

Commonly Asked Questions

The following information has been put together by the Herndon High School PTSA for parents new to Herndon High School. Much of the information presented here is also available in further detail on the Herndon High School website. Be sure to check the site regularly for information and reference. www.fcps.edu/HerndonHS/. It is a very valuable resource

GENERAL

What are the phone numbers for the school?

Main Office – 703-810-2200

Guidance Office – 703-810-2223

Clinic – 703-810-2391

HHS Attendance Line - 703-810-2282/2283 (FAX 703-810-2284)

Student Activities Office – 703-810-2275

Activities Hotline – 703-749-8133

A complete list of phone numbers and extensions are listed on the HHS website under the Faculty & Staff heading: www.fcps.edu/HerndonHS/

BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS..

We will be out of town for the Freshman Orientation. How will my child get their schedule and student packet? A neighbor or friend can pick up your child's packet with written permission from you authorizing the pickup. Packets are available September 2nd and 3rd from 8 am to 3 pm and September 2nd from 6 to 8 pm in the HHS Cafeteria.

What should my child do if he/she does not have their schedule the first day of school?

Students who do not have their schedule should report directly to the Guidance Office (in the main door and turn right) first thing in the morning on September 8th.

Where do students report the first day of school? Students go directly to their first period class (first day is a **RED** day). There is no homeroom in high school.

What supplies should be brought to Orientation and to the first day of school? Students should come prepared to take notes on both occasions. It is advisable not to buy school supplies until students have attended both Red and Black day classes (first two days of school). Students may carry backpacks during the day in high school.

How about my child's lunch card now that he/she is in high school? Lunch card numbers and balances are transferred from your child's previous Fairfax County school. If you are not sure of the balance, we would advise you send money, or pack a lunch the first day of school. Or register with www.mylunchmoney.com.

ACTIVITIES (Student Activities Office Room 147C):

Director of Student Activities – Mike Mahoney (703-810-2211)

Assistant Director of Student Activities – Jonathan Frohm (703-810-2276)

Administrative Assistant – Melanie Fleger (703-810-2275)

Are there Clubs that students can participate in? Yes, there are many different clubs offered at Herndon that cover a variety of interests. Students can also start a new club, provided they get

approval and can find a sponsor. For a list of clubs, go to the website – http://www.fcps.edu/HerndonHS/stud_life/clb&act.htm.

Where can I sign up for a club or activity? Visit the Activities office (room #147C) and they will assist you in getting in contact with the appropriate sponsor or coach.

Are there requirements for participation in clubs and other activities? There is an HHS Attendance Policy, as well as a FCPS Extracurricular Activities & Athletics Policy regarding behavior and conduct that applies to most clubs and organizations, as well as sports teams. Students and parents should both be aware of the guidelines for extracurricular participation, and sign forms acknowledging these policies at the beginning of the school year.

How do students get involved in Student Government? There is a school wide Student Government Association (SGA) as well as individual class officers. Freshmen interested in running for Class officer should contact the 9th Grade office (Room 248). Packets will be provided to students at Freshman Orientation and also available in 9th grade office. SGA and Class officers take Leadership class as an elective. Students not elected to office must apply for a spot in the class in the spring for enrollment the following year. Freshmen are not in the Leadership class because elections are held after the school year begins.

Is there a student newspaper? The **Stinger** is the student newspaper published monthly. Students interested in working on the newspaper or the yearbook, the **Hornet**, should take Journalism as an elective. There is also a literary magazine, the Scribe, published at the end of the year. Parents interested in subscribing to the **Stinger** can complete the subscription form: http://www.fcps.edu/HerndonHS/ptsa/ptsa_news/stinger.htm

Is there late bus transportation if my child wants to stay after school for help or an activity? It is expected that a late bus will be available for students one day this year. Once the day is confirmed by the FCPS Transportation Office, the information will be posted on the Daily Announcements and the website.

Can students who stay after school get a snack? Yes. The Afterschool Concession Stand, located in the Gym lobby, is operated by the Sports Boosters and open from 2:10 – 3:00 pm. Monday thru Thursday. Students can buy pizza, drinks, snacks, etc.

