

College Planning Night

Class of 2025

January 9, 2024

James Madison High School

~ Agenda ~

Welcome, Opening Remarks & Introductions

Timothy Buckley, Director of Student Services

Panel Presentation

Kelly Cardew, Assistant Director of Admissions

George Mason University

Jeannine Lalonde, Associate Dean of Admission

University of Virginia

Rebekah LaPlante, Director of Campus Engagement

Radford University

Stacey Thomas, Regional Assistant Director of Admissions for Recruitment

University of Kentucky

Madison High School Student Services Department

Student Last Name

Grades 9-11

A-Burt

Bus-Duf

Dug-Hel

Hem-Lee

Leh-Mor

Mos-Rao

Rap - Sua

Sub-Z

College & Career Specialist

Director of Student Services

Counselor

T.J. Anderson

Brandy Buckley

Nicholas LaLone

Joelle Shin

Mallory Bacalis

Erin Kennedy

TBD

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Upcoming Opportunities for JMHS/FCPS Students

(Look for information in "[This Week at Madison](#)" about post-secondary events)

Fairfax County Public Schools Annual Gap Year Fair

Tuesday, January 30, 2024 (Snow Date: February 1, Marshall High School)

6:00-8:30 pm

George C. Marshall High School, 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22043

This event is for high school students and parents who are interested in learning more about the growing array of gap year opportunities. The evening will begin with a presentation in the auditorium from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Immediately following, the program fair will be held in the cafeteria from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., with representatives from over 30 programs offering gap year opportunities. Students and their families are encouraged to meet the representatives and learn about the variety of experiences available. Register at: usagapyearfairs.org

U.S. Service Academy & ROTC Night for Madison, Oakton, Fairfax, Marshall and Woodson High Schools

Tuesday, February 13, 2024 | Madison High School

7:00 pm

Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna, VA 22181

Representatives from the U.S. Military Academies and ROTC programs scheduled to attend: U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, U.S. Navy & Marine Corps, U.S. Merchant Marine, and U.S. Coast Guard, as well as a representative from Congressman Gerry Connolly's office to talk about the nomination process. Each branch will give a brief introduction to the audience and then it is a fair style set up for students and families to speak individually with representatives. No registration required.

Paying for College - The Financial Aid Process for Underclassmen by College Access Fairfax

Spring Dates TBD - visit www.collegeaccessfairfax.org for updates

This program is designed to help current underclassmen (Grades 9-11) and their families understand the financial aid process. Information provided includes understanding Cost of Attendance (COA), when to apply, types and sources of financial aid, forms and financial information required, and how need is determined.

Northern Virginia Regional College Fair

April 10, 2024 @ 6:30-8:30 pm | George Mason University, EagleBank Arena

Registration coming soon: <https://events.admissions.gmu.edu/nvrcfstudents>

Madison HS Junior Focus Day

Thursday, April 11, 2024 | During the School Day

This program is exclusively for the JMHS Class of 2025 and will be held during the school day at Madison HS. Juniors will be able to choose sessions to help them prepare for a variety of post-secondary options. More details will be sent in the Spring!

Madison HS College Planning Night, Part II for Juniors and Families

Thursday, April 11, 2024 @ 7pm | JMHS Auditorium

JMHS Student Services will present information specific to college preparation, college planning resources, and the college essay. There will also be time for Q&A. JMHS will email students and parents/guardians with details, closer to the event date.

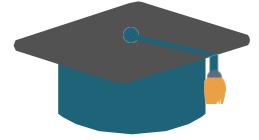
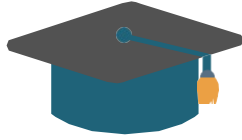
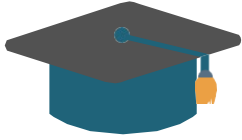
NOVA Vision 2024

Wednesday, April 17, 2024 | Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA), Annandale Campus

4:00pm-6:00pm

FCPS and Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA), are offering an opportunity for students with disabilities interested in attending NOVA to learn about available options. The orientation will include presentations from Accommodations and Accessibility Services and Counseling Services, a mock NOVA classroom experience for students, and a NOVA student panel with Q&A session.

