THE SEED PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE WEEKLY FALCON

for the week of 1/28/2024

NEWS FROM THE NEST

Progress with Purpose. . .

Happy Sunday SEED DC Families!

As first semester comes to a close, we have several aspects of our journey to celebrate, and undeniable, systemic work ahead in and beyond the school day. Thank you for your continued partnership, as we strive to ensure our scholars are given every opportunity to be well prepared for success in and beyond their collegiate years. We are in a unique time as a profession, as the need for high-quality educators continues to contrast with those available for these positions. At SEED DC, we are all well aware of this ongoing challenge. Please know that staffing our academic day with solid, well-trained, and committed team members is, and continues to be my highest priority. As an educational community, this must be our primary charge. As we continue to interview and seek out additions to our staff, I am grateful to our Academic Leadership Team as they investigate and secure supplemental learning tools that will personalize the experiences for our scholars based on skill levels, intervention needs, and equally important, resources driving acceleration.

As promised, I wanted to share the highest level of findings from our preliminary Annual School Review (ASR). Student voice was an obvious priority, and some of your sons and daughters participated in focus groups, as well as informal conversations with the evaluation team. As is always my expectation, our scholars were honest, authentic, and informative about their opportunities, hopes and concerns with regards to their SEED experiences. Ultimately, their perspectives and outcomes must drive our day-to-day programming and decision making. I see their sharing not ever as problematic, but as an important indicator of what areas are successful and where we need work and transformation.

We had several areas of celebration when reviewing the initial results of the 23/24 ASR. I want to highlight with immeasurable gratitude the work of Ms. Anshay Tull, Director of College Success. As the leader of Pillar III: College Knowledge & Advising, she has advanced our campus practices significantly over the last 15 months. We received the highest marks in this arena, rated as EFFECTIVE in all three major categories. With the ultimate goal of ensuring our scholars are successful in the four-year collegiate setting, it is extremely noteworthy that this part of our foundation is solid. Under Ms. Tull's leadership, Pillar III continues to provide the skills, information and experiences our scholars need to research and discover their future educational home through the Right Fit model.

Also exciting and encouraging, SEED DC demonstrated growth in multiple areas of Pillar II: Social Emotional Learning (SEL). Our team was commended for the relationships our scholars have developed within the Student Life arena. Additionally, there was clear evidence of our efforts to move SEL practices across the 24/5 environment, making it much more about who we are, as opposed to what we do. In the future, we will be hosting opportunities for our families to participate in learning sessions and workshops that familiarize all with the importance of SEL as a lifestyle. Through utilizing these practices, we all can increase the quality of our everyday interactions and enhance our perspectives. I look forward to the opportunity further infuse this important aspect of individual development into the SEED DC landscape.

It is important to note that the majority of the evaluators were part of last year's process. They repeatedly said it was markedly evident that we are on a different path, that the vision of leadership was apparent in the physical spaces, the energy and the atmosphere. "This feels like a school; there is a new tempo. . ." They acknowledged change takes time and securing the "right team" is a critical part of the process. We continue to focus on this foundational truth, knowing creating an environment of high expectations must be accompanied by a full team of individuals fervently committed to the priorities and protocols we know move academic progress with intention and a sense of urgency. I am fortunate to have these educational realities as a part of my professional roadmap, and therefore know what must happen for SEED DC to resemble this type of setting. We are headed in that direction, and I continue to humbly seek your feedback, insight, and collaboration as we continue this climb to excellence in every endeavor.

Always grateful, Ms. Hood

Upcoming Events

- 2/9: Parent/Teacher Conferences, 1 p.m. 4 p.m.
 - Sign-up link to be sent later
- 2/11: No Sunday Check-in
- 2/12: Monday Morning Check-in: 6 7:30 a.m.
- 2/16-19: Mid-Winter Break School Closed

Click here to download the revised: School Calendar.

