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# mantua pta newsletter



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March 1, 2022 | Issue 26

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## Important Upcoming Dates

**March 3** (Thursday) - 2 Hour Early Release @ 2:05pm

**March 4** (Friday) - No School for Students, Staff Development Day.

**March 8** (Tuesday) - Picture Day.

**March 10** (Wednesday) - Woodson High School Area Chorus, 7:00 PM

**March 11** (Thursday) - PTA Meeting 9:30am

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## Read Across America Spirit Week

**This Week!**

Happy Read Across America Week!

**Tuesday**

**Crazy Hair and Sock Day:** Wear your best crazy hairstyle and don't forget to

wear some crazy socks too!

### **Wednesday**

**Dress as your Favorite Book Character Day:** Come to school dressed as your favorite book character from a fiction or nonfiction book.

### **Thursday**

**Pajama Day and Favorite Book Day:** Come to school dressed in your comfy pajamas and share a favorite book with your class.



### **Mantua Talent Show 2022**

The Mantua Talent Show is live once again this year!! Get your acts ready!

Rehearsal will be Friday, March 25th and the BIG show will be Saturday, March 26th both from 5-9pm in the Gym.

**Sign up by March 4th** and send in your act audition video by March 11th.

[www.memberplanet.com/s/mantuaelementaryschoolpta/2022talentshow](http://www.memberplanet.com/s/mantuaelementaryschoolpta/2022talentshow)

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### **Academic & Wellness Interventions at Mantua**

In recent PTA meetings we have shared the interventions that are taking place at Mantua this year. The [Mantua's ESSER/SIIP 2021-22 at Glance](#) describes our work to support student academic achievement and wellness. Some aspects of intervention include small group direct academic support, before and after school supports, and access to online intervention programs that assess, intervene, and advance student performance.

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### **Digital Resources**

There is a new functionality available to FCPS parents who are interested in knowing more about their child's activity on an FCPS device. Parents can sign up to receive a weekly Parent Report from Lightspeed, our internet content filtering service, which will provide a list of the top sites the child visited that week. Additionally, if parents wish to get more detailed information, the weekly Parent Report offers parents the ability to self-sign-up to the free Internet Use Parent Portal. Parents who sign up for the Internet Use Parent Portal can log in any time to see a little more detail about their child's internet browsing. The portal also offers the parent added ability to "pause" access to the internet during non-school hours on the FCPS device. <https://www.fcps.edu/resources/technology/lightspeed-parent-reports>

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### **Elementary Institute for the Arts (E-IFTA): Camps and Institutes**

A summer exploration of the arts for elementary school students currently in grades 2-5. Space is limited, and registration is on a first-come basis until seats are filled.

E-IFTA is a weekly arts camp for elementary-aged students who love to sing, dance, act, perform, make, and create. Students take part in four classes every day related to dance, music, theatre, and visual art. They work with FCPS fine arts teachers who create classes that are fun and engaging.

## Eligibility

- **Program Cost:** \$255 a week.
- **Program Dates:** July 5-29, 2022
- **Host School:** Lake Braddock Secondary.
- **Program Times:** 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **Registration Begins:** March 1

<https://www.fcps.edu/academics/summer-learning-programs/camps-and-institutes-elementary-institute-arts-e-ifta>

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## Visitors Welcome

The most updated guidance from FCPS indicates that we can welcome visitors and volunteers. Our Visitor Management System is back up and running in the main office. Visitors who will be engaging with students will need to check-in using this system. Please know that the Visitor Management System requires that visitors have their licenses when checking in. Our teachers may begin to solicit parent volunteers through their parent communication.

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## Computer and Headphone Reminders

K-2 computers go home weekly on Fridays and 3-6 go home daily. Students should be charging their laptops overnight while the devices are at home.

All students should be bringing a working pair of headphones to school each day and back home. Many of the programs used in school require

headphones with a microphone as well as programs that are included as part of homework.