Virtual Postsecondary Event Recordings



In October 2023, FCPS students and families had the opportunity to attend 12 virtual sessions related to postsecondary success. The recordings of the sessions are below. To access, click the linked title of the session or enter the URL into your preferred internet browser.

Paying for College

<https://youtu.be/ON1D9AhN55o>

Military 101

<https://youtu.be/ID2POiLdaRU>

Parents as Partners in Academic and Career Planning

<https://youtu.be/4alwKH5V4IM>

Scholarship 101

<https://youtu.be/BL8tRWfYcfl>

Considerations for Students with Disabilities in High School v College

<https://youtu.be/t0mgbmksB0Common>

Advanced Placement AP, Dual Enrollment DE, and International Baccalaureate IB in FCPS

<https://youtu.be/XS3XpsXvMqc>

Exploring Naviance Student

https://youtu.be/_v0cadEdmIM

Standardized Testing in the College Process

<https://youtu.be/106WfwZYllk>

Are you Common App Ready?

<https://youtu.be/yd0FwjK0dtk>

NOVA The Community College Option

<https://youtu.be/CP0gimU3nms>

NOVA Certificates & Workforce Development Programs

<https://youtu.be/iISqG3uokfg>

NOVA La Opción del Colegio Comunitario

<https://youtu.be/HS6pcdYyXIQ>

For more information visit: <https://bit.ly/fcpspostsecondary>



JMHS Class of 2023 ~ Top Attending Institutions Where Students Applied (out of 422 colleges)

	College	Attend	Apply	Accept	Deny	Waitlist	WL Accept	Defer	DF Accept
1	Northern Virginia Community College	55	60	60	0	0	0	0	0
2	Virginia Tech	49	255	96	40	115	1	10	2
3	George Mason University	41	182	155	10	14	3	1	0
4	James Madison University	38	216	144	36	27	0	30	9
5	University of Virginia-Main Campus	26	183	45	108	25	2	24	2
6	Virginia Commonwealth University	19	106	95	6	3	0	0	0
7	Christopher Newport University	13	84	78	4	1	0	1	1
8	Old Dominion University	12	42	40	2	1	1	1	1
9	William & Mary	12	84	32	27	23	5	1	0
10	University of Mary Washington	9	48	46	0	2	0	0	0
11	Brigham Young University-Provo	8	9	8	1	0	0	0	0
12	Pennsylvania State University-Main Campus	8	99	76	21	1	0	1	0
13	Purdue University-Main Campus	8	34	28	5	1	0	3	2
14	University of Colorado Boulder	7	38	31	7	1	1	0	0
15	University of Maryland-College Park	7	58	38	18	0	0	0	0
16	University of Pittsburgh-Pittsburgh Campus	7	82	63	6	13	2	1	0
17	The University of Tennessee-Knoxville	7	43	20	10	16	3	6	0
18	West Virginia University	6	22	20	0	0	0	0	0
19	University of Delaware	5	45	36	5	3	0	0	0
20	Radford University	5	33	31	1	1	0	0	0
21	Florida State University	4	31	13	17	0	0	2	0
22	University of Florida	4	40	15	20	1	0	1	0
23	Georgia Institute of Technology	4	35	7	27	0	0	0	0
24	Northeastern University	4	50	18	16	11	0	9	0
25	University of Arizona	3	14	14	0	0	0	0	0
26	Clemson University	3	52	19	14	17	2	10	2
27	Longwood University	3	24	22	2	0	0	0	0
28	Savannah College of Art & Design (SCAD)	3	5	5	0	0	0	0	0
29	University of South Carolina-Columbia	3	52	23	13	17	2	4	0
30	Syracuse University	3	16	12	0	4	2	0	0
31	The George Washington University	3	21	9	4	8	0	0	0
32	University of Wisconsin-Madison	3	26	7	10	10	1	3	1
33	The University of Alabama	2	7	6	0	1	0	0	0
34	American University	2	16	7	1	8	0	0	0
35	Arizona State University-Tempe	2	15	15	0	0	0	0	0
36	Auburn University	2	13	7	6	1	0	1	0
37	College of Charleston	2	25	15	2	8	0	0	0
38	University of Cincinnati-Main Campus	2	6	3	2	0	0	0	0
39	University of Denver	2	4	3	1	0	0	0	0
40	Dickinson College	2	9	6	1	1	0	0	0

This data is student self-reported. Withdrawn data not included. Related information available in [Naviance](#).