Does HHS conduct fundraising? – There is no school-wide fund raising effort, and the PTSA does no fundraising beyond our request for donations along with membership. In high school all other fundraising is done by the clubs, booster, classes, teams, etc. Your child may find themselves selling items or you may be approached by a number of activities in person, by mail or phone. Parents are not expected to offer support whenever contacted, but rather pick and choose as you see fit, and according to your child's activities and your family's needs and interests.

ATHLETICS Room 147C

Director of Student Activities – Mike Mahoney (703-810-2211)

Assistant Director of Student Activities – Jonathan Frohm (703-810-2276)

Administrative Assistant – Melanie Fleger (703-810-2275)

Head Athletic Trainer – Amy Sheedfar (703-810-2327)

What sports are in the Fall, Winter, and Spring? The list below shows the sports –

Fall	Winter	Spring
Cheerleading (coed)*	Basketball (girls & boys)	Baseball
Cross Country (coed)	Gymnastics (girls)	Lacrosse (girls & boys)
Golf (coed)	Indoor Track (coed)	Soccer (girls & boys)
Field Hockey	Swim & Dive (girls & boys)	Softball
Football	Wrestling	Tennis (girls & boys)
Volleyball (girls)		Track & Field (girls & boys)

*Cheerleading is a 2-season sport, both Fall and Winter

Do you have any other sports? We also have a Dance Team, a Boys Volleyball Team, and an Ice Hockey Team that are club level sports, which means that they are not funded through VHSL (Virginia High School League). They still represent Herndon High School when they compete or play against other schools.

What level sports does Herndon High participate in? Herndon High is classified as a 3A high school (the largest level in the state of Virginia). We compete in the Concorde Division in the Northern Region of the VHSL. There are 6 schools in the Concorde Division – Herndon, Chantilly, Centreville, Oakton, Robinson, and Westfield.

Are there any sports that do not have tryouts or that do not “cut” students from their teams? Normally, Cross Country, Indoor Track, and Track & Field do not have tryouts. All students who tryout or attend the first practice are on the team, provided they meet eligibility requirements. There are also some sports that do not cut depending on the number of spots they have room for. For the best answer, contact the team’s head coach.

How is a student eligible to participate? Students must pass a VHSL physical, be enrolled in 5 or more classes at Herndon HS, and be passing 5 or more of those classes. They must also sign an Athlete Participation Policy and provide an up-to-date Emergency Care Form. For a complete list of requirements, go to - http://www.fcps.edu/HerndonHS/athletics/ath_req.htm. There is also an HHS Attendance Policy, as well as a FCPS Extracurricular Activities & Athletics Policy regarding behavior and conduct. This information is also available on the website. Students and parents both sign forms acknowledging these policies prior to the season.

Where is the Athletic Office? The Athletic/Activities Office is located in room 147C, which is located near door #10. The Director of Student Activities is Mike Mahoney (703-810-2275). The Assistant Director of Student Activities is Jonathan Frohm and the Administrative Assistant is Melanie Fleger. Coaches do not have an office in the Athletic Office. Some coaches are also teachers at Herndon High, but others are not. The website has the contact information for each of the team’s coaching staff.

Is there a cost to attend a game? Yes. The ticket price for regular season games (not playoffs) is \$5.00 per person. For games that are at District, Regional, or State level – the ticket prices are higher. The Sports Booster Club sells 3 levels of memberships and they include tickets in their packages. For more information, go to their website – <http://www.fcps.edu/HerndonHS/athboost/main.htm>.

Is there a cost to play on a team? Each sport has different costs associated with playing on that team. VHSL only funds coach’s salaries, officials, and transportation. The team/school must fund

all other costs. The Sports Booster Club helps offset some expenses through fund-raising, but there are costs that each athlete must pay. Contact the head coach for the best answer.

