

THE WEEKLY FALCON

for the week of 11/19/2023



NEWS FROM THE NEST

Gratitude Through Tenacity and Resilience

To Our SEED DC Families,

Please take a moment and recognize your scholars. In a time of great change at SEED DC, the vast majority of them continue to rise to the occasion and exhibit the characteristics and core values that make this a unique and incredibly special educational community. Many demonstrate an understanding of persistence and growth as they adapt to the ongoing increase in expectations that align with excellence. I see this as a tremendous opportunity to not only prepare them for success tomorrow, but to afford them the most meaningful, preparatory chapter as part of their every day. I am grateful to be guiding a group of scholars who collectively acknowledge the importance of tenacity and resilience in both their academic and personal lives.

We will continue to emphasize the importance of a strong, consistent cell phone policy at SEED DC. I strongly encourage you to continually reiterate your understanding as a parent/guardian/caretaker of the importance of boundaries and rules in a highly functioning community. It is sometimes challenging for young people to understand both the immediate and long-term implications of a society with minimal and/or poorly implemented guidelines. Cell phones are only one example, and it is critical that we manage their use in a responsible and thoughtful way. The protocol that all scholars wear the SEED approved uniform on a daily basis is also a reasonable, non-negotiable expectation. This includes scholars coming to the academic building without bonnets, ski masks, hats or any other head coverings. I am again asking that you assist us in creating an academic environment that demonstrates we are focused, consistent and universally in agreement that we have come to the space prepared to be challenged, engaged and in pursuit of maximizing our full potential. As adults, we realize it is the culmination of all of the small decisions that most significantly impact the greater outcomes. I am thanking you in advance for supporting us in our efforts to make SEED an optimal learning environment on a daily basis.

As we move into Thanksgiving week, I want to take this time to express to you my sincerest gratitude for choosing our school for your Falcon. As many of you know, I have come from an extensive background in multiple states, and I am keenly aware that there are numerous options when families select an academic environment. I know that you are counting on us to thoughtfully and thoroughly ready each of our scholars for collegiate success and a future that is full of opportunity. I wished and expected the very same for my own four sons throughout their K-12 journey and beyond. With that in mind, please know I am fiercely committed to ensuring we are providing a strong, vibrant, academically rigorous, and holistically exceptional comprehensive experience for each of our scholars at SEED DC. While I realize this is a ambitious charge, it is one that my team will continue to pursue without exception. Our scholars are so very deserving and we are absolutely capable of being exceptional, of rising above adversity and of being a shining example of exemplary far beyond Washington, D.C.!

Wishing you peace, hope, light and fulfillment as we embark upon the Holiday Season.

Exceedingly Grateful,
Ms. Hood

Upcoming Events

- **11/21:** Tuesday check-out, 3:05-5 p.m.
- **11/22-24: *Thanksgiving Break - Campus Closed, No School for Students & Staff***
- **12/11:** Picture Day Make-ups, 9-11:30 a.m.
- **12/22/2023-1/3/2024: *Winter Break - Campus Closed***
- **1/4/2024:** Classes Resume - Check-in, 6-7:30 a.m.



The SEED Public Charter School
& Jaret Patterson's "Will2Win"
Foundation Presents...

1st Annual

#SEEDWillWin

Turkey Drive

Please Join us at The SEED Public
Charter School for our first
annual #SEEDWillWin turkey
drive.

Powered by Cup of Coffee With Jesus
Podcast, Jaret Patterson of the Los
Angeles Chargers and his non- profit
"TheWill2Win" Foundation.

November 21st 2023

4300 C St SE, Washington D.C 20019



3:00pm-5:00pm

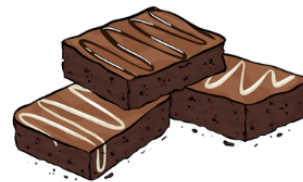
While Supplies Last!



Monthly Attendance Incentives

OCTOBER

Brownies



NOVEMBER

Hot
Chocolate



DECEMBER

Movie Day



DECEMBER

Doughnuts



FEBRUARY

Fidget Toy



SCHOLARS WHO ARE PRESENT EVERY DAY FOR THE MONTHS LISTED WILL RECEIVE AN INCENTIVE. INCENTIVES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

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. Also, remind your scholar that bonnets, ski masks, or any other headgear should be left in the dormitory and not worn during the academic day.

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 event 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.

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

SEED UNIFORM	
Shirts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Belts must be worn with pants, shorts or skirts with belt loops.Belt buckles must be plain and appropriate.
Head Gear	<ul style="list-style-type: none">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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">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.*

CLASS OF 2024 ANNOUNCEMENTS

THINKING ABOUT GOING TO COLLEGE? HOW ABOUT GOING TO AN OPEN HOUSE FIRST? SCAN THE LINK BELOW FOR THE DATES!

