**Updates from John Lewis High School’s Student Services Department**

Week of January 10, 2022

**Calendar Dates:**

**January 11** - Electives Fair during Advisory

**mid-January** - Curriculum Night for Parents and Students (virtual/aysnchronous-watch from your home)

**January 14** -NOVA Applications for the Early Online College Program due (juniors & seniors)

**January 17** - Student & Staff HOLIDAY (No School)

**January 20** - FCPS 2-hour Early Release & End of Quarter 2

**January 21** - Teacher Work Day (No School for Students)

**January 24** - Professional Development Day (No School for Students)

**January 25** - Beginning of Quarter 3

**January 20** - Edison Academy Open House Event (virtual)

**January 26** - West Potomac Academy Open House Event (virtual)

**Announcements & Information**

**Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) - Early Online College Program - FREE College Classes for our Juniors and Seniors!**

For a limited time, NOVA is offering select college courses **at no cost** to Fairfax County high school juniors and seniors. These online courses are twelve weeks in length and will begin February 1, 2022. Classes are free, online, and help students earn transferable credits to their college/university! Completed applications are due by January 14th. For more information, see NOVA’s Early Online College Flyer: <https://lewishs.fcps.edu/sites/default/files/media/inline-files/Nova%20Dual%20Flyer.pdf>

**Academic Advising and Course Selection for 2022-2023**

It is now time for students to begin thinking about their courses for next year! Students will meet with their school counselors in small groups as well as individually to review their academic options and register for classes. It is important that students choose a course load that will challenge them, prepare them for post-secondary life, and be balanced (considering school and home commitments). Academic Advising will begin in January and end in March.

All students should review our Academic Advising Website, paying particular attention to what is below: <https://lewishs.fcps.edu/student-services/academic-advising>

* Download the Course Selection Sheet (which lists all courses available)
* Review the course descriptions in the Course Catalog
* Current 10th and 11th graders: Review the NOVA/Dual Enrollment, Academy, and Other Opportunities section of the website
* Talk with parents and teachers about next year’s classes
* Be ready for the 1:1 appointment with your school counselor by having a completed course selection sheet ready (along with any questions you have for your counselor)

Upcoming Important Dates:

* January 11: Electives Fair during Advisory (virtual-students will watch FlipGrid videos from our teachers)
* mid-January: Curriculum Night - virtual/asynchronous. Based on the rise in COVID and our safety precautions, our Curriculum Night has shifted to a virtual format this year. Once the presentation is complete, it will be sent out via News You Choose to our community, as well as posted on our website, so that you can learn about diploma options, graduation requirements and specialty programs. As well, you will learn about our course offerings. This presentation is especially important for our Rising 9th graders and New students. We encourage parents and students to browse the presentation together.
* January 26: **West Potomac Academy** is holding their **Open House** to learn about their classes, including Health Sciences, Criminal Justice, TV/Media Production, Social Media Marketing, Hip Hop Dance, and more. To attend this 6:00-7:30pm event, complete this registration form: <https://forms.gle/yA4S71Zc8uhAS6H59>
* January 29:  **Edison Academy** invites you to attend our **Open House** event on Saturday, January 29, 2022, from 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Depending on conditions, you will have the opportunity to tour our state-of-the-art facilities in person or virtually, meet our instructors and current students, and learn more about our incredible courses! Please feel free to contact Cassandra Deedy at (703) 924-8101 or cjdeedy@fcps.edu if you need any additional information. We look forward to meeting you on January 29.

Important Note:

* There may be a delay from counselors responding to emails or calls during Academic Advising, as counselors are working with students all day. We thank you for your patience!

**Grades, Grades, Grades!**

We have about 2 weeks left in the quarter **(Quarter 2 ends on January 20)**! That means students and parents are encouraged to review grades in each class, schedule time to meet with teachers for extra help, and push hard to the finish! Semester grades are particularly important for our seniors who will be going to colleges and universities next year. Study hard, Lancers, you can do it!

**Welcome, Ms. Cook, Transcript Assistant!**

We are excited to announce our newest Student Services Department Team Member, Ms. Jamie Cook. Ms. Cook’s office is in the Student Services Department, Room 43. She has been an elementary educator as well as a substitute in all grade levels. Ms. Cook is excited to meet our students and support them as they transition into college students!

Ms. Cook will process transcript requests for our students (transcripts are required to apply to colleges). Here are the steps to take if you need a transcript:

* Students fill out and return the Consent For Release Form and Senior Packet. (The Consent For Release needs to be signed by a parent if the student is under 18). Both forms are available in Student Services and can also be found at the following website: (<https://lewishs.fcps.edu/student-services/transcripts>).
* Once these forms are complete they can be returned to Ms. Cook for processing.

**College & Career Center**

**Alpha Phi Alpha, Xi Alpha Lambda Chapter Blackwell Cyber Scholarship $1500**

Plan to major in Information Technology oriented majors such as cyber/cybersecurity, cloud computing, engineering, information technology, computer science/programming, database/data mining, etc. Official transcript, 2 recommendations, in 200 words or less, describe how you will utilize a degree in your field of study to positively impact change in the world. DEADLINE: January 15, 2022. Application in Naviance Student.

**Apple Federal Credit Union Scholarships:** $3,000 25 scholarships available. Must be a member of Apple FCU. Have earned a GPA of 2.5 or higher. Deadline, March 15, 2022.<https://www.applefcu.org/Appleweb/AppleScholarships>

**NOVA** application help for seniors on January 27, 2022 in the College & Career Center from 11:20-1:20.

**FAFSA** help for seniors from our Financial Aid Champion, Mrs. Rowsey, has now gone virtual for the month of January. Please make an appointment with her at: khrowsey@fcps.edu

**Resources for Students & Families**

**VIRTUAL RESOURCES for PARENTS:**

Assistance from a Distance: Accessing CSB Services

* CSB virtual support group for family members and concerned others of individuals with substance use issues who are receiving CSB services, Mondays from 6:30-7:30
* Children’s Regional Crisis Response (CR2) – this is the crisis response program for which parents can call whenever their child is actively in crisis at home. A case worker will talk with the youth and family by phone and then determine next steps (i.e. hospital, virtual assistance, in-person assistance) on the spot.
* Parent Support Line: 703-324-7720 or BuildingStrongerFamilies@fairfaxcounty.gov. From Fairfax County Department of Family Services. A great resource for parents and caregivers of children. Staff can help with parenting advice, support, and tips to help navigate emotional and relational parenting issues. Language support is available. The support line is open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
* Fairfax County Department of Family Services is offering a weekly Parent Café, each Monday evening from 7:30-8:30. Parents can connect with each other to process through and share different strategies. To participate, you’ll need to register at least 24 hours ahead of time at (703) 324-7720 or buildingstrongerfamilies@fairfaxcounty.gov.