

CARROLL COUNTY
STUDENT GOVERNMENT
NEWSLETTER

Volume 1

September 2014

High Schools Reports

North Carroll High School

This year we have a great amount of student involvement, especially interest from freshmen! We look forward to a great year!

We are currently working on planning our homecoming, which is on October 25th! The theme is A Night In Vegas.

Angie Tolomei

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Francis Scott Key High School

So far this year we have already accomplished incorporating Parliamentary Procedure into our general assemblies, a tailgate at our first home football game, a successful blood drive on September 12th, and the plans for homecoming the week of October 11th. We have added different games to attend homecoming week this year for extra class points, we will be bringing back our homecoming parade, and we diversified our spirit week to match our theme of World Showcase. We're excited for all we have planned for this year!

Olivia Mihulka

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Winters Mill High School

At Winters Mill, we have addressed two specific issues that we plan to solve this year. We want to increase student involvement and participation, not only in SGA, but throughout the entire school. We hope to engage students more in all of our events this year, our first being our school-wide lip dub video as our school celebrates all of our teams and clubs during our Homecoming Pep rally. The second issue we are going to raise awareness of is bullying. We plan to hold a school wide fundraiser and awareness day in order to help combat this problem in our school.

We are currently in the process of planning our Hollywood Casino homecoming dance. This year's homecoming activities will include our annual Powder Puff football game, a school-wide door decorating contest, spirit dress-up days, and our pep rally, leading up to the Homecoming football game.

Molly Pohlhaus

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Gateway High School

My name is Lacey Kristensen and I am the president for Gateway and Crossroads Middle. Gateway and Crossroads had elections on Friday September, 12, 2014. I know this sounds a bit unorthodox but as for my goals, I haven't got much. I plan to ask the students what they need instead of doing something that they don't care about. One thing I know we are going to try is being able to send students from Gateway to CCTC to give them opportunities other schools have. As for our projects, we are planning our fall fest, and the spirit week leading up to it. Our Experiential Ed class is still going to Carroll Springs to work with the students as we garden. Our advanced Tech Ed. is building and replacing the bridges along the WRC trail which has to be completed before October 18th because that is when the zombie run it. It's a 5k run and it costs 30 dollars, and you get a free t-shirt. You don't have to run you can sign up on wrctrail.org to be an aid or a zombie on the trail. Some extra help for advertising would be fantastic if anybody can help spread the word.

Lacey Kristensen
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Liberty High School

Issues- We are still smoothing out all the kinks of the BYOD policy. We are also searching for a new DJ for our homecoming because our previous DJ can't host for us anymore. Finally, we are without an "advisor." Our three administrators are the advisors because we were unable to find a staff member who could take over the position.

Accomplishments- We have chosen a theme for our homecoming this year!! "LET'S CELEBRATE" is the theme and the floats are centralized around all holidays. We encourage all sports, clubs, and organizations to choose a holiday to make our parade more exciting than ever because it is on Halloween this year. We are trying to incorporate students from our feeder schools in our parade. Our dance/gymnasium is going to be a haunted house.

Activities- our Homecoming is November 1st and our parade and homecoming game are October 31st. We would love for other schools to come out and enjoy the parade 😊

Bryanne Flannery
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Westminster High School

Our year is going well working with both our past advisor Ms. Kimble and our new advisor Mr. Brown. The WHS SGA chosen the Homecoming theme of "Space Jam", and we are currently preparing for the Homecoming parade, Powderpuff game, dance, and more. Looking forward to a great year!

Jeremy Price
owlybird@verizon.net

Century High School

Our school year is off to a great start! Over the summer, our officers met weekly to plan for events during the school year. We helped out with New Student Orientation the week before school started, which included giving tours of the building, hosting a club fair, and introducing ourselves to new students and their parents. We also gave out our Unity Day shirts to all new students that night. Our biggest event so far has been WOW Day, which was on our first day of school. After having shortened classes in the morning, we had three rotations for students: free lunches, hearing from our SGA officers about this year, and hearing our guest speaker, Sandy Queen. Since then, we have held our first General Assembly meeting and we just finalized our new executive board, which is a new addition to our SGA this year at Century. Last week we started planning for homecoming and spirit week, which starts on October 20th and our dance is Saturday the 25th. Our theme is "Decades" and we are calling it "A Knight through the Century." During this week, we will also be participating in a food drive as a school. Our goals for the next few months are to expand our General Assembly to reach more students, increase our attendance rates at our meetings and CCSGA meetings, and to have a successful Homecoming week.