CLASS OF 2024 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO DATE



The CLASS OF 2024 TOTAL AWARD AMOUNT SCHOLARSHIP OFFERS TOTAL

to \$2,395,500.00 AS OF 1/21/2024!!!

Please note the following students listed above have reported their college decisions received so far. All college admission decisions and scholarships offer should be reported to Ms. Tull when received. Congratulations again to the Class of 2024 and keep reporting!!!

JANUARY SOCIAL EMOTIONAL GUIDE



A YEAR OF GROWTH AND CONNECTION

IN THIS INAUGURAL ISSUE OF SAWUBONA, WE EMBARK ON A YEAR-LONG JOURNEY FOCUSING ON THE CASEL CORE COMPETENCIES, STARTING WITH JANUARY'S THEME: RELATIONSHIP SKILLS. THIS MONTH, WE DIVE DEEP INTO THE ART OF BUILDING AND NURTURING HEALTHY, SUPPORTIVE RELATIONSHIPS, ESSENTIAL FOR PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING.

RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

How does CASEL define relationship skills?

The ability to communicate clearly, listen well, cooperate with others, resist inappropriate social pressure, negotiate conflict constructively, and seek and offer help when needed.



GRATITUDE

We show GRATITUDE by extending kindness and expressing appreciation for the gifts, time, and talent of others.





SOCIAL SKILLS FOCUS

- Being on Time
 Being Prepared for Class
 Complying to a Reasonable Request
 Persevering on Tasks and Activities
 Following Through on Agreements and Contracts
 Adjusting Behavior Based on Social Cues

ATHLETIC SCHEDULES







CLASS OF 2025 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The SEED Foundation Scholarship



SCHOLARSHIP OVERVIEW

The SEED Foundation Scholarship Committee will award up to **21** scholarships for eligible high school juniors attending a school within the SEED network. The scholarships are designed to help cover a portion of a SEED School student's unmet need for the cost of attendance at right fit college or university. Unmet need is defined as the difference between the total cost of attendance at a college or university and the student's final financial aid package. These awards are often referred to as *gap* scholarships. The scholarship will most likely NOT cover the entire difference.

Pending funding each year, recipients can renew the scholarship and receive funding for a total of four consecutive years. The maximum amount of the SEED Foundation Scholarship is determined annually in late spring.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must be juniors graduating in June 2025 at The SEED School of Washington, D.C., The SEED School of Maryland, or The SEED School of Miami. Applicants who receive the award must immediately enroll the fall after their June 2025 graduation in a full-time undergraduate program at a right fit college or university. Recipients will need to meet additional requirements before receiving their scholarship (e.g. attend SGI, attend a summer scholarship meeting, provide financial aid award letter, account balance, etc.). Right fit colleges and universities are those that meet SEED's criteria for college fit and match.

APPLICATION and AWARD PROCESS

- Scholarship recipients are selected based on their application form, essays, and interview. Applicants
 will be notified about decisions in May 2024.
- Applicants that submit completed applications by the specified due dates will be eligible to move forward to the 2nd round interview. Applicants will be contacted by The SEED Foundation to arrange for a panel interview with The SEED Foundation Scholarship Committee.
- The SEED Foundation Scholarship application opens January 26, 2024. The application will close March 22, 2024. NO LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED. Listed below are directions to complete the process.
 - On January 26th, by 5:00pm, students will be emailed the link to The SEED Foundation Scholarship application. Students must submit ALL sections of the application with correct information by March 22nd, at 5:00pm, for their application to be considered complete.
 - Once students have successfully submitted their application, they will get an email, from The SEED Foundation Scholarship Committee, confirming their application has been received.

The SEED Foundation pmartin@seedfoundation.com 202-743-0518

CLASS OF 2025 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The SEED Foundation Scholarship



WHEN IS MY SEED FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION COMPLETE?

Submitting The SEED Foundation Scholarship application is **part one** of completing The SEED Foundation Scholarship.

