internship during their senior year in a middle school within the system. These prerequisite courses need to begin during their sophomore year.

For those students interested in the art and music careers, WMH offers many courses that will allow them to develop a portfolio that is needed to compete for the many careers within the art field. Taking concentrated courses within you interest area is a great way to prepare you for the competitive world that we live in.

Make the most of your school experience. Remember planning begins in your underclass years, and one great way is to look at the Career Pathways Book and talk to your counselor and advisor before course sign-up begins.

Annual Fund Safe Kids

HOLIDAYFEST BAZAAR

DECEMBER 4TH, 9:00—3:00PM

Share! Crafty Talent and Trend Tween Clothes

Craft/Vendor tables available for \$25.00 (limited space).

Craft acceptance deadline November 22nd.

Contact Karen Farley at karenfarley@ymaryland.org

Trendy teen/tween clothing donations accepted through

Carroll County Public Schools F.E.A. Clubs.

Contact Kathy Hill at KAHILL@carrollk12.org



It's deeper here.®

All proceeds go to Carroll County Family Safe Place for Kids Campaign.



BROWSE THE WMHS WEB SITE - A HELPFUL TOOL!

The Winters Mill web site, <http://www.carrollk12.org/wmh/index.htm>, is a wonderful resource for staying up-to-date on important school related information and also has a lot of helpful information for students and parents.

On the Home Page the News section is continuously updated with new & important information for parents & students to help keep you informed.

The calendar at the bottom of the home page is kept current for easy reference.

The Media page, <http://www.carrollk12.org/wmh/media/default.asp>, has tabs with very helpful information when students may need to do research or write a paper. One tab is for Electronic Databases that contains links to helpful websites and the Citing Sources tab shows students the proper way for citing the sources they use in a paper.

The new Class News/Information Page, the Student Information Page & the School Information pages contain information regarding individual graduating classes (very helpful in the spring for seniors), clubs & activities, parental involvement and much more.

Always remember that the faculty/staff page links directly to a staff members e-mail (great for keeping in contact with teachers)!

Please take a moment to browse the website and let us know if you have any questions or ideas – we always like to hear from you.

DEADLINE: January 3 2011
Nominations received after 5:00 PM will not be accepted.

Nomination forms must be received in the
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce office
(*not just postmarked*).

Mail Nomination forms to:
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce
Attn. OTA
P.O. Box 871 ♦ Westminster, MD 21158
FAX: 410-876-1023
Online Nominations Form available
www.carrollcountychamber.org

Nominations

Eligibility: Any **full-time** teacher in the Carroll County Public School System may be nominated.

Criteria: Nominations will be judged on the degree to which the candidates exhibit qualities of excellence. When answering the three questions, be sure to **include specific examples** of the nominee's impact on students.

After being nominated, each teacher will be required to complete a biographical form as part of the nomination process. Any teacher not completing the biographical form will not be considered for an award.

Required Questions

On a separate piece of paper please respond to the following three questions. 75 words or less per question. Your response to the questions is used by the judges to determine the winners. Please print or type.

1. **Give specific examples** of how this teacher inspires students to learn.
2. **Give specific examples** of how this teacher builds confidence and self esteem.
3. **Give specific examples** of the ways that this teacher helps students apply what they have learned to real world situations.

Please feel free to make additional comments.

2011 Carroll County Chamber of Commerce



Outstanding Teacher Awards Nomination Form

Teacher Information (*Please print clearly*) (* Required field: incomplete forms will not be accepted)

*Teacher's Name: _____
First MI Last
*Nominee is a **FULL TIME TEACHER**: Elementary School Middle School High School
Career & Technology Special Education Counselor Media Specialist
*Teacher's School: _____
*School Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Nominator Information (*Please print clearly*) (* Required field: incomplete forms will not be accepted)

*Nominator Name: _____
First MI Last
*Nominator is: Parent of a student Student Teacher School Administrator
*Nominator's Mailing Address: _____
*City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
*Phone #: _____ Email: _____

*** A RESPONSE TO THE THREE QUESTIONS ON THE LEFT IS REQUIRED.**

AND USED BY THE JUDGES TO DETERMINE THE AWARD WINNERS

To submit nominations online

Visit the Chamber website at www.carrollcountychamber.org
Homepage - *News You Need to Know* ♦ Outstanding Teacher Awards.

Nominations close on Jan. 3, 2011 at 5:00 PM



Mark Your Calendar.....

December

- 1 HSA Faire - Media Center - 5:00 pm
- 2 College Night - Begins in Rotunda - 5:45 pm
- 4 SAT Test Administered
- 7 Instrumental Music Winter Concert - Auditorium - 7pm
- 9 Winter Choral Concert - Auditorium - 7pm
- 11 ACT Test Administered
- 15 Ring Ceremony - Auditorium - 7:00 pm
- 17 Q2 Interim Reports distributed during Advisory
- 23 2 hr. 45 min. early dismissal for students
- 24-31 Schools/Offices Closed - Winter Holiday

January

- 3 Schools/Offices Re-open
- 6 ACT Registration Deadline for Feb. 6th Test
- 10 HSA - English
- 11 HSA - Biology
- 12 HSA - Algebra/Data Analysis
- 13 HSA - Government
- 13 Volunteer Training - Auditorium - 7pm
- 17 Schools/Offices Closed—Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
- 18-21 HSA Make-Up Exams (tests given in same order as above)
- 28 Q2 Marking Period Ends - 2 hr. 45 min. early dismissal for students
- 31 Schools Closed for Students - Professional Day for Teachers

The Board of Education of Carroll County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in employment or provision of services, programs or activities. Information concerning the Americans with Disabilities Act is available from the Director of Facilities, (410) 751-3177. Persons needing auxiliary aids and services for communication should contact the Office of Community and Media Relations at (410) 751-3020, TTY (410) 751-3034, or write to Carroll County Public Schools, 125 North Court Street, Westminster, Maryland 21157 at least one (1) week in advance of the date the special accommodation is needed.

NOTICE

Anyone needing special accommodations in order to attend any of the meetings referred to in this newsletter, should notify the school at (410) 386-1500, or the Office of Community and Media Relations (410) 751-3020 or TDD (410) 751-3034 no later than one week prior to the event. Auxiliary aids and/or services will be provided.