Jessica Hatmaker
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Silver Oak Academy

The SGA at Silver Oak Academy just had a Breakfast on September 20, 2014 from 8:00-10:00 a.m. The menu consisted of turkey sausage, turkey bacon, homemade pancakes, spinach quiche, coffee cake, fruit cocktail, orange juice, coffee, tea and milk. The SGA will participate in a March on Frederick on September 26, 2014 from 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. They will walk from Harry Grove Stadium, pass a number of historical sites throughout Frederick and end at the College's Alumnae Hall, where local state and national civil rights activists, including Julian bond will address the crowd. Silver Oak Academy SGA will make signs to carry during the procession. We are also preparing for White Party on October 4, 2014, from 7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. SGA members will be walking around and serving appetizers. There will be a DJ and people will be able to dance. We will also be taking pictures and selling them. We will be roasting our program director. Tickets are \$10.00 per person and \$18.00 a couple. If any schools would like to come and support us, see Ms.Leatherbury. The money from the White Party will go to seniors to buy tablets for graduation.

Silver Oak Academy
Sheila.leatherbury@rop.com

Middle School Reports

West Middle School

We have had trouble promoting SGA and gaining enough representatives to deliver and receive information to and from homerooms, especially in the 8th Grade.

We have gotten reps to represent most homerooms. We have also decided on rough ideas for most of our fundraisers.

We had our first General Assembly this past week. We have started to update our wiki site more frequently to keep reps informed and we are currently setting up an electronic newsletter that will go out to reps that elect to have it. We will also start planning our annual pumpkin decorating contest that will take place this October.

Avery Houle

soccer4scout9@yahoo.com

SROB Report

CCSGA,

Hello! My name is Matthew Saxton and I am your Student Representative on the Board of Education (SROB). I am junior at Century High School in Sykesville. As SROB, my role is to present the Board of Education with the thoughts and feelings of informed Carroll County Public School students. Because of the nature of my role on the Board of Education, I will continuously look toward CCSGA and student leaders to give me their opinions on issues facing the Board. This will help me to best represent the Carroll County student voice.

Since the last CCSGA GA in May, the Board of Education has held 4 regular meetings. I was seated at our June, 11th meeting. Since then, many important topics have come across the Board agenda. Past and future Board agenda items are detailed on the second page of my report. [Please look through this list!](#) Many of these topics are very impactful to students and CCPS. The summer is typically not a busy time for the Board, but the first few months of the school year are fuller. If you have questions, feedback, or would like additional information on an agenda item, please email me at sturep@carrollk12.org. If you would like to submit comments or feedback regarding a future Board agenda topic to the entire Board of Education and Superintendent's Office, please visit feedback.carrollk12.org.

As we enter the 2014-2015 school year, I have several goals. As SROB this year, I would like to:

- Increase student awareness of and participation in matters facing the Board
- Increase student awareness of advocacy outlets
- Increase my presence and interactions within schools
- Accurately represent the presiding opinion of CCPS students to the Board of Education

In order to accomplish these goals I will work to increase my direct communication with your schools and student organizations. In the coming weeks I am already scheduled to visit with some school SGAs. If your school SGA would like to learn more about what the Board is doing or a specific matter facing the Board, please contact me. I would love to come speak to your SGA, student groups, or student body and will allow time for your members to ask any questions they may have.

I look forward to another fun and productive year for CCSGA and to working with you all to represent the ever important voice of Carroll County students! Good luck in the new school year!

Matt Saxton
SROB/ SROB-Elect
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Board of Education of Carroll County
Past and Future Agenda Items (June - October, 2014)

Past Agenda Item

Agenda Topic	Synopsis	Impact to CCPS Students	Board Action
Carroll Montessori Public Charter School	Sustainable Futures, Inc. submitted a charter request to open and operate a public charter school in Carroll County.	- If Sustainable Futures can conform to strict pre-operation benchmarks established by the Superintendent of Schools and MSDE, Carroll County will have a Public Charter school teaching using the Montessori Method beginning in the 2015-2016 school year.	-Discussed on June 11 th -Charter was approved on July 9 th . Charter is contingent on Sustainable Future's ability to meet progress benchmarks.
Revisions to Board Policy EFE - Comprehensive School Health Program	A language change to Board Policy EFE, to align with new federal standards regarding the sale of food during the instructional day.	-New language in the Comprehensive School Health Program prohibits the sale of any food during the school day by anyone other than Food Services. (This includes fundraisers) -Sets very strict regulations as to the nutritional content of school meals -New language DOES NOT prohibit voluntary distribution of food (i.e. Advisory parties)	-Discussed on July 9 th -Approved on September 10 th .
Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for Educational Facilities	A report published annually outlining the timeline of major school maintenance projects (ex. New windows, new gym floor, roof replacements, HVAC system replacements, etc.)	-Shows a timeline of improvements to come to schools in CCPS	-Discussed on July 9 th -Approved on September 10 th .