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## Yearbook Sales

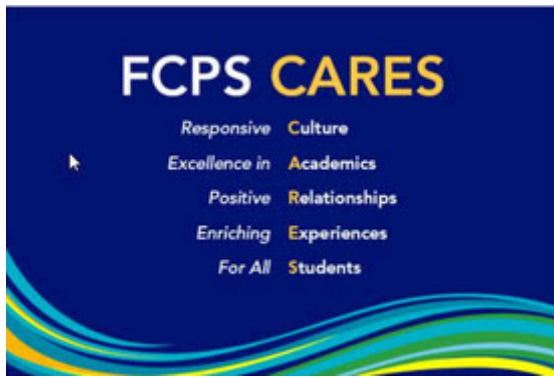
The 2022 yearbook is sold through the company's online portal. The information and link can be found on the [FCPS Mantua school web page](#) and in the All Parent Schoology Course.

The last day to order is **April 15**.



## Nominate a Staff Member: FCPS CARES

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The FCPS CARES Program is an opportunity for parents, staff, and community members to recognize FCPS employees for going above and beyond to help others and show they care. We invite you to submit your story, so we can all acknowledge the good work of FCPS employees at Mantua Elementary.

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## Woodson Chorus

The Woodson High School Area Chorus, directed by Amy Moir and Meredith Lee, will present a concert on **Thursday, March 10 at 7 PM**. Mantua will have a large group of our 6th grade singers participating in this event. We hope you can make it!



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## WT Woodson 5K for the Trevor Project

W.T. Woodson High School is hosting a 5K Race/Walk and Fun Run to raise awareness and money for The Trevor Project. At Woodson, we have an extremely diverse student population. In raising money for the Trevor Project, we hope to support their mission to further mental health awareness for all students. This is a community 5K and Fun Run for students at Woodson High School, families, friends, and community members. The race is organized by students, and will take place on Saturday, April 30.

Price: \$25.00 Race Fee + \$2.45 SignUp Fee

Registration: Price increases to \$35.00 after April 15, 2022

Registration is here: <https://runsignup.com/Race/VA/Fairfax/WTWoodson5k>

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## Your Views and Opinions Are Important!

This spring all Mantua parents/guardians will be contacted through email with a link to the *FCPS Principal Evaluation Parent/Guardian Feedback Form Online*. This questionnaire is part of the Performance Evaluation Program and offers parents/guardians an opportunity to provide anonymous input about various topics related to our school. These topics include instructional leadership, school climate, human resources management, organizational management, communication and community relations, and professionalism. Understanding that this has been another unusual year, the impacts of COVID-19 will be taken into consideration when reviewing the feedback.

The questionnaire will be collected online **between March 7 and March 18**. When you receive an email from *FCPS Surveys*, please take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire. Your opinions matter!

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## 2022-2023 Kindergarten Survey

Mantua ES needs your help in projecting the Kindergarten enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year. Virginia Law, section 22.1-254, requires children who will reach their fifth birthday on or before September 30, 2022, to be enrolled in Kindergarten for the 2022-2023 school year unless the parent or guardian notifies the school in writing that they do not wish the child to attend school until the following year.

If you have a child who will be five years old on or before September 30, 2022, please complete [this form](#) and return it **no later than March 31, 2022** . If any of your neighbors have children who will be eligible for Kindergarten, please share this information with them, as we are especially interested in reaching those Mantua families who do not have children currently attending school.

The information on this survey will help the school plan for adequate facilities and personnel for the 2022-2023 school year. **Please email the completed form to Mergie Kakouris at [mbkakouris@fcps.edu](mailto:mbkakouris@fcps.edu)**. We thank you in advance for returning the form **no later than March 31, 2022** .

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## **Changes to Universal Masking for ALL Set for March 1**

Late Friday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released updated health guidance that included new metrics for determining COVID-19 community levels. Based on this new guidance, Fairfax County's current COVID-19 community level is low.

Based on these new metrics and CDC guidance, FCPS will now adjust our roll back plan and allow everyone - staff and parents/guardians of FCPS students - to make a choice whether or not they will wear a mask starting **Tuesday, March 1**.