SCAN ME






BROUGHT TO YOU BY
THE ALPHA ACHIEVERS OF HOWARD COUNTY



www.apa.org

ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADES 10-12

 District of Columbia
Office of the State Superintendent of Education

Being an OSSE Scholar has made me a more independent person. I feel like I can do anything by myself.
- OSSE Scholar

2024 OSSE SCHOLARS

Summer Enrichment Program

APPLICATION AND SELECTION TIMELINE

OSSE Scholars Website: [Click Here to Visit](#)
OSSE Scholars 2024 Application: [Click Here to Begin](#)

Application Opens: Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2023

The Application and Selection process for the 2024 OSSE Scholars cohort has five parts. All applicants must complete both parts of the QuickBase application by the posted deadlines to begin the process. Applicants who meet the minimum eligibility criteria will be considered for an interview and all interviewees are considered by the OSSE Scholars Selection Committee for acceptance into the 2024 OSSE Scholars cohort.

QuickBase Application		
PART 1		PART 2
Part 1 of the QuickBase application is a simple account creation form. Applicants enter their name, personal contact information, high school contact information, and verify they meet the minimum eligibility requirements for the OSSE Scholars program. Part 1 opens: September 20 Part 1 closes: October 20		All eligible applicants who submit Part 1 by the deadline are invited to complete Part 2 of the QuickBase application. Part 2 mirrors a college application; applicants must complete short answer questions and an essay, and upload several documents to verify program eligibility. Part 2 closes: November 10
Interview		
PART 3 Interviews are conducted virtually over Microsoft Teams. Two interviewers from OSSE conduct each interview. Students must be prepared to discuss the summer college programs they are most interested in and how the program(s) will contribute to their personal college and career goals. Interviews: December 4-8		
OSSE Scholars Selection Committee Convenes: December 13-14		
Finalist Decisions Released: December 15		
Finalist Meeting	OSSE Scholars Orientation	
PART 4 This meeting is held virtually over Microsoft Teams and required for applicants to be considered for the 2024 OSSE Scholars cohort. Attendees have the opportunity to learn more about the program and expectations of an OSSE Scholar before committing to the program. Finalist Meeting: December 20	Final Decisions Released: December 21	PART 5 Orientation for the 2024 OSSE Scholars cohort is held virtually over Microsoft Teams. Attendance is mandatory. Orientation: January 4

Applicants and families should mark these meeting dates on their calendars when applying. If you are selected to move forward to Parts 4 and 5 of the application process, attendance is **mandatory** – it is important to plan ahead now!



ARE YOU IN HIGH SCHOOL? EAGER TO CHANGE THE WORLD, AT HOME OR ABROAD?

JOIN LEARNSERVE FELLOWS!

LearnServe International brings together high school students from D.C., Maryland and Virginia to come up with ideas and launch businesses that make real impact on issues like climate change, racial equality and social justice.

We're seeking dedicated youth from public, independent and charter schools in DC, Maryland, and Virginia that have a passion to create social change with a community of peers.

LearnServe gave me a newfound perspective on how I approach social problems, and gave me the tools to find solutions.

HANNAH, LearnServe Fellow 2020

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

Click the flier to the right to apply online.

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!

WHEN

- September - March
In-Person/hybrid weekly sessions
Wednesdays, 2:30-4:30 or Thursdays, 4:30-6:30pET
Location TBD (in downtown DC)

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.

PROGRAM COST

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

HOW TO APPLY

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.
82% 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."

DEMIA, LearnServe Fellow 2020

VISIT US

To learn more about our programs and application deadlines and to read stories 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

attendance@seedschooldc.org 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 non-emergencies 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.

In order for the school to administer prescription medication, a [medical authorization 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 [medication policy](#).

Thank you,

The Wellness Team:

Nrs. Colbert & Ms. Faison

202-248-3008 (phone)

202-318-8625 (fax)

Maintaining Your MENTAL HEALTH

Need someone to talk to? We're here to help! Certified clinicians are available for you 24/7. Call the Department of Behavioral Health mental health hotline: 1-888-793-4357.

Tips for Reducing Anxiety:



Reach out for help; your mental health is important.



Exercise regularly.



Limit time spent in public places.



If working from home or in self-quarantine, arrange your space so it's calming. Make sure you shower and get dressed like you're going to work.



Moderate news intake.



Practice deep breathing exercises or other methods of meditation.

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 scholar and 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:



TEXT



PHONE



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/>

1

- 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)

2

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

3

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