ATTENDANCE

What are the rules concerning absences? A parent or guardian needs to call in to the **HHS Attendance Office** before 9:00 am on the day of the absence and leave the reason for the absence, as well as contact information. If a phone call is not made the day of the absence, the parent must call the next day or have the student bring a parent note to the attendance office by 7:30 a.m. the next day. Absences not called in within two days will automatically revert to unexcused. Parents may request a printout of their child's attendance by calling the attendance office. FCPS has changed attendance regulations for high schools for the 2009-10 school year. Information can be found on their website: <http://www.fcps.edu/dss/ips/ssaw/attendance/>
Detailed attendance information is also available on the HHS web page:
http://www.fcps.edu/HerndonHS/stud_life/attendance.htm

My child is sick, what do I do? Call the **HHS Attendance Office** and leave your name, your child's name (first and last), the date, and the reason for your child's absence on the answering machine. It is the student's responsibility to contact the teacher of each class missed to arrange make-up work **the first day back in school**, regardless of red or black days. If your child is sick and will be missing more than a few days of school, call the Guidance Office as well as the Grade Level office. The guidance department can help get your child's work from the teachers and have it available for you to pick up to bring home.

My child has an appointment during the school day and will need to be picked up early. What should I do? Send in a note (indicating the reason, the date, and your name) with your child. They need to take this to The Attendance Office (Room 151) **before** school and they will receive a checkout pass that they can give their teacher. When they return to school they can use the same checkout pass to go back to class.

My child has an appointment in the morning and will be arriving late to school. What should I do? Call in to the Attendance Line and leave a message with the reason, the date, your child's first and last name, and your phone number. When your child gets to school, they will need to report to the Attendance Office (Room 151) to get a late pass so that they can go to their class. You can also send in a note with them if you have forgotten to call in ahead of time.

My child will have an extended period where they will miss school. What do we do? There is a form that you will need to complete if it is a trip. The forms can be obtained in the Attendance Office, Room 151. Your child will need to take the form to each teacher **BEFORE** the absence. If your child is sick and will be missing more than a few days of school, call the Guidance Office as well as the Attendance office. The guidance department can help get your child's work from the teachers and have it available for you to pick up to bring home.

What are Tardy Sweeps? Tardy sweeps are done periodically to encourage students to arrive to class consistently. All students caught in the hall after the late bell has rung will report to the designated area for check-in with their grade level administrator. The tardy will be documented and a consequence will be given (detention, Saturday school, etc.). If you have questions, contact your student's grade level administrator.

BLOCK SCHEDULING

What is Block Scheduling? HHS has RED days (1st, 3rd, 5th & 7th periods) and BLACK days (2nd, 3rd, 4th & 6th periods). Class periods are 1 hour and 24 minutes long with the exception of 3rd

period, which meets every day and is 45 minutes long. Students have 8 minutes to pass between classes. A good organizational tip for students is to have red binders for Red day classes and black binders for Black day classes. There numerous Red/Black day reminders for students -- a Red/Black Calendar is on the website, a sign is in the Main Office window with the designated day posted, and the correct color day is printed in their assignment book.

What happens if there is a snow day or school holiday? In the event of an unscheduled day off, the schedule remains the same. So, it is possible that a student will attend 2 Black days in a row. If there is a school holiday, the schedule has been adjusted for those. Students should refer to the many reminders noted above if they are unsure.

What is Stinger Time? Stinger Time is a 34-minute block of time that will meet every day following 1st/2nd period. This Stinger Time will allow students a chance to catch up on missed work, seek additional academic support from teachers, work on long-range assignments, reach their highest potential during the school day. Students will still have time to get up and stretch their legs, go to the bathroom, go to their locker, etc. in between 1st/2nd period before reporting for Stinger Time. Attendance will be taken, so students can't simply hang out in the halls. Consequences for tardies or absences during Stinger Time are the same as in any class period. For more information - <http://www.fcps.edu/HerndonHS/pdf/0607StingerTimeFactSheet.pdf>.

Do students have lunch the same period every day? Your child's lunch is dependent on their class schedule. Check the HHS website: http://www.fcps.edu/HerndonHS/Calendars/bell_schedule.htm for the 2009-10 lunch schedule and complete bell schedule.

CAFETERIA

How can I pay for my child's lunches? You can send in cash with your child or you can send in a check with them (made payable to – HHS Food Services; make sure you indicate your child's first and last name, and student ID number on the check). Or, you can send in payment to the main office (700 Bennett St., Herndon, VA 20170 or drop by) and mark that it is for the Cafeteria and make sure you indicate your child's first and last name on the check. You may also add to your child's lunch card on-line at <https://www.mylunchmoney.com/index.aspx>. Be sure you have your child's FCPS Student ID number.