Deferred (DF) = Student applied early to the institution and was deferred to the regular applicant pool.

Institutions with less than two students attending are not listed.



JMHS Class of 2023 ~ Top Attending Institutions Where Students Applied (out of 422 colleges)

	College	Attend	Apply	Accept	Deny	Waitlist	WL Accept	Defer	DF Accept
41	Duke University	2	23	2	14	4	1	1	0
42	Eastern Mennonite University	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
43	Elon University	2	20	20	0	0	0	2	2
44	Flagler College	2	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
45	Franklin and Marshall College	2	5	4	0	1	0	0	0
46	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	2	23	9	10	3	0	3	0
47	Indiana University-Bloomington	2	13	10	1	2	0	0	0
48	Ithaca College	2	4	3	1	0	0	0	0
49	Johns Hopkins University	2	18	2	14	2	0	0	0
50	Kent State University at Kent	2	8	8	0	0	0	0	0
51	University of Kentucky	2	11	9	1	1	0	0	0
52	Lehigh University	2	13	9	1	2	0	0	0
53	Louisiana State University	2	11	10	0	0	0	0	0
54	Loyola University Maryland	2	6	6	0	0	0	0	0
55	Miami University, Oxford	2	9	9	0	0	0	0	0
56	University of Michigan-Ann Arbor	2	52	9	20	18	1	14	1
57	The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	2	30	3	24	1	0	0	0
58	University of Pennsylvania	2	29	2	21	3	0	0	0
59	Princeton University	2	14	2	10	1	0	3	1
60	University of Rhode Island	2	4	3	1	0	0	0	0
61	Salisbury University	2	6	6	0	0	0	0	0
62	Ohio State University-Main Campus	2	27	15	10	2	0	2	0
63	Tulane University of Louisiana	2	12	4	4	2	0	3	0
64	United States Naval Academy	2	5	2	2	1	0	0	0
65	Univ. of Applied Sciences & Arts of Southern Switzerland	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
66	University of Lynchburg	2	4	4	0	0	0	0	0
67	University of Utah	2	7	6	1	0	0	0	0
68	University of Vermont	2	14	10	0	3	0	1	1

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Institutions with less than two students attending are not listed.

GET THE MOST OUT OF A CAMPUS VISIT IN **6 STEPS**

1 DECIDE WHERE AND HOW

See if your school arranges group trips to colleges or if you could get a group of friends together and visit the campus. A family trip is another option and allows you to involve your family in the process.

2 PREPARE FOR YOUR VISIT

Before you set out, get a map of the college campus and pick out places of interest. Call the college's admission office to schedule a guided tour of the campus.

3 TAKE YOUR OWN TOUR

Just wandering around the campus on your own or with friends can be the best way to get a feel for what a college is like.

4 EXPLORE THE FACILITIES

Finding the spots on campus where students gather or asking a student where the best place to eat is can give you a feel for the character of the college. Visit the library and check out the gym or theater. Ask an admission officer if you can tour a dorm and a classroom.

5 MAKE CONNECTIONS

Talk to current students. Ask the students at the next table or sitting nearby what they like best about the college.

6 TAKE NOTES

During your visit, write down some notes about your experience. What did you see that excited you? Are there aspects of the college that you don't like? If so, what are they?

Questions to Ask During Your Visit:

ASK TOUR GUIDES/STUDENTS

- What are the best reasons to go to this college?
- What's it like to go from high school to college?
- What do you do in your free time? On the weekends?
- What do you love about this college?
- What do you wish you could change about this college?
- Why did you choose this college?
- What is it like to live here?
- What does the college do to promote student involvement in campus groups, extracurricular activities, or volunteerism?

ASK PROFESSORS

- What are the best reasons to go to this college?
- Can a student be mentored by professors, graduate students, or upperclassmen?
- How are professors rated by the college? Does the college think mentoring and meetings for project guidance are important?
- How does the college help students have access to professors outside class? Do professors join students for lunch, help with community service groups, or guide student organizations?
- How many students do research or other kinds of projects for a semester or more?