The SEED Foundation Scholarship application sections are:

- 1. Personal Information
- 2. Photo (in professional dress)
- 3. Parent/Caregiver Information
- 4. Activities
- 5. Essay Response #1
- 6. Essay Response #2

THE SEED FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY REQUIREMENTS

Please respond to both essays in your application submission.

Essay Response #1: Activities

Please respond to the following essay question in 250 - 300 words in a Microsoft Word document.

Referring to your activities list above, please choose one activity and explain how it has impacted your life.

Essay Response #2: Seed Experience

Please respond thoughtfully to the following essay question in 500-600 words in a Microsoft Word document.

How has your experience at SEED played a role in making you an outstanding candidate for college and The SEED Foundation Scholarship? What other accomplishments have also contributed to your future success in college?

Please take the time to write and edit thoughtful essay responses that meet the above requirements. Students are strongly encouraged to have a SEED staff member review and provide feedback on their scholarship essays.

The SEED Foundation pmartin@seedfoundation.com 202-743-0518

MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY SUMMER RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM FROM JULY 7-20, 2024



Summer Institute 2024



July 7 - July 20th

2-week intensive courses earning three credits. Class runs 9 am – 5 pm. Evening assignments, field trips, and group activities are included, and students live in the dorms. Commuter and residential options.

Introduction to Criminal Justice

Live and learn in community

Maker-neering -Engineering with Maker Tools

Experience a collegelevel course Introduction to Media
Communication

Earn college credit that can transfer with you.



www.marymountlearnwithpurpose.com

APPLY NOW

DC DUAL ENROLLMENT CONSORTIUM PROGRAM - APPLICATION DEADLINE: 2/23/2024





Office of the State Superintendent of Education

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA **DUAL ENROLLMENT CONSORTIUM PROGRAM**

The DC Dual Enrollment Consortium Program allows students to earn college credit at local colleges in the Washington, DC area!

Attend classes at any of our partner colleges:

- American University
- **Bard College**
- Bay Atlantic University
- **Bowie State University**
- Catholic University of America-Metropolitan School of Professional Studies
- George Mason University
- Marymount University
- Montgomery College
- Northern Virginia Community College
- Prince George's Community College
- Trinity Washington University
- University of the District of Columbia-Flagship campus
- Virginia State University

Why participate in dual enrollment?

- Be college ready. You'll be better prepared for your first year of college.
- The program is free!
- College credits earned through our program are often transferable to other colleges.



SCAN HERE TO LEARN MORE AND APPLY!

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Prepare and scan ALL the following documents with the support of your school counselor:

- Student transcript;
- A copy of
 - Student GED Ready scores, OR
 - SAT or ACT scores;
- Essay;
- Teacher Recommendation Form:
- Counselor or Principal Recommendation Form; and
- Signed Released of Information Form.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

APPLICATION OPENS JAN. 10, 2024

STUDENT APPLICATIONS DUE FEB. 23, 2024

DECISIONS RELEASED MARCH 12, 2024

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Students must be 9th, 10th or 11th graders and must attend a DC public or public charter school.

Adult students seeking a GED must score a 145 or higher. on two GED Ready tests, one of which must be Reasoning Through Language Arts.

To learn more about the DC Dual Enrollment Consortium Program including detailed eligibility requirements per partner college, contact your college counselor or visit bit.lv/DCDualEnrollment.









@osse.dc







QUESTIONS, PLEASE SEE MS. HOLLOWAY

This is a reminder that in efforts to hold our scholars accountable, you will continue to receive an attendance alert for every period your scholar is marked absent. Please use this weekend to speak to your scholar (s) about the importance of showing up to class on time, prepared and ready to learn. Remember that every day counts! Scholars who are present everyday will receive an incentive at the end of

each month.

FULL UNIFORM COMPLIANCE EXPECTED

Please continue to check your scholar's luggage to ensure they have enough uniforms for the entire week, and remind them that bonnets, ski masks, or any other headgear are to be left in the dormitory and not worn during the academic day.