Future Agenda Topics

Agenda Topic	Synopsis	Impact to CCPS Students	Board Action
Proposed 2015-2016 School Calendar	-First Day- Aug. 24 th -Thanksgiving ½ day on Nov. 25, Return Nov. 30 -Winter Break- Dec. 24- Jan. 3 -Spring Break- Mar. 24-29 -6 Built in Snow days -Last Day- June 9 th (1/2 day)	-Advanced planning for family vacations -Instructional breaks	-Discussed Sept 10 th
2014 Comprehensive Master Plan Update	-The Comprehensive Master Plan Annual Update serves as a plan for system and school improvement.	-This annually revised document shows the desired direction of progress for CCPS over the next decade.	-Discussed Sept 10 th
Proposed High School Program of Studies for 2015-2016	-Few changes from the 2014-2015 Program of studies	-The High School Program of Studies is designed to assist students and parents to develop a carefully planned educational program for high school.	-Discussed Sept 10 th

Other Board Topics

Topic	Synopsis	Impact to CCPS Students	Board Action
CCPS Capital Improvement Program (CIP)	-The CIP is an annual budget request (separate from the Operating Budget) sent to the county and state government for major projects (building new schools, new roves, school modernizations)	-The proposed CIP includes the construction of a new North Westminster K-8 school to replace Charles Carroll ES, William Winchester ES, and Westminster East MS. CIP request also includes the construction of a new Career and Technology Center. -The annual CIP request to the county gov't would be about \$15 million to cover planning for the projects listed above as well as other projects not listed.	-Board Work Session on Aug. 28 th -Public Hearing on Sept 17 th -Up for adoption Oct. 8 th

Officer/ Staff Reports

I hope everyone is having a great start to the school year and that your SGA is up and rolling ! My name is Shannon Gibbons and I am a freshman at Westminster High School as well as CCSGA's Student Environmental Affairs for the 2014-2015 school year ! I have been involved in SGA since the beginning of Middle School and have been working with CCSGA since 7th grade, as a workshop trainer and 2nd Vice President . In addition to CCSGA I run cross country, I am the Vice President of my class and I lead a small group of Middle School girls at my church . This year my main goal is to embrace the role of the STEAC and get it up and running again after it has taken a back seat in CCSGA the past few years . I hope to make a connection between leadership development and environmental issues that are prevalent in our area this year by have outside environmental experts come and teach workshops . I am also working towards creating a service project that will get our delegates hands a little dirty this year because I believe hands on experiences in groups teach us some of the most valuable lessons about ourselves as leaders and leadership in general . I cant wait to dive into this year with you and get my hands muddy and my shoes dirty as we dive into environmental based leadership development !

Shannon Gibbons
Environmental Coordinator
shannongibbons1999@gmail.com

We have served both as historian in past years and have been active in CCSGA since 6th grade. We are also both active at our school levels, Olivia at Francis Scott Key and Sarah at Westminster. We are looking to increase documentation to cover all events this year and assist in planning events for the growth of CCSGA. Lately we have attended the CCSGA retreat and general assembly planning meeting. We're excited to see what this year brings!

Sarah and Olivia
CCSGA Historian
sarahjune123@hotmail.com, liviakathryn@gmail.com

Hi! I'm Jeremy Price, CCSGA's Chief of Staff for the second year in a row, and I am a 16-year-old senior at Westminster High School, where I am also the SGA President. This year in CCSGA I'm looking forward to planning General Assemblies, furthering our connection with MASC, and hosting Legislative Session. Lately I have been planning MASC events as the MASC Chief of Staff, representing students statewide on the Maryland Parent Teacher Association Board of Directors, and sharing the student voice in a Maryland State Department of Education Stakeholders Discussion on HB883 regarding later school start times. Looking forward to a great year in CCSGA!

Jeremy Price
Chief of Staff
owlybird@verizon.net

- My name is Ave Keefer. I am serving as the Charity and Outreach coordinator, and this is my first year on the CCSGA officer team, though I have attended several CCSGA and MASC meetings in the past few years. I also am on the executive board at Francis Scott Key High School.
- My goals for the year are to provide opportunities for CCSGA to become more involved in the community, and to create chances for each school to interact with one another through CCSGA events.
- Recently, I worked with Mr. Alisaukas to set up a fundraiser for all the high schools at the Westminster Buffalo Wild Wings. This fundraiser is set up tournament-style, with four preliminary nights for all the high schools to participate in, two schools each night. The schools that raise more money than their counterpart will move on to the finals in the winter; and the two winning schools from the finals will compete in a championship in the spring. Each school's SGA will receive a portion of the money they raise on their night. Additionally, each student wearing school spirit wear on their night will be given a raffle ticket and put in a drawing to receive a gift card- three will be given away for each night. Further, the championship winning school will also win a portion the "20% of the total amount raised" bonus, and a free luncheon for their staff at the end of the year. I will be contacting each school before their date if there are any questions. The fall dates are as follows:
 - Oct 22- Francis Scott Key vs. South Carroll
 - Oct 29- Westminster vs. Winters Mill
 - Nov 5- Liberty vs. Century
 - Nov 12- Manchester Valley vs. North Carroll

I have also been looking into charities to support as our CCSGA charity of the year, and have selected the Human Services Programs of Carroll County. This organization is very active in our community. They provide many services to those in need in our County including: financial support to maintain housing and utilities, shelter and housing to those without, child and adult care food programs, and support services for expectant parents and parents with children under four, among others. I am very excited by the prospect of working with such a community based service organization and am looking into possibilities for our involvement with them.