ASK FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

- How much has your total college cost for each student risen in the past year?
- How much do your students usually owe in loans when they graduate?
- What is the average income of graduates who had the same major that interests me?
- Will my costs go up when your tuition goes up, or can we use the same tuition rate I started with so I'll know the costs for four years? What should I expect in terms of increases in living expenses?
- How many students usually graduate in the major that interests me? How long do these students usually take to get their degrees? In what ways does the college help students graduate in four years?

Campus Visit Checklist

Visiting a college campus helps you get a sense of what a college — and life at that college — is like. This can help you decide whether the college is a good fit for you.

GATHER INFORMATION

Find out what you need to do to apply, and see if the college's class and major offerings are what you want:

- Take part in a group information session at the admission office.
- Interview with an admission officer.
- Pick up financial aid information.
- Sit in on a class that interests you. If classes aren't in session, just see what the classrooms are like.
- Meet a professor who teaches a subject that interests you.
- Talk to students about what they think of their classes and professors.
- Get the names and business cards of the people you meet so you can contact them later if you have questions.

EXPLORE THE CAMPUS

Get a feel for student life, and see if this college is a place where you will do well:

- Take a campus tour.
- Talk to current students about the college and life on campus.
- Check out the freshman dorms, and stay overnight on campus if possible.
- Visit the dining hall, fitness center, library, career center, bookstore, and other campus facilities.
- Talk to the coaches of sports that you may want to play.
- Walk or drive around the community surrounding the campus.

CHECK OUT CAMPUS MEDIA

Tune in to learn what's happening on campus and what's on students' minds:

- Listen to the college radio station.
- Read the student newspaper.
- Scan bulletin boards to see what daily student life is like.
- Go to the career center and learn what services it offers.
- Browse the school's website and any campus blogs.
- Read other student publications, such as department newsletters, and literary reviews.

The College Essay

The college essay is your chance to use your voice to add to your college application. Many colleges require the essay as a way to hear from the student directly and to get a sense of who you are in your own words. It's a great opportunity to personalize your application beyond the grades, scores, and other information you've provided and can make a difference at decision time.

8 KEY POINTS THAT ADMISSION OFFICERS LOOK FOR:

- A command of the basics of good writing
- A direct answer to the essay question
- A strong opening paragraph that captures the reader's interest
- A comprehensive argument or narrative—make your point and stick to it
- A style that is comfortable for you and that is appropriate for the subject matter
- Correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling
- Correct data—check your facts, dates, and names
- Succinctness—pay attention to the recommended length

WHAT THE ESSAY CAN DO FOR YOUR APPLICATION:

- Demonstrate your writing ability, a key component of success in college.
- Show that you have thought carefully about where you are applying and why you are a good match for the college, in your own words.
- Explain your commitment to learning and that you are willing and able to be a contributing member to the college community.
- Draw distinctions between you and other applicants, something that selective colleges especially rely on.

An essay will rarely take an applicant out of consideration at a college, but it certainly can elevate an applicant in an admission committee's eyes.

MAKE IT PERSONAL:

- Often you will be asked to write about a personal experience, an achievement, or a person who has been significant to you. Go beyond the what or the who and dig into the how and the why.
- If you write about a trip or event, describe how this experience affected you and is meaningful to you.
- If you are writing about a person in your life, be personal and specific, not just sentimental. Explain how or what this person did for you that is important to you.

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

Revise, revise, revise. Take the time to reread and revise. This process will help you develop a strong opening and a solid direction, and refine what you are trying to express.

Show, don't tell. Give readers such convincing evidence that they will come to the conclusion that you want. Provide detailed examples instead of providing a list of things.

Be authentic. Don't stress trying to write what you think they are looking for—just showcase who you are!

Just get started! Writing something meaningful can be a long process, so get started right away to allow for time to draft and revise. Be sure to write your essay long before the deadline.