Also, continue to stress to them the importance of turning in cellphones before leaving the residence halls.

Cellphones will be returned at the end of the academic day, upon their return to the residence halls.

Thank you for your continued partnership & support!

UNIFORM POLICY

The SEED Uniform Policy

All SEED scholars are expected to be in the full appropriate SEED uniform throughout the academic day. The SEED uniform contributes to ensuring a safe and secure campus in addition to the overall sense of unity as a school community. It enhances the learning atmosphere, adds a sense of pride, and promotes respect for oneself and others. It also builds school and community spirit, and, more significantly, helps to maintain high academic standards and social-emotional development among scholars.

Scholars must check into school with the appropriate number of uniforms for the week and have appropriate clothing for the boarding program. Each week at check-in, student life staff will make every effort to ensure that scholars are properly outfitted for the week, although it is the responsibility of parents and scholars to come to campus fully prepared for the week ahead. In the event your child is not properly outfitted for the week, parents will be called and asked to bring appropriate uniforms and other clothing to campus by 7:00 a.m. the next morning.

Scholars will not be allowed off the residence hall floor without being in proper SEED uniform. If for some reason, scholars make it off the residence hall floor without the appropriate uniform item(s), parents should expect to receive a call regarding their child's uniform violation.

In the eyent that a scholar does not have the appropriate uniform at school, parents will be expected to bring their child all of the needed uniform pieces.

E-Scholars not in proper school uniform during the academic day will receive a disciplinary response from an administrator.

- F-F	
SEED UNIFORM	
Shirts	All school scholars must wear a burgundy polo shirt that bears the SEED DC logo. Shirts must be tucked in at ALL times.
	Seniors may wear the striped senior oxford
Pants/Skirts/Shorts	Tan khaki uniform pants, skirts, shorts or jumpers (knee length only) must be worn throughout the school year.
	All tan khaki pants and shorts must have belt loops.
	Tan khaki uniform shorts may only be worn as a part of the fall uniform (August – Thanksgiving Break) and as a part of the spring uniform (Spring Break – June).
Belts	Belts must be worn with pants, shorts or skirts with belt loops. Belt buckles must be plain and appropriate.
Head Gear	 Scholars cannot wear any of the following headgear: baseball caps, skull caps, doo-rags, head wraps, bonnets, hair curlers, scarves of any kind, or knitted caps. Scholars are permitted to wear any solid color headband
Outerwear	Scholars may ONLY wear SEED uniform sweaters, sweatshirts and/or fleece jackets as sold at Risse Brothers, located at 9700 Martin Luther King Jr. Hwy B, Lanham, MD 20706.
	Scholars must wear <u>polo's</u> underneath ALL outerwear.
	Scholars are not allowed to wear hooded sweatshirts
Shoes	Scholars can wear shoes of their choice with the exceptions listed below.
	 Scholars may not wear high heel shoes or wedges (exceeding 1") flip-flops, sandals, slippers, or any other open-toed or heel out shoes.
Physical Education	 All scholars must change into athletic skid-free sneakers, a t-shirt, and athletic shorts (must be knee-length) and/or sweatpants.

Clothing, jewelry, or appearances that are determined to be distracting to the learning environment will not be permitted.

Purchasing Uniforms

All SEED uniform items, with the exception of khaki belt loop pants and skirts, must be purchased from Risse Brothers. Khaki belt loop pants and skirts may be purchased from Old Navy, JCPenney, Parker Uniform, or other department stores.

*Should the parent/guardian need assistance purchasing, please contact the Office of Family & Community Engagement at (202) 248-3005.



Click the flier to the right to

apply online.

Students interested in being a LearnServe Fellow should see Dr. Bagley or Ms. Grant, ASAP. **Applications are still being** accepted.