Can students sit with whomever they want? Yes, they can. There is no assigned seating unless it is for disciplinary reasons.

Can students leave the school, go to their car, or eat outside for lunch? Students cannot leave the building for lunch, except for the limited seating area outside, adjacent to the cafeteria (near door #10). Seniors also have a courtyard area (near the Lecture Hall) where they can eat.

What do I need to do to apply for free and reduced lunches? Applications, forms and other information were mailed home by FCPS in August. For more information, contact HHS or FCPS Food and Nutrition Services at 703-813-4800 or 703-813-4844.

CAREER CENTER Room 148

Career Center Specialist - Linda Boyke (703-810-2310)

What is the Career Center? The Career Center is a resource the Student Services Department provides to students and parents to assist them in developing a plan for the future that takes into

account the student's interests and abilities, as well as prevailing trends in education, economy and job markets.

What are the hours of the Career Center? Normally, from 7:00 am until 2:30 pm. However, there are times when it is being used by classes, staff members for meetings, or other reasons. Also, it is sometimes open later than 2:30 pm. The best way to find out is to call ahead of time – 703-810-2310.

Can you schedule appointments to meet with the staff? Yes, you can and are encouraged to do. There are so many resources available to students and parents. Call 703-810-2310 and ask to speak to Mrs. Linda Boyke. The Career Center web page is a good source of information for parents and students: <http://www.fcps.edu/HerndonHS/CollegeCareerCenter/careercenter.htm>

Can my child go in anytime during the day? Students are free to stop by during lunch, before and after school. Visits during class time require a pass from the teacher.

CELL PHONES, IPODS, & OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Can my child have a cell phone at school? Students can have a cell phone at school; however, it must be turned off (not just lowering the volume or putting it on “silent”) and kept out of sight during school hours. If a student is found using their cell phone, it will be confiscated and given to their grade level administrator. Only parents/guardians are allowed to retrieve the cell phone from the school Security Office.

Can my child have an IPOD, Walkman, etc. at school? Students can use these types of electronic instruments before or after school. If found during school hours, it will be confiscated and the same rules as cell phone return will apply.

CLINIC Room 151A

School Public Health Nurse – Virginia Wilkinson (703-810-2391)

Clinic Aide – Robin Weinstein (703-810-2391)

Can my child carry over-the-counter medicine in their backpack or purse? No, it must be kept in the clinic. Your child can bring it in to school (before school hours), along with a completed FCPS Medical Authorization Form. The medication must be unopened in a sealed container. Students are **NOT** allowed to have medicine with them during the school day.

How do we bring in prescription medicine? You must complete the FCPS Medical Authorization Form and bring it in, along with the medicine to the clinic. The student cannot bring in prescription medicine – it must be brought in by a parent or guardian.

If I need to pick up my child because they are sick, where do I go? You can park your car and enter the building (door #1). The clinic is located down the first hallway to the right. You can sign your child out in the Clinic office. You do not need to check them out from the Attendance Office.

DRAMA - Room 175

Director – Zoë Wages Dillard (703-810-2341)

Do students have to enroll in Drama to participate in the Drama productions? There are 2 major productions (one a musical) each year – one in the Fall and one in the Spring. Auditions are open to all students, not just students enrolled in Drama classes. There are also smaller productions throughout the year that are usually for the students enrolled in Drama. Annually, students compete in the spring through VHSL in the One Act Play competitions. Also, Herndon is proud to have had students win Cappie Awards in past years.

Is there a cost to participate in a Drama production? No. However, producing a play is expensive in terms of costumes, set backdrops, and copyright material. The Drama Boosters assist with fund-raising. There is also a fee charged to attend the large Drama productions to help offset costs. For more information, go to their website – www.herndonrama.org.

DRESS CODE

Is there a Dress Code at school? Yes, there is and we follow the same Dress Code that has been set by FCPS. Some basic requirements for Herndon High School are: no hats or bandanas, no clothing with drug, alcohol, violence, or gang connotations can be worn. Girl's skirts should be lower than fingertip length and shoulder straps on shirts should be no thinner than 1 inch. The Dress Code for FCPS can be found at - <http://www.fcps.edu/ss/linkedfiles/SRR/fcpsdresscode04-05.htm>.

