

## Just A Little Something To Think About!



One of the biggest challenges of parenting teens is knowing when to loosen the rules and when to tighten them. Helping your daughter to grow into an adult who's responsible and can make decisions is not always going to be an easy task. Here are a few suggestions.

**Decide** which rules can't be compromised. Set clear rules and consequences for those areas you won't budge on.

**Negotiate** flexible areas. Listen to your daughter's input and pick rules you both can live with. You don't always have to change your mind, but be willing to think it over.

**Allow** your daughter to make more decisions as time goes by. Start with smaller matters (hairstyles, etc.) and work up to larger issues (class schedules, managing money). Try granting a new right and responsibility every couple of months. If your teen abuses new freedoms, you can go back to stricter rules until she shows she can be trusted.



October 2008

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER !

- 1-31 Pennies for Poe Fundraiser (English Dept.)
- 1 Senior Parent Night (6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.) Library  
NSFNSS College Fair
- 3 Student Progress Reports Issued—Early Release for Students—Parent Conferences, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
- 4 SAT I and II
- 6-14 HSA Testing ( Near Passers Only) 🧠💡
- 12 Western High School Open House 2:00-4:00 p.m.
- 13 PTA Meeting—6:30 p.m.
- 15 PSAT Testing for Grades 9,10, and 11 (8:15—11:45 a.m.)  
College Visitations (8:15 - 11:45 a.m.) Grade 12
- Return Family Engagement Survey 🧠💡
- 16-17 Schools Closed for Students- Profess. Develop. for Staff
- 22 Sophomore & Junior Parent Night (6:00-8:00 p.m.), Library
- 23 ACT
- 29 Freshman Parent Night, (6:00-8:00 p.m.), Library
- 31 End of First Quarter!

### PTA BUSINESS MEETING DATES

TIME: 6:30 P.M.

October 13, 2008	February 9, 2009
November 10, 2008	March 9, 2009
December 8, 2008	April 20, 2009
January 12, 2009	May 11, 2009
	June 8, 2009

### KUDOS TO OUR DOVES!!!!

**MELISSA HARRINGTON**

RUSSIAN SCHOLAR LAURETTE 2008

The American Council of Teachers of Russian selected Melissa for this honorable award. She is a member of a highly select group of Russian students from secondary schools all over the United States.  
 Congratulations Melissa!!!

**JULIA EMBRY**

Commended Student in the 2009 National Merit Scholarship Program

Accolades Julia!



**7 TOP THINGS PARENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS (HSAs)**

1. **Know the Score** - The passing scores for the 4 HSA content areas are: Algebra/Data Analysis: 412- Biology: 400 - English:396- Government: 394
2. **Be Informed** -To graduate with a Maryland High School Diploma, students must meet all State course, service-learning, and testing (HSA) requirements and local school requirements. Talk to your daughter's counselor
3. **Know the Plan**- Each local school system has a plan of when HSA related courses are typically offered to students.
4. **Know the Options**- There are a number of options for meeting testing requirements. Passing All 4 HSAs/ Earning a Combined Score of 1602/ Using the Bridge Plan for Academic Validation (HSAexam.org)
5. **Students with Accommodations**- Students with disabilities are entitled to receive both instructional and testing accommodations as outlined in their IEP.
- 6.**Take and Retake**- The HSAs are given in October, January, May, and July/August. A special seniors only administration will be given in April 2009. Students can retake an HSA as many times as necessary.
7. **Help At Home and At School**- Students who do not pass one or more HSA's must be offered approved assistance by the school. There are also a number of tools in the Resources Section of HSAexam.org.



**FIND FAMILY TIME!**



**WHETHER YOUR DAUGHTER IS A FRESHMAN OR SENIOR, YOU PROBABLY SEE LESS OF HER THAN EVER. LOOK FOR EVERYDAY WAYS TO SPEND TIME TOGETHER, SUCH AS RUNNING ERRANDS OR SHARING CHORES. ALSO JOIN IN ACTIVITIES THEY ENJOY, LIKE VISITING THEIR FAVORITE MUSIC STORE OR SHOPPING!**

**Contact Information**

✓Principal

**Eleanor P. Matthews**

epmatthews@bcps.k12.md.us

✓Asst. Principals

**Stephanie D. Farmer**

sfarmer@bcps.k12.md.us

**Kelly Caswell**

kjcaswell@bcps.k12.md.us

**Rhonda L. Clyburn**

rclyburn@bcps.k12.md.us

**ENCOURAGE EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES!**

How can your daughter cure boredom blues and make school more enjoyable? Encourage her to join some of the wonderful clubs, organizations, and teams that Western offers! From sports to drama to robotics, extracurricular activities can.....

- lead to better attendance and grades;
- provide the opportunity to learn teamwork and responsibility;
- fill time in a positive way;
- and encourage students to be leaders.



**Final Note From the Principal**

Dear Parents,

Can you believe that it's October already. We hope your daughter has gotten off to a good start and that she is doing all of her work and getting her assignments in on time. For our seniors, this is a very important year. It is their countdown to college. They have so much to do with class assignments, home assignments, club activities, and the many college applications and essays. They need your support as they try to do their best this year and meet all of the demands.

The expectation at Western is that all of our students engage themselves in outstanding academic and personal achievement. To that end, students should be present everyday and arrive to school on time. They need to be attentive in class and strive to do their very finest work.

I would like to thank you for supporting our beginning-of-the school year activities. We were so pleased to see so many of you at our Back-to-School Night, at the first PTA business meeting, and at our family picnic. We hope you will continue to support your daughter and the school.

Please note that progress reports will be issued to students on Friday, October 3, 2008, before their dismissal at 11:45 a.m. Teachers will be available for conferences between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. You will receive a voice mail reminder prior to that date.

*Eleanor P. Matthews*, Principal