SAT vs. ACT

OVERVIEW

	Digital SAT	Paper ACT
Format	Digital only via a College Board app	Paper-and-Pencil
Timing	2 hours and 14 minutes	2 hours and 55 minutes
Accommodations	All timing accommodations are available. Students whose accommodations require a paper test will still be able to take a paper-and-pencil test.	For information on how to request testing accommodations, visit www.compassprep.com/accommodations-requests-sat-vs-act
Structure	Stage Adaptive The difficulty of a section's second stage is based on performance in the first stage; the test tailors the second stage to the student	Static The test does not change based on a student's performance
Sections	2 Sections, each with 2 Stages Reading and Writing Combined R&W Stage 1 (32 min, 27 items) Combined R&W Stage 2 (32 min, 27 items) Math Math Stage 1 (35 min, 22 items) Math Stage 2 (35 min, 22 items)	4 Tests English (45 min, 75 items) Math (60 minutes, 60 items) Reading (35 min, 40 items) Science (35 min, 40 items) Optional Essay (40 minutes, 1 item)
Equating or Unscoed Questions	Both the Reading and Writing and the Math tests will have 4 unscoed questions mixed in with the scoed questions	Students often receive a fifth section of unscoed questions that are used for equating purposes
Test Scores	400–1600 Total Score 200–800 Reading and Writing 200–800 Math Digital SAT scores are equivalent to paper SAT scores. No new SAT-ACT Concordance is necessary.	1–36 Composite Score (rounded average of test scores) 1–36 each test: English, Math, Reading, and Science
Other Scores	No subscores or cross-test scores	Provides raw performance on content areas such as Conventions of Standard English, Algebra, Craft & Structure, and Interpretation of Data
Score Reports	Available days after the exam Students no longer have access to their questions and answers	Available 2 weeks after the exam Student can order Test Information Release (TIR) to receive a digital copy of the multiple-choice test questions for certain administrations
Security	Students have unique tests—an algorithm builds question sets out of a large pool of questions tagged based on qualities ranging from content area to difficulty.	A limited number of form codes are used each administration. Students sign an agreement to keep test questions confidential and are prohibited from using recording devices.

READING AND WRITING/ENGLISH

	Digital SAT	Paper ACT
Timing	64 minutes, evenly divided between 2 stages	English: 45 minutes Reading: 35 minutes
Passage Format	54 passage & question sets One short reading passage (25-150 words) per question	English: 5 medium-length passages with 15 questions each Reading: 4 long passages with 10 questions each
Reading Organization	Reading questions are in the first half of each stage and are organized by domain and then question type: 1. Craft and Structure (Words in Context, Text Structure and Purpose, Cross-Text Connections) 2. Info and Ideas (Central Ideas and Details, Command of Evidence, Inferences)	The four passages come in the same order and from the same categories: 1. Literary narrative or prose fiction 2. Social sciences 3. Humanities 4. Natural sciences
Question Organization	Difficulty increases within each question type	Random
Writing/English Organization	Writing questions are presented in the second half of each Reading and Writing stage and are organized by domain and then question type: 1. Standard English Conventions 2. Info and Ideas (Rhetorical Analysis, Transitions)	The five passages are written to appear like typical high-school level writing Topics range from history reports to personal narrative
Question Organization	Difficulty increases within each question type	Chronological

MATH AND SCIENCE

Timing	70 minutes, evenly divided between 2 stages	60 minutes
Format	44 questions (including about 11 student-produced response questions)	60 questions
Content Areas	Math content has not changed from the paper SAT but domains have been renamed: 1. Algebra 2. Advanced Math 3. Problem Solving and Data Analysis 4. Geometry and Trigonometry	ACT organizes questions into 3 overlapping areas and 5 question types 1. Preparing for Higher Math: Number & Quantity, Algebra, Functions, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability 2. Integrating Essential Skills 3. Statistics & Probability
Question Organization	Difficulty increases within each stage	Difficulty increases within the section
Calculator Use	Approved calculators or the testing application's built-in calculator can be used on all math questions	Approved calculators can be used on the Math Test only
Science	Reading, Writing, and Math questions ask students to interpret graphs and data tables	35-minute section: 6 long passages with graphs and 40 questions

Revised 2023-2024 Optimist International Essay Scholarship Competition Application

PRINT Name _____ Gender _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Date of Birth ____/____/____ Age on Oct 1, 2023 _____

Did you enter any other Optimist Club's Essay Contest this school year? Yes No

Contestant Agreement: I have studied the rules of the contest, and I will be bound by all the requirements. I understand entries will be run through plagiarism and AI detection software.