My child wears head covering for religious reasons, is that a problem? No, it is not. However, if you have any concerns contact your child's grade level administrator.

DRIVER'S EDUCATION - Room 181

When do students take Driver's Education? The classroom course is offered at Herndon High through the PE Department. Students in their sophomore year are signed up according to their birth date and will take Driver's Education for one full quarter.

Can students take the Driving portion (behind-the-wheel) at Herndon? Fairfax County Public Schools offers "behind-the-wheel" at various high schools through Adult Education registration. More information will be given to you when your child is taking Driver's Education. There are also a number of private companies that offer this to students.

My child wants to drive to school. What do we need to do? You can download a form from the HHS website to complete. http://www.fcps.edu/HerndonHS/stud_life/park_reg.htm. The parking fee is \$200 for a school year. The fee is set by FCPS. Provided there are enough parking spaces, permits will be issued.

Can students go to their cars during the school day to retrieve books, etc.? No, they cannot. Students are not permitted to go to their cars during the school day.

GRADE LEVEL OFFICES

Each grade is assigned a Grade Level Administrator (or Assistant Principal) who works with that grade for the remainder of their time at Herndon. The Asst. Principal (or AP) works with Class Officers and Class faculty sponsors on fundraisers and other activities specific to the class. Each office has an Administrative Assistant. The 9th and 11th Grade offices are located in Room 248, and the 10th and 12th Grade offices are located in Room 117. Detailed information is below...

GRADE LEVEL OFFICES

9th GRADE OFFICE – Room 248

703-810-2217

9th Grade Administrator – Ms. Prosperanta Calhoun

Office Administrative Assistant – Dee Nebert

10th GRADE OFFICE – Room 117

703-810-2218

10th Grade Administrator – Ms. Sheila Colbert-Alzate

Office Administrative Assistant – Ms. Linda Crawford

11th GRADE OFFICE – Room 248

703-810- 2217

11th Grade Administrator – Mr. Jim Hannon

Office Administrative Assistant – Ms. Dee Nebert

12th GRADE OFFICE – Room 117

703-810-2218

12th Grade Administrator – Mr. William Bates

Office Administrative Assistant – Ms. Linda Crawford

My child has lost his/her textbook and has been told they have to pay for it. What do we do? All fines for lost textbooks, lost athletic uniforms, lost Media Center materials, etc. are paid at your child's grade level office. All unpaid fines will follow your child to their Senior year. No student can graduate with unpaid fines.

GUIDANCE OFFICE – STUDENT SERVICES

Director of Guidance – David Paganin (703-810-2223)

Administrative Assistant – Linda Irons (703-810-2223)

How are the Guidance Counselors assigned and what are their roles? The Counselors are assigned by student's last name, at all grade levels. Their job is to provide continual support to the student in the areas of educational/academic growth, personal/social/emotional development, and career planning.

Will they have the same counselor for all 4 years? It is the goal to have the same counselor. However, sometimes the staff needs to be adjusted depending on the shift in alphabet numbers or staffing and changes will occur.

What is the best way to reach teachers? All of our teachers respond well to emails. Each teacher also has a phone and answering machine, but it is easiest for teachers to respond to emails from students and parents. A complete list of all teacher emails is available (by last name and department) on the school website.

Are teacher conferences held? HHS holds Touching Bases twice yearly (November and February or March) and is an opportunity for parents to "touch base" with teachers in a 2-3 minute mini-conference. Though short, these face to face meetings are very valuable for checking on our child's progress. For more extensive conferences, contact your child's teacher or guidance counselor.

How is student achievement recognized? An Honor Roll assembly for students on the A/B and All A Honor Roll is held for the first three quarters. A Most Improved Breakfast and an Honors Breakfast are also held during the year to recognize students.