Ave Keefer
ave.keeper@gmail.com

- Background information
 - I am a freshman at Liberty High School
 - I am 15 years old
 - I was formerly the 2013-2014 CCSGA Parliamentarian
- CCSGA goals for the year
 - Increase CCSGA's social media presence
 - Increase CCSGA General Assembly Attendance
 - Update CCSGA's platform to include our stance on current and important issues
 - Have a successful Legislative Session
 - For all of us to have a fun and informative year at CCSGA
- What have you been doing lately
 - I have been working on filling out CCSGA's 2014-2015 roster (as of the time of this writing, I am missing the Vice President's from Winter's Mill High School and South Carroll High School, both the President and Vice President from Gateway, as well as all the Presidents and Vice Presidents from the Middle Schools Oklahoma Road, West Middle, and the President from Shiloh Middle, as well as the advisor from Sykesville Middle. If any of the aforementioned people could contact me at johnson693@comcast.net with this information I would greatly appreciate it.)
 - I have been creating minutes for all of CCSGA's meetings thus far, and I have begun using a recording device at small group meetings to take more accurate and detailed minutes. I have posted the minutes from the first meeting on CCSGA's Facebook page, and intend to post it, alongside the minutes from the other meetings, on all our social media accounts.
 - I typed up feedback from last year's CCSGA as well as our yearly goals for our CCSGA President.
 - I have created an account on Remind 101 to allow me to remind members of CCSGA of upcoming events.

Matthew Johnson
 CCSGA Secretary
johnson693@comcast.net

Hi my name is Ryan Stankewicz and I am the Second Vice President of CCSGA.

I am very excited for this fun and eventful school year ahead of us. I hope everyone is settling in nicely to the new school year and i hope to get the ball rolling so we can get to business. I have many plans for this year including a monthly based groupchat or phone call to communicate to all middle schools around the county. I also hope to meet with all middle school presidents and or vice presidents personally to discuss different topics and or questions that i might want to get your opinion on, and maybe travel to a few of the schools in the process. A few of my goals for the year include, increasing middle school communication by using the groupchat or phone call that i mentioned earlier and increase participation of the middle school SGA's in the county by meeting with a few schools and by communicating regularly with school presidents or vice presidents. I am always available to answer any questions or concerns you might have about me, my position, or CCSGA.

Ryan Stankewicz
 CCSGA Second Vice-President
rstankewicz2000@gmail.com

Hi CCSGA,

My name is Andrew Boone and I am your Vice-President for the 2014-2015 school year. Let me tell you a little about myself, I am a student in the 10th grade at Manchester Valley High School. Also this is my second year to be your CCSGA Vice-President. Lately I have been helping plan MASC Legislative Session. Lastly I have been working very hard on this newsletter! I hope you guys enjoy and I also hope to see or talk with you soon. Have a great school year.

Andrew Boone

CCSGA Vice President

andrew.boone04@gmail.com

Hi, my name is Abigail Fowler, I am a junior at Francis Scott Key High School, and this is my second year as the President of CCSGA! I am very excited for this year as I hope you are too. My goals for the year are as follows:

1. Successfully planning and running the MASC Legislative Session by working closely with MASC and members in our county who wish to be on staff.
2. Delegate tasks to my officers and staff members in order for them to have responsibility and actively participate within CCSGA.
3. Help all of my officers and staff accomplish their personal goals throughout the year in order for them to grow as a leader and check up on their individual projects to make sure they are meeting the expectations of the organization.

Overall, I want the people within this organization to feel as if they have an opportunity to learn, utilize, and grow in their leadership skills and position.

Lately, I have been working with my officer team to plan the September General Assembly, which I hope you all enjoyed! We were so excited when we heard that A'ric Jackson would be able to speak to our students and we hope the students from your schools were able to walk away with something from his talk. I have also been working with the Legislative Session Committee to begin working out the details for Legislative Session this February. For this event CCSGA will need about 30 students to help on staff. This includes helping set up for the event, directing students from other counties around Manchester Valley, and other various tasks. If you are interested on being on staff, please contact me at abbyjayne10@aol.com and I will make sure to get back to you. I hope your SGA at your school is off to a fantastic start and I look forward to working with all of you this year!

Abigail Fowler

CCSGA President

abbyjayne10@aol.com