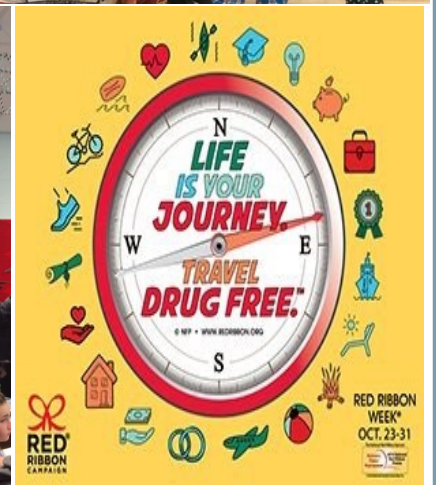
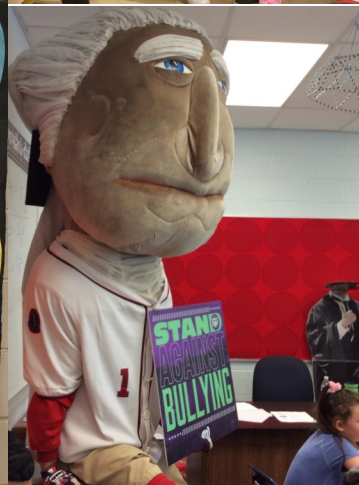
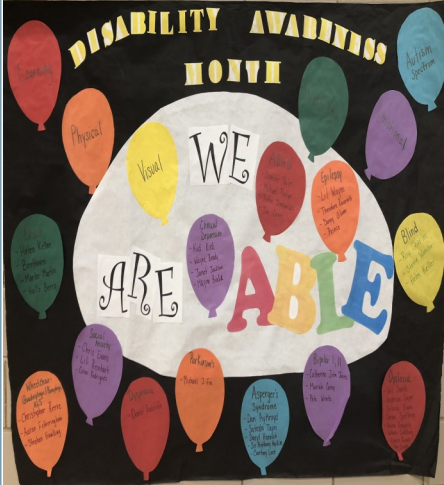


SCHOOL COUNSELING UPDATE

OCTOBER BRINGS AWARENESS MONTH ACTIVITIES

Did you know that October is Anti-Bullying Prevention Month, Disability History and Awareness Month, and it's when we recognize Red Ribbon Week? The school counseling department led various activities throughout the month to help bring awareness to preventing bullying, promoting positive attitudes in our school by creating a culture of mutual respect, understanding and equal opportunities for all, and the importance of being drug free. Throughout the month students participated in a spirit week, signed pledges, learned about various disabilities, and participated in various advisory lessons.



ASPIRE HIGHER

The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria has partnered with George Washington Middle School to offer a 13-week club for 8th grade students called Aspire Higher. The club targets students who aspire to be the first generation in their family to graduate from college.

They work with students to discover strengths and interests, explore a variety of college and career options, learn from T.C. graduates about their journeys to and through college, and to develop the character traits and skills needed for success in middle school and beyond. Students will also find out how to get free money to pay for college!

Please contact your child's 8th grade school counselor for more information.

SCHOOL PROFILE

Did you know that George Washington Middle School has an updated school profile for the 2018-2019 school year?

The profile provides information regarding our school history, enrollment figures, student body demographics, staff, course offerings, grading system, school structure, student activities such as intramural sports and after school clubs, fine arts program, student support team, digital technology and student issued chromebooks, academic supports, information on our talented and gifted and includes the administrative staff directory.

Please go to <https://www.acps.k12.va.us/domain/890> and download a copy of our 2018-2019 school profile!

SCHOOL COUNSELING DIRECTORY

Your school counselor works to ensure a holistic educational experience, and provides academic and social/emotional support to your child through their middle school journey. We are champions for each and every one of our students! Please feel free to contact your school counselor anytime!

6th Grade Counselors:

Danielle DeSasso
Students with last names A-L
(703) 706-4515
danielle.desasso@acps.k12.va.us

Stacey Thomas
Students with last names M-Z
(703) 706-4515
stthomas@acps.k12.va.us

7th Grade Counselors:

Kevin Malone
Students with last names A-L
(703) 706-4534
kevin.malone@acps.k12.va.us

Varita Bendinelli
Students with last names M-Z
(703) 706-4534
varita.mateos-bendinelli@acps.k12.va.us

8th Grade Counselors:

Ben DeRigge
Students with last names A-L
(703) 706-4518
benjamin.derigge@acps.k12.va.us

Verline Jackson
Students with last names M-Z
(703) 706-4518
verline.jackson@acps.k12.va.us

Director of School Counseling:

Greg Forbes
(703) 706-4500
gregory.forbes@acps.k12.va.us



UPCOMING COUNSELING GROUPS

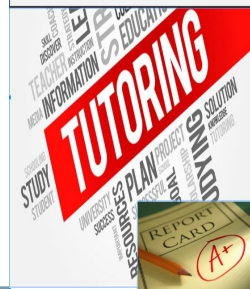
School counselors will be offering various counseling groups this Fall. Sixth grade counselors are concurrently running two Transition to Middle School groups. One group is for female students and the other is for male students. The purpose of the group is to assist students with transitioning to middle school by providing students with important skills such as organization, test taking strategies, and stress management.

Seventh and Eighth grade counselors are offering a boys lunch bunch regarding developing healthy relationships with others. They are also offering a Peer Tutoring for Success Club after school on Tuesdays.

Eighth grade counselors are offering a behavioral and organization group which will help teach students some essential skills that are required to make these transitional years a success. Students will enhance social skills, self-awareness, and academic work habits.

For more information about counseling groups, please contact your child's school counselor.

Are you interested in earning community service and giving back to your community?
Pick your favorite subject and help others learn!



Peer Tutoring for Success Club!

(starting next week October 30th)

When: Tuesdays
Where: A108

Be a tutor and/or get support!



Questions? See Mrs. Bendinelli/ Counselor
7th grade office: A108

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Did you know that G.W. offers a number of academic supports for your child?

Every grade and team has an academic support schedule of when teachers are available to meet with students before school, during lunch, and after school. If your child needs additional support, please encourage them to make arrangements to meet with their teacher. Contact your child's grade level office or school counselor for the academic support schedule. The schedule is also posted on the ACPS G.W. website.

In the next few weeks, G.W. will also begin extended learning opportunities that will provide your child with increased academic support in language arts and math. Extended learning will take place on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3:15-4:15 p.m. and on Saturday's from 9:00-12:00 p.m. Bus transportation will be provided. Please contact your child's school counselor for more information or to register your child for the extended learning opportunities.

FREE online tutoring with a live tutor is also available to all G.W. students. Numerous subjects are offered and tutors are available 24/7! Tutoring is perfect for remediation and enrichment. Students can access online tutoring by clicking on their account picture in Canvas, then by selecting Profile, then "Online Tutoring."

MONITORING GRADES

All parents/guardians have access to their child's grades, attendance, and other important academic information online using ACPS Academic Access (AAA). AAA is a web-based service that provides access to your child's education records and helps support your involvement in your child's education. We strongly encourage parents to monitor their child's grades by accessing AAA regularly.

For more information regarding AAA, please go to:

<https://www.acps.k12.va.us/aaa>