Can I check my student's class assignments? FCPS 24/7 is an online resource allows schools to extend learning beyond the traditional school day and beyond school facilities. Students, parents, and teachers are invited to use FCPS 24-7 Learning to access homework and classroom assignments, view class calendars, explore links to enrichment activities, and much more. The Family Connection section allows students to plan for college, work on college applications, explore careers, etc. A username and password are required to access the site. Go to <http://www.fcps.edu/fcps247.htm>. Follow directions to register.

If my child is having problems in a class, what should they do? First, they should ask the teacher for help. If that is not sufficient, they should speak to their counselor. A meeting can be arranged with the teacher, the counselor, the student, and the parent(s) if that is needed. The counselors are the ones who would arrange that meeting.

My child feels that another child is at risk. Who do I contact? You can contact any of your child's teachers, grade level administrator, or counselor and let them know. Confidentiality will be maintained.

What should I do if my child feels bullied? Herndon High School strives to be a safe and secure environment for our students and staff. If your child is feeling bullied, please contact your child's guidance counselor, grade level administrator, and/or teacher to report the problem. All problems that we are made aware of are reported and followed up on. Depending on the circumstances, reporting can be confidential. This applies to both inside the school, as well as outside the school.

Anything else I should know? If your child is having problems in or out of school, please make sure you notify your child's teachers, grade level administrator and counselor. If we don't know about problems, we cannot work to make them better. We all want your child to succeed at Herndon HS.

LOCKERS

When will my child get his/her locker? Students will get their lockers within the first two weeks **after they have turned in their required forms.**

Can they go to their locker in between all classes? Yes -- provided they get to their class on time. We have 2 levels to the building, in addition to buildings outside the main school building. Students need to make sure that they allow enough time to go to their locker and get to class on time.

Can they keep this locker each year or are new lockers issued each school year? Students will receive new locker assignments each year.

Can students share lockers? Yes, they can.

Do we need to provide a lock for the locker? No. However, if students want to bring their own lock, they **MUST** provide the combination to the Security office so that they can get into the locker if necessary. No key locks are allowed!

Can students carry backpacks to classes? Yes, they can.

MAIN OFFICE

Main Office Phone Number – (703-810-2200)

Office Assistant – Sara Cloud (703-810-2201)

Office Assistant – Patty Jackson (703-810-2202)

If I need to deliver something to my child at school during the day, do I need to do anything special in order to get it to them? HHS encourages parents to make students responsible for bringing the proper belongings to school as needed, whether it be school work, PE uniforms, sports equipment, etc. However, if items need to be brought to school, mark your child's name on the item and drop it off at the Main Office (door #1). Deliveries are **not** made to students in their classes, nor will they receive notice that there is something waiting in the office for them. They will need to stop by the office and check if the item is there, or pick up the item in between classes (while arriving on time for their next class) or after school.

Do visitors need to check in at school? All Volunteers and Visitors must check in at the Main Office. Sign in binders are located on the counter.

My child needs to leave early for an appointment. What should I do? Send in a note with your child indicating the time they need to leave and the reason. Your child should take the note BEFORE school to the HHS Attendance Office (Room 151). The administrative assistant will issue them a checkout pass that they can give their teacher.

My child needs a Work Permit. Where do I go for that? The Main Office can issue Work Permits. Anyone under 16 years of age who is employed must have a work permit. There are very specific work hours for 14 and 15 year old students. Call Main Office (703-810-2200) and ask what items you need to bring with you.

Where is Lost & Found? In the Main Office.

MEDIA CENTER/LIBRARY

Head Librarian – Kay Rice (703-810-2312)

Librarian – Mary Wolfe (703-810-2236)

What are the hours of the Media Center? 7:00 am to 2:45 pm Monday thru Friday. However, they can vary depending on other activities. You can also call to find out – 703-810-2312. Students are encouraged to use the library during the school day with a pass from their teacher or administrator.

Can my child use the Computers and Printers here? Is there a cost? Yes, they can use the computers, resource materials, printer and student copier. There is no cost for the first five printed copies. To make copies on the student copier, there is a ten cent charge per copy. We can provide change for small bills.

How do students check out materials? Every student is required to carry a library card which is distributed in the Freshman year or during the first year they transfer. If lost, a \$1.00 fee will be charged for a replacement. This card will be used throughout their time at Herndon HS.