FELLOWS PROGRAM

Tackle a social issue that makes you mad and create an innovative solution in your community while connecting with like-minded peers across the region! Gain an in-depth understanding of how to design and launch a social venture, combining business and changemaking skills to make an impact. All LearnServe Fellows can receive up to 50 community service hours upon completion of the program.

WHEN

September - March

- In-Person/hybrid weekly Wednesdays, 2:30-4:30 or
- Thursdays, 4:30-6:30pET Location TBD (in downtown DC)
- **PROGRAM COST**

\$50 - \$1,250 sliding scale enrollment fee Enrollment fee dependent on household financial circumstances. Financial

circumstances do not factor into application consideration or program acceptance.

HOW TO APPLY

REQUIREMENTS

No prior experience necessary. LearnServe Fellows are curious about the world, open to and excited about meeting people with different perspectives, and determined to make a difference on the issues that matter most.



Apply online at learnserve.org/fellows by Friday, September 1

OUR IMPACT



84% of alumni say LearnServe empowered them to take action beyond our programs.



62% of students volunteer after LearnServe over half of them serving in leadership roles.



95% mention LearnServe on their college applications.

"It's hard for teenagers like us to get our thoughts out, because we're not taken seriously. It is great to have that chance through LearnServe.'

LearnServe Fellow 2020

from our student alumni, visit www.learn-serve.org or contact our Office Manager Latoya Felder at latoya@learn-serve.org.



ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES

EARLY DISMISSALS AND PLANNED ABSENCES

In the event, a scholar needs to leave campus during the school week and will miss any part of the school programming (academic or student life), including Sunday check-in, families should send an email to attendance@seedschooldc.org. The email should include the following:

- 1. Scholar's name
- 2. Date(s) of absences
- 3. Date and time of pick-up and drop-off
- 4. Name of an adult who will pick up the scholar (proof of identification will be required)
- 5. If student is departing on their own, please indicate the mode of travel (Uber, Lyft, Metro, etc.)
- 6. Reason for absence/appointment

Please note:

All communication regarding absences must be submitted in written form by the parent/guardian/caregiver on file. SEED DC will not allow a scholar to leave campus without a prior written communication from the parent/guardian/caregiver on file.

Scholars must be signed out at the front desk in the lobby for early dismissal and signed in when returning to campus. All written communication should be sent to

<u>attendance@seedschooldc.org</u> and should include the time the student will depart and return, mode of transportation, and contact information for an adult authorized to pick the student up. This includes transportation via Metro, Uber, Lyft, or riding with other families.

Staff may be directed to conduct a follow-up phone call, to confirm details or ask clarifying questions. When a scholar returns to campus following a medical visit, a signed medical note from the medical facility must be presented to the receptionist stating the reason for the absence.

If a scholar needs to leave early on a Friday, families should send an email to attendance@seedschooldc.org no later than 8 p.m. on Thursday evening.

Student Life staff will be notified to have scholars bring their belongings from the residence halls in the morning to place in the academic building.

Please note that emails sent after 8 a.m. will not be honored, as the residence halls are closed from 8 a.m. until student life staff arrives for check-out, 4 p.m. There is no access to the residence halls before the regular check-out time.

If you still have to pick-up your scholar, you will have to return to pick up their belongings between 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Absent for three (3) or more days?

Please contact the Attendance Coordinator at (202)248-7773 x5116.