Monday will be a day to prepare for this transition. Students and staff will have the day to get answers to questions and prepare for the change. We will share additional information tomorrow that will help us all prepare.

The decision to wear a mask or not is a personal one for our staff and families, based on many factors. The FCPS community values our Caring Culture, and we will see that value in action as we treat each other with respect and understanding during this transition.

Families, please talk with your children about these upcoming changes so they are prepared for this transition and understand your expectations for them at school.

We are encouraged by the continued decline in COVID-19 cases in our community. However, we are also committed to keeping our schools safe for all to learn and work in person. Please continue to do your part to maintain a healthy environment by monitoring for illness and staying home when sick.

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## **COVID Vaccination Status**

You may wish to voluntarily share your child's COVID-19 vaccination information with Mantua ES. However, we do not require your child's vaccination information and no school employee will ask for your child's

vaccination status. If you would like to provide us with your child's vaccination status, please bring your child's COVID-19 vaccination card or a photocopy of the card to Ms. Kakouris in the front office. COVID-19 vaccination documentation contains Protected Health Information and should not be emailed.

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## Seventh Grade Immunization Requirements

Effective July 1, 2021 all students entering 7th grade will be required to receive one dose of each of the following immunizations prior to the beginning of school: Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis booster (Tdap) given at age 7 or older, and Meningococcal vaccine (MenACWY) given at age 10 or older. Seventh grade students cannot begin school in August without proper Tdap and Meningococcal documentation.



Acceptable documentation to submit to Mantua ES can be one of the following:

1. An immunization record showing the month, day, and year the immunization(s) was given.
2. A note on a healthcare provider's letterhead stating the month, day, and year the immunization(s) was given.
3. A healthcare provider's written statement of a permanent or temporary medical exemption for a student who cannot receive the immunization due to medical reasons.
4. A notarized Religious Exemption Form, which is available online at: [http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/health\\_medical/certificate\\_religious\\_exemption.pdf](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/health_medical/certificate_religious_exemption.pdf)

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## Children Ages 5-11 Now Eligible to VaxUP!

Children ages 5-11 are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. FCPS is collaborating with the Fairfax County Health Department, Inova, and the Virginia Chapter of the American Association of Pediatricians to offer community-wide access to vaccines as soon as possible. Vaccines are expected to be available at mass vaccination sites really soon. Check with your local pharmacy or pediatrician for appointment availability. Up-to-date information about vaccination opportunities will be available on our website.



In the meantime, you may have questions about the vaccine. We talked with local pediatricians to answer some of the most common questions. First, we asked how the vaccine works and about its safety. Hear what they have to say in this [short video](#).

- [Return to School - COVID-19 Vaccination for Children Ages 5-11](#)

- [Message from the Superintendent](#)
- [FCPS Nov. 3 newsletter](#)

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## [NEW! 2022-2023 School Year Calendar](#)

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### Join the PTA!

Please visit our webpage at [MantuaPTA.org](http://MantuaPTA.org) and click **JOIN PTA NOW!** Dues are \$20 per family and get you discounts on PTA sponsored clubs. Our dues fully support our free programs so that every penny of our fundraisers goes right back into the classrooms. Follow us on Facebook to get the inside scoop on all our events and programs - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MantuaPTA/> - Can't wait to get started!



Any changes in dismissal transportation need to be requested by emailing the Mantua Attendance ([Mantuaelem.attendance@fcps.edu](mailto:Mantuaelem.attendance@fcps.edu)) by 11:00am, so the office has time to relay that change to the classroom teacher. No early dismissals will be permitted after 3:30pm.

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### How to Submit an Announcement to the PTA News

Please [complete this form](#) to have a Mantua ES- or Mantua PTA-related announcement placed in the weekly Mantua PTA News, on our [Facebook page](#) and/or on [MantuaPTA.org](http://MantuaPTA.org).



The form guides you through all the pieces of information we need to put out complete announcements.