

PTSA Committees 2020-2021

COUNSELING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Counseling Advisory Committee (CAC) is a constructive, working committee comprised of parents, counselors, and SGA representatives who work together to assist the Counseling Department to provide the best possible services for students and their families. Support provided includes but is not limited to: organization of informational meetings, providing encouragement to the counseling staff, and building better communication between the school and families. Over the course of the school year, the CAC will organize the “Meet The Counselors” breakfast; six evening, grade-level parent information meetings; and six afternoon Q&A discussions for parents featuring Counselors, Resource Teachers, or students as panelists. Events announced via Whitnet.

DIRECTORY

The Directory Committee works with the Membership VPs, the A to Z organization, Whitman administration and representatives of the senior class to compile updates and corrections to the Whitman Telephone Directory published each fall. The directory includes contact information for staff, PTSA, and students. It is used widely throughout the Whitman community. Sale of the directory is a major fund-raiser for the senior class and every PTSA parent membership includes a directory. The committee may follow up with parents to verify their personal information, and assist with the distribution of the directory after publication.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION COMMITTEE

This Committee plans events that facilitate embracing difference as an asset and engaging in open conversation about diversity and inclusion at Whitman. After a kick off meeting in Sept./Oct., a proposed agenda of events is created that brings families together for open discussions and collaboration around ideas for the school year.

HOMECOMING

In order to continue to grow the number of student events that occur in a safe environment, the newly formed Homecoming committee works in support of the Student Government Association (SGA) to organize an event after the traditional Homecoming activity. The committee will co-plan and collaborate with the SGA to provide an entertaining, safe, alcohol and drug free environment from 11pm-1am. The committee researches, negotiates and contracts vendors, co-designs the event décor and organizes the event logistics.

INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT - An evening, traditionally held in March, of food, dance, entertainment, and cultural events from the many diverse countries represented at Whitman. The committee coordinates with the ESOL Department, additional staff, international families and students to plan the event.

LAPTOPS & TABLETS

The Laptop Donation Program is intended to provide kids who may not be able to afford computers/iPads/chrome books with these items. The Principal and his team identify kids who could use a little help and are able to purchase items with the funds the program provides. The coordinator of the program sends emails to the Whitman Community asking for donations of used laptops, computers, iPhones, iPads etc.

Working with a former Whitman parent, the electronics are then refurbished. Some items may be donated to our sister school, Wheaton.

MEDIA CENTER

Media Center volunteers support the Media Center staff during Whitman lunches, periods five and six, when the center is generally at its busiest. Volunteers can sign up for weekly or twice monthly slots, each slot a two hour duration. It's a great way to support the school while getting a glimpse into the day to day life of our Whitman students.

"NEW TO WHITMAN" PARENT LIAISON

The Parent Liaison serves as a resource to new families and encourages participation to school coffees, meetings, school clubs and other events through out the year to stay informed, active and connected to the Walt Whitman Community. Names of new families who register during the school year are collected at the registrar's office.

POST PROM

Plans and raises all monies to support the after prom party held from 1:00 am to 5:00 am at Whitman, immediately following the prom in May each year. The committee consists of two to three co-chairs, 15 committee chairs, and over 150 volunteers the night of the party. "Post-prom" is a part of a coalition of 26 public and 12 private schools working together to provide an entertaining, safe, alcohol and drug free celebration.

PRINCIPAL'S COFFEE FOR RISING 9TH GRADERS

Committee coordinates two coffees, one in June and one in August. Includes ordering food, purchasing paper goods, coordinating with the PTSA President on publicizing the event, and assisting at the events.

SPIRITWEAR COMMITTEE

Coordinates the ordering and sale of "Whitman" apparel such as t-shirts, shorts, sweatshirts, baseball caps, as well as school spirit items such as lanyards, magnets, pencils, and stickers. The committee sells merchandise throughout the school year online via the spirit wear page on the Whitman website as well as at a number of events, such as back to school night and freshman parent coffees. Also, the committee occasionally sells directly to students during lunch periods to help spread Whitman pride and spirit.

STAFF APPRECIATION

The Staff Appreciation Committee coordinates approximately 10 events throughout the school year for staff, including buffet lunches for 9 monthly staff meetings held on Monday afternoons and, in December, holiday treat boxes for all 230+ Whitman staff. The Committee seeks and coordinates food contributions from Whitman families for each of these events, and provides the setup, implementation and cleanup for each event.

Time Commitment: The committee's work is September-June. ~ One event per month that requires about 3 hours on a Monday

STRESSBUSTERS

The Stressbusters Committee, whose informal motto/mantra is "doing well while feeling well" seeks to provide the Whitman community (e.g. students, faculty, and parents) with learning opportunities and experiences that facilitate individual and collective well being. The committee champions programs and special activities throughout the year to support this goal and broaden the definition of success and satisfaction during the high school years.

STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING (SSL)

Assists the school SSL Coordinator, and other staff to promote SSL opportunities.

WHITCOM

Whitcom is a managed, unmoderated, e-mail discussion group open to parents, faculty, and staff of Whitman. Whitcom is for informal communication about topics related to students at Whitman, such as items lost at school, requests for tutors or carpools, and general questions regarding sports or other after-school activities and events. The manager posts the weekly community announcements.

Time Commitment: This position is very flexible, with a small time commitment, and can be done from home — an easy way to contribute to the Whitman community. 1-2 hours per week, spread over course of school year.

WHITNET SUBSCRIPTIONS

The chair maintains the subscription list and approves new members to Whitnet.

WHITMAN BUILDING APPEARANCE & BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

The chair makes sure the two planters in the front and the two in the courtyard are being cleaned up every season with adding seasonal flowers and coordinate with Whitman maintenance to make sure they are getting watered on a regular basis.

WHITMAN CLUBS NIGHT

This committee coordinates an evening in September when clubs and organizations showcase the variety of activities offered at Whitman. In conjunction with this evening, the chairs compile a pamphlet for parents and students which lists descriptions and officers of all clubs.

Time Commitment: End of August to third week of September.

WHITMAN REWARDS PROGRAM

This committee coordinates parent sign-ups of local chains including Harris Teeter, AmazonSmile, and Shutterfly that have programs that payback money to Whitman including sending reminders and advertising the links to Whitman community.

WHITWORLD

Whitworld is open to all international and American families at Whitman. Monthly cultural and social events are arranged to enjoy the richness of cultural diversity in this area, help them and their students integrate into the Whitman community and provide information and support to new families.