Are parents needed to volunteer in the Library? Yes! Just call 703-810-2312 and talk with Ms. Rice to schedule a day and time.

MUSIC

What programs does Herndon offer for students interested in Music? Herndon prides itself on its Music programs. We have many different options for students –

Band (room 141) - Marching Band (begins in August), Jazz Band, Wind Ensemble, Symphonic 1 & 2, and Percussion. The Marching Band is one of the largest in the region and has won many awards. There are costs associated with Band, but the Band Boosters work hard to minimize those costs as much as possible through fund-raising efforts. For more information, go to their website – www.herndonband.org.

Director – Kathleen Schoelwer (703-810-2332)

Chorus (room 142) – There are many different choirs – most of them require an audition. The choral groups are: Concert Choir, Herndon Chorale, Advanced Women's Ensemble, Madrigals, Heatwave Show Choir, Vocal Jazz, and For Men Only. There is also a Choral Boosters organization that helps with productions, trips, and fund-raising. For more information, go to their website – www.herndonchoir.com.

Director – Dana Van Slyke (703-810-2333)

Guitar - We also have a Guitar program (Level One, Level Two, Level Three and Guitar Ensemble) for students. These are classes that students can sign up to take. The program has several productions throughout the year, and has performed at local events including a FCPS School Board meeting. The Guitar Boosters organization supports the Guitar program...

<http://www.herdonguitar.org/PAGES/boosters.html>

Director – Christopher Cunningham (703-810-2369) <http://www.herdonguitar.org/>

Orchestra (room 143) – We have a Symphonic String Orchestra and a Concert String Orchestra. The Orchestra performs several times a year and has been invited to perform at various events in the region. There is also an Orchestra Boosters organization to assist with fund-raising, performances, and competitions. For more information, go to their website –

www.herndonorch.org.

Director – Bette Gawinski (703-810-2351)

PARENT COMMUNICATION

HHS Website - Parent communication is very important at HHS. The Herndon High School award-winning web site is constantly updated to provide families with the most recent information available. Parents are encouraged to check the website www.fcps.edu/HerndonHS regularly for important information. Each class has their own page for specific information. Click on “**Student Life**” on the heading of the main website to find the appropriate link.

HHS PTSA Parent Emails and Database - The HHS PTSA has a database of parents, and sends regular email blasts (usually weekly) with information for parents. In addition, each grade level has a PTSA Class Parent Liaison who helps keep parents up to date on information, and activities and events for their child’s grade level. To be included on these distribution lists, send your email address to: HerndonPTSA@aol.com and be sure to indicate your child’s (or children’s) grade.

Keep in Touch - Fairfax County Public Schools also has a system, Keep in Touch, that parents should sign up for. Information on County concerns, in addition to Herndon High School matters are disseminated through Keep in Touch. To register: <http://www.fcps.edu/kit/>

Daily Announcements - Parents can read the Daily Announcements on the HHS website at; <http://www.fcps.edu/HerndonHS/dailyann.htm>

PTSA Newsletter – the PTSA newsletter is published five times a year and posted on the HHS website. Parents may subscribe to have a hard copy mailed to their homes for just \$5 yearly. The subscription form is available here: http://www.fcps.edu/HerndonHS/ptsa/0910Forms/PTSANewsletterSubscriptionForm09_10.pdf

Call outs- HHS uses a call out phone system to all HHS families. A recorded message gives parents a phone call for information on upcoming events, important dates, etc. For example - you will receive a call out for Back to School night. It comes up as Herndon High School on caller ID.

SECURITY – Room 136

School Resource Officer – Officer Scott Davis (703-810-2467)

School Security Staff –Jack Brown (Director), Peter Coles, Reginald Barnes, Tracy Waller

Why is there a police car always at school? Fairfax County Public Schools assigns a policeman to each high school. Our police officer is a Fairfax County policeman. His job is to help ensure the safety of our students and staff.

Why are a lot of the doors locked during the school day? For the safety of our students and staff, a number of outside doors are locked from the outside. Students are able to use certain doorways to enter and leave the building depending on their classes. Normally, doors #1, #6, #7, #9 and #10 are open and all others are locked from the outside. The door near entry #4 will be open only until 7:30 am.