



January 20, 2012

Dear Wootton Families:

This letter will provide information about the upcoming **second semester Back-to-School Night**. Please remember to join us on **Thursday, January 26 at 7:00 p.m.** You will have an opportunity to meet with your son's/daughter's second semester teachers and to hear about the courses and content that will be presented during the semester. In case of inclement weather, the **snow date for Back-to-School Night is Tuesday, January 31.**

During Back-to-School Night, you will be meeting the teachers that your son/daughter will be working with throughout second semester and an opportunity to assist your child in the transition from one semester to the next and the changes that occur in the transition. Most high schools in Montgomery County do not offer this second parent night. This will also be a time to learn about course objectives and specific information about home/school communication and teacher expectations. We are a large school with over 160 teachers. Putting a name with a face may help you to personalize your experience and increase your ease in contacting each teacher when needed. There will be the opportunity to join the PTSA if you have not done so and our Boosters and Patrons of the Arts will be selling Wootton clothing. Bring your money!

In addition, please be advised that our counselors have distributed an academic planning and registration materials for the 2012-2013 school year to students.

With the continuous increase in new courses and programs, student choices increase as well. We are recommending courses that we consider appropriate and/or of interest to your student. Although teacher recommendations come from the first semester teacher, each student should consider the level of the academic challenge that they want to undertake in their schedule.

In collaboration with your child, you will make the final decision on the selection of courses. The information provided at the parent meetings earlier this month should assist you in making balanced and wise decisions. All ninth and tenth graders have been instructed to work on their four-year plan (available at <http://coldfusion.mcps.k12.md.us/coursebulletin/index.cfm?do=worksheetload>) to assist in the planning of their high school coursework. In addition, you can call or e-mail your student's counselor for additional information. **All registration cards are due to the second semester social studies teachers on January 25, 2012.**

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Our academic planning period begins in February each year and ends in March. Using a computerized program, we enter all of the course choices for each student and then begin developing next year's master schedule based on these student choices. In April, the administration begins to hire teachers based on student selections. As you can see, we make decisions in the spring that we are committed to for the entire next school year. That is why your decisions are so important. Once a schedule is developed with teachers selected, we have very little flexibility to change classes or schedules. Therefore please take the time now to discuss the many choices with your students and stress that these decisions cannot be changed next year. After your child meets with his or her counselor in February, any request for a course change **must be submitted by April 1** and go through an appeals process.

Please plan to be in your son's/daughter's first period class at 7:00 p.m. so that we can begin on time. Your son/daughter will be bringing home his/her schedule on the first day of second semester, Tuesday, January 24 with the location of each room so that you know where to go.

Due to limited parking at Wootton, a shuttle bus is available to transport parents from Frost Middle School and from Lakewood Elementary School from 6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. to Wootton. Return trip to the above schools from Wootton will be from 8:45 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.

I look forward to seeing you on **Thursday**.

Sincerely,



Michael Doran, Ed.D  
Principal

MD:eh/2<sup>nd</sup> BTSN 1.26.12