

Parents Council

O F W A S H I N G T O N

CONNECTING SCHOOLS ▪ SHARING IDEAS ▪ ENGAGING PARENTS

Who We Are

- PCW is a non-profit, membership organization established in 1964 for independent school communities (grades K through 12) in the Washington, DC metropolitan area



Parents Council of Washington Mission Statement

Our mission is to promote excellence in education by fostering communication between students, parents, and independent schools.



PCW Membership

- Membership of 58 independent schools, representing approximately 27,000 students
- Schools include:
 - Lower Schools (46), Middle Schools (43) and Upper Schools (33)
 - Schools in DC (23), Maryland (23), Virginia (12)
 - Co-ed (45), single gender/female (8), single gender/male (5)
 - Religiously-affiliated schools (24), secular (34)

Structure/Financial Support

- PCW is managed by a board of 16 all-volunteer members, with a part-time paid Administrator
- Each PCW Board member is responsible for providing regular updates to 3-5 member schools, through emails/contacts with PCW representatives (usually parents) appointed by the schools
- Member schools pay annual dues to PCW

Programs

- Nine programs each year, for parents, students and administrators of member schools
- Each year a theme is chosen:
 - 2017-2018 – Raising 21st Century Citizens
 - 2016-2017 -- Minding the Brain: Research, Education and Parenting
 - 2015-2016 -- Between Park and Overdrive: Finding Balance in Our Families
 - 2014-2015 -- Rethinking Success
 - 2013-2014 -- Communication and Reaching Out: Creating Healthier Communities

Programs

- Orientation Program (PCW Reps/PA Presidents)
- Fall Speaker Event (open to all/public)
- Movie Screening (for member parents and educators)
- Best Practices Program (all member communities)
- Middle School Student Leader Breakfast (selected)
- High School Student Leader Breakfast (selected)
- Dean of Students Program (upper school member Deans)
- Spring Speaker Event (open to all/public)
- Parent Association Presidents' Forum (PA Presidents)

Speakers

- Speakers Series by prominent experts on education and parenting held each Fall and Spring.
- Recent topics include:
 - Glenn Whitman, *Learning and the Child's Brain: What the Research Suggests* (April 2017)
 - Tina Payne Bryson, *The Whole-Brain Child and Teen: Revolutionary Strategies to Nurture the Developing Mind* (October 2016)
 - Brigid Schulte, *Overwhelmed: How to Work, Love & Play When No One Has the Time* (April 2016)
 - Jessica Lahey, *The Gift of Failure* (November 2015)
 - Ron Leiber, *How to Talk to Your Kids about Money* (April 2015)
 - Susan Cain, *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking* (October 2014)
 - Panel presentation, *Mindfulness to Cultivate Resilience, Focus, and Compassion at Home and at School* (May 2014)
 - Dr. Brad Sachs, *Mighty Words: Creating Conversations that Change Children's Lives* (October 2013)
 - Common Sense Media, *What Every Parent Should Know About Kids and Technology, but Didn't Know to Ask* (April 2013)

Movie Screening

- Screening of an informative, current movie relating to parenting and education



Best Practices Forum

- Panel discussion on best practices topics
- Speakers are administrators from member schools
- Attended by administrators and parents from member schools
- Extensive, archived compilations on PCW website of peer school submissions
- Prior topics include:
 - A Child's Brain: What Schools Know and How It Impacts Learning, Teaching, and Parenting (2017)
 - Finding the Right Balance: How Schools Encourage Students & Families to Discover and Maintain a Healthy Balance (2016)
 - Redefining Success: How Schools Define, Recognize and Encourage Students' Diverse Strengths (2015)
 - Community Service: Its Purpose, Impact and Programs within Our Schools (2014)
 - The Use of 21st Century Technology in Our Schools: Peaks and Pitfalls (2013)
 - Encouraging Kindness in Our Schools (2012)
 - Diversity (2011)
 - Parent Networking (2010)

Upper School/Middle School Student Leader Breakfasts

- Upper school student leaders spend morning in a confidential, moderated forum to discuss relevant and common issues/concerns
- 7th grade student leaders talk about issues of relevance, with a simultaneous forum for middle school heads, counselors and administrators

Dean of Students Program

- Opportunity for Upper School Deans of Students of member schools to network and discuss the issues raised at the Upper School Student Leader Breakfast.
- Prior to the event, Deans are provided a summary of the USSLB that does not contain any student or school identifying information.

Other PCW Programs

- Orientation in the fall for all PCW Representatives at member schools.
- Spring session for PA Presidents – outgoing and incoming.



On-Line Resources

- The PCW website is a one-stop resource for anyone wanting to learn more about the PCW. www.parents council.org
- PCW Facebook page has regular postings of articles on parenting and education. [ParentsCouncilofWashington](https://www.facebook.com/ParentsCouncilofWashington)
- Follow us on Twitter @ PCWschools

