



2018-2019 Theme - The Road to Well-Being: Empowering Our Students

Mission

To promote excellence in education by fostering communication among parents, students, and independent schools in the Washington, DC area through programs, resources, and networking opportunities.

Vision

Connecting Schools. Sharing Ideas. Engaging Parents.

Who We Are

Established in 1964 to create connections and improve outcomes in the fields of education and parenting, PCW is governed by a rotating volunteer Board of Directors. All members of the Board (15 at present) are parents of member school students/graduates, serving 3-year terms. It is the Board, with the help of a part-time Administrator, that organizes and coordinates all programs and resources.

Who We Serve

PCW is a nonprofit membership organization serving the interests of its member school communities. Eligible members are independent schools (grades K-12) in the Washington, DC metropolitan area, paying annual dues based on school enrollment, and appointing school representatives to liaison with PCW to benefit their school communities with programs, resources, and networking opportunities.

➤ **Current Member Profile:**

- Member Schools Represented (58)
 - ✓ Lower (46), Middle (43), Upper (33)
 - ✓ DC (23), Maryland (23), Virginia (12)
 - ✓ Co-ed (45), single gender/girl (8), single gender/boy (5)
 - ✓ Religious affiliated (24), secular (34)
- Students Represented (27,000+)

What We Offer

PCW provides member school communities (administrators, faculty, staff, parents, and students) with robust [programs](#) (typically 8-10 per year), abundant [resources](#) (via our website), and ample [networking opportunities](#) pertaining to education, child development, and/or parenting.

PCW programs (with the exception of the Deans' Event) result in follow-up written summaries and takeaways. These and other resources are readily available and maintained for all to access at www.parentscouncil.org.

Annual programs are designed for differing audiences. Below is a description of the types of programs offered throughout the academic year, with additional information on the respective target audience.

➤ **ANNUAL PROGRAMS** *(with an indication of date and to whom the event is open)*

- **Orientation Program** – *September (for PCW Representatives and Parent Association Presidents)*
Orientation presents member schools with an overview of PCW and what it has to offer, followed by insights from a highly-regarded speaker. PCW Representatives and PA Presidents meet and network with other school leaders and are provided guidance on how to best participate and take advantage of PCW programs and utilize resources available throughout the school year. In recent years, speakers have included Susanna Jones, Elinor Scully, Patricia Lyons, Michelle Kriebel, and Katherine Koestner.
- **Speaker Events (Fall and/or Spring)** – *October/April (for member school communities & the public)*
The speaker series features prominent authors, educators, and experts presenting on today's issues, theories, and practices impacting our independent school communities. In past years, we have had two speakers per year – one in Fall and the other in Spring. Speakers have included Beth Kobliner, Glenn Whitman, Tina Payne Bryson, Jessica Lahey, Susan Cain, Brigid Schulte, Ron Lieber, Brad Sachs, Annie Fox, Ned Johnson, Robert Kosasky, and William Stixrud.
- **Movie Screening** – *January (for all in your member school communities)*
A screening of a current and informative movie related to parenting and/or education. In the past two years, PCW has shown *Screenagers* and *Most Likely to Succeed*.
- **Upper School Student Leader Breakfast** – *February (for selected 11th/12th grade students)*
This program is open to school-selected juniors and seniors from member schools (2 students per school). The morning program (which includes both small and large group sessions) is a confidential and moderated forum in which student leaders explore and discuss topics relevant to high school life. A summary of the discussion, with no attribution to or identifying information on individual participants, is prepared and shared with Deans of Students (*see Deans' Event below*).
- **Middle School Student Leader Breakfast** – *February (for selected 7th grade students and counselors/administrators)* The middle school breakfast is for seventh grade students, accompanied by a school counselor. Each member school selects two students to attend. Students discuss relevant issues in both large and small groups, with the guidance of a moderator. Topics often include self-image, technology, social status, communication, academics, etc. At the same time, in a separate session, middle school counselors meet to discuss common interests and concerns.
- **Deans of Students Breakfast** – *March (follow-up to USSLB for member upper school Deans of Students)*
A unique opportunity for upper school Deans of Students to come together and collaboratively and confidentially explore issues of shared interest. Prior to the event, for discussion purposes, Deans receive a summary of issues and insights from the Upper School Student Leader Breakfast (with no attribution to or identification of any specific student or school).
- **Best Practices Forum** – *April (for all in your member school communities)*
This forum assembles a panel of 3-4 administrators/faculty for a discussion and Q & A session on best practices related to the PCW annual theme. Attendees include member school administrators, educators, and parents. Prior to the program, PCW asks all member schools to submit their best practices on the chosen topic. Subsequent to the program, PCW writes a summary of panelist presentations and combines it with school submissions into a comprehensive e-binder on the topic. E-binders are a tremendous resource for member schools and are maintained on the PCW website for access by interested parties. Prior topics include: Raising 21st Century Citizens, Your Child's Brain, Finding Balance, Re-Thinking Success, Community Service, 21st Century Technology, Kindness, Diversity, Parent Networking, and Students & Stress.
- **Parent Association (PA) Presidents Forum** – *May (for incoming and outgoing member school PA Presidents)* An opportunity for incoming member school Parent Association Presidents to gain insights, perspectives, and tips from outgoing PA Presidents on "What I know now that I wish I knew

then.” The forum allows PA Presidents to speak with their peers from other member schools. They have the opportunity to hear differing approaches and discuss common problems affecting all PA Presidents.

➤ **RESOURCES**

- PCW website with access to calendar of upcoming events
- Archived summaries of past PCW programs
- Complete e-binders from all Best Practices programs
- Reflections from member Heads of Schools
- Member school contact information
- Social media/Facebook posts/topical articles
- Checklists and materials for PCW Representatives & PA Presidents
- Student reflections on issues of relevance to today’s teens
- Various school/parent takeaways

➤ **NETWORKING/BENEFITS**

- Ongoing opportunities (for Reps, PA Presidents, Administrators, Faculty, Parents, Students)
- Connecting schools, sharing ideas, and engaging parents
- Dynamic local and national best-selling authors as presenters at events
- Visibility for/among independent schools in the Washington, DC area

How We Do It

- ✓ PCW Board member liaisons maintain contact with member school administrators, PA Presidents, and PCW Representatives to coordinate, advertise, and deliver PCW programs, resources, and opportunities.
- ✓ PA Presidents and PCW Representatives share program/resource information with their school communities and encourage attendance at programs (i.e. Fall Speaker, Movie Screening, Best Practices, Spring Speaker).
- ✓ PA Presidents and PCW Representatives attend programs as well (Fall Speaker, Movie Screening, Best Practices, Spring Speaker); both attend Orientation, and PA Presidents attend the PA Presidents’ Forum.
- ✓ Member school administrators and faculty present at a variety of the programs, while other local and national speakers and authors are highlighted at programs such as Fall and Spring Speaker.
- ✓ Interested and well-suited member schools host PCW annual programs.
- ✓ PA Presidents and PCW Representatives interested in a position on the PCW Board of Directors are encouraged to contact administration@parents council.org.

Updated: September 5, 2018