STUDENT LIFE DEPARTMENT UPDATES & REMINDERS

- Parents are not permitted on campus during check-in.
- Students are only permitted to check-in with ONE duffle bag/suitcase, ONE backpack, and ONE grocery bag for snacks. Additional bags or items are not permitted.
- Students' snacks should be turned in to their Youth Development Educator (YDE) to be stored in the pantry, not in their dorm room.
- Students are not permitted to visit each others' dorm rooms.
- Students are not permitted to access the dormitory during the academic day for any reason.
- Students are not permitted to order outside food while on campus (with the exception of pre-approved special occasions and events).
- Parents and families are also not permitted to bring outside food to students.
- Students are not permitted to leave campus without permission or for nonemergencies for any reason.
- All students and guests are required to undergo bag and security checks.
- No weapons permitted, this includes the following: self-defense objects, knives, tasers, pepper spray, mace, ice breakers, rattail combs w/metal tips, etc.
- No Drugs Permitted (including OTC meds): Prescription medication must be turned in to the school nurse upon entry & must be accompanied by Medication Authorization Form signed by a doctor.
- **Item Drop-offs:** If you have items that you need to drop off to your scholar, please do so before 9 p.m. Security will contact the appropriate adult to pick it up for them or have your student to pick it up.





STAYING HEALTHY & SAFE

Dear SEED Community,

The SEED School continues to anchor our health and safety measures to current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), DC Health, and the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE). SEED policies will continue to be reviewed or adjusted for School Year 2023-2024 to address shifts in public health guidance.

Currently, there is a nationwide increase in COVID cases, and it is important to continue to minimize the spread within the SEED community.

Please note the following:

Masking is currently optional at SEED DC.

*

COVID-19 vaccination is not required but continues to be encouraged.

*

Scholars/Staff should stay home when sick.

*

SEED will continue to test scholars/staff that present symptoms while on campus.

WELLNESS SUITE MEDICATION REQUIREMENTS

Please be reminded that that only parents/guardians/caregivers or authorized adults can bring medication to the Wellness Suite. Medication will not be accepted from students and students are not allowed to carry medication on their person, with the exception of an asthma inhaler.

form must be filled out by the doctor. Parents must also sign the form before school medical personnel can administer medication. Only creams, antibiotics, or medical equipment will be sent home on Fridays during checkout and that no student will be allowed to take medication home. Be sure to request for your pharmacist to divide the medication in two (2) bottles, one to keep at home and one to be left at school. Also we have over the counter medications here and all parents should fill out the form if their student needs to take any over the counter medications. All of the medical forms mentioned here can be found on the *health & wellness suite page* of the school website.

Click here to review the full <u>medication policy</u>.

Thank you,

The Wellness Team: Nrs. Colbert & Ms. Faison 202-248-3008 (phone) 202-318-8625 (fax)



PowerSchool Portal for Parents & Families

The SEED School of Washington, D.C. is proud to offer a tool that parents and family members may use to stay connected to their school.

The PowerSchool Parent & Family Portal gives you real-time access to valuable information such as grades, assignment details, & messages from teachers.

Through the portal, view your scholar's:



ACADEMIC HISTORY



TEST RESULTS



ATTENDANCE



& MORE!





You can log in any time from any computer, tablet, or mobile phone.

GET ALERTS VIA:







EMAIL

Receive alerts about attendance, school events, & weather-related closures.

Turn over for more info on how to set up your Parent Portal,

Parent & Family Portal: Getting Started

How do I sign up for the Parent & Family Portal & set up my account? You must have a personal email address to sign up for a Parent & Family Portal account.

You can register for a free email account using Gmail, Outlook, Yahoo, or a similar service..

WHERE DO I START?

Visit https://seedschool.powerschool.com/public/

- Click "Create an account"
- Enter your first & last name and email address
- · Create a password at least 6 characters
- Re-enter password
- Enter student's name (If you have multiple student's @ SEED, each will have their own access ID & password)

HAVE YOUR CONFIDENTIAL ID READY

- Enter Confidential ID (provided by school)
- Enter Access Password (provided by school)
- Select appropriate relationship to student

Once completed, you will be taken to the login page of the Parent & Family Portal

DOWNLOAD THE MOBILE APP

- App Store or Play Store
- · Enter district code: FQGN
- Click Continue
- Enter Confidential ID
- Enter Password
- You're all set to go!

Still need help?

Contact the registrar:

ctyson@seedschooldc.org