Contestant's Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

Parent or Guardian Permission:

I, _____, grant the Optimist Club/International my permission to use a picture or video of my son/daughter, for their public relations purposes. Optimist Club/International may use the photo or video in any publication they see fit.

I give my permission for my child/ward to participate in this scholarship contest.

Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

Relationship _____

Sponsoring Optimist Club Name Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

Sponsoring Optimist Club Number 16220

Language: English, or if District language is different: French or Spanish

Official Topic: "Optimism: How it Connects Us"

Each contestant must be given this copy of the rules and complete the entry form, above.

Section I - General Rules

1. The Optimist International Essay Contest is divided into two levels of competition: Club (preliminary contest) and District (scholarship competition). The winner of a local club contest advances to the District Scholarship Competition.
2. Contestants must enter through a local Optimist Club.
3. Contestants must compose an original essay with limited guidance from others. Webster's Dictionary defines an essay as an analytic or interpretive literary composition. Works of fiction or poetry will not be accepted.
4. All District-level contests must have a minimum of three (3) contestants participating.
5. Optimist International will have the right to edit, publish or otherwise duplicate any essay entered into the contest without payment to the author.

Section II - Qualifications for Contestants

1. The contest is open to contestants under the age of **19** as of October 1st of the current Optimist International contest year (October 1 – September 30) **and who have not yet completed secondary school or its equivalent, including CEGEP students in Québec, Canada.** There is no minimum age. Contestants must enter in the District in which they reside. United States contestants attending school on a military installation outside the U.S. are eligible to enter in their last home of record. Contestants residing in non-Districted areas where there are no Optimist Clubs are not eligible for competition.
2. Contestants are eligible for only one Club's essay contest during any given year. (October 1st - September 30th)
3. No individual having previously won a District Essay scholarship will be eligible to compete at any level of the competition again.
4. All contestants at each level of the contest must provide proof of age and identification in the form of a copy of either their birth certificate or passport before participating. A copy of the Club winner's document will be submitted to the District contest.

Section III - Contest Rules

1. Participants must write on the official contest topic for the current year.
2. Each entry must begin with a title page containing topic, number of words, writer's name, address, phone number, name of school and date of birth.
3. The official topic should be at the top of title page and at the top of page 1. (penalty of 3 points)
4. The word count must also be listed at the top of page 1 (penalty of 5 points)
5. Essays must contain at least 700 words but no more than 800 words. Every word of the essay is counted. This does not include the title, bibliography, or footnotes. Hyphenated words count as 1 word. (Deduction of 5 points for each 25 words over/under limit – French essays will allow 50 words over/under before deduction. Words are to be counted manually.
6. Each page of the essay must be numbered starting with page 1, not the title page. The numbers must be centered at the bottom of each page.

7. Any quotations or copyrighted material used in the essay must be identified properly, using a recognized citation format. For example, use of a specific writer's format (such as MLA, APA, Chicago style). Failure to identify non-original material will result in disqualification.
8. No reference can be made in the essay that identifies the contestant, parents, school, community, sponsoring Optimist Club or District. (Deduction of 5 points or fraction based on degree of identification)
9. An essay should be written in English, or it may be written in either French or Spanish if the language used is accepted by the District of entry.
10. The entry must be stapled together in the upper left-hand corner. Covers of any type are not accepted.

Section IV – Judging

1. Judging will be completed by a panel of three qualified judges who are not acquainted with the contestants. At the Club level, judges may be Optimist Members. At the District level, judges must be non-Optimists. (Friends of Optimists are excluded and can be used as judges).
2. In an effort to conceal the identity of each contestant, each entry will be anonymized and assigned a number by the Essay Contest Chair. The assigned number will be placed on the title page and page 1 of the essay. The title page will then be detached and retained by the Essay Contest Chair. The judges will be given the essays bearing only the assigned numbers.
3. Judges will not discuss or compare the essays being judged.
4. Only judges can assign a penalty or award points.

Section V – Scoring of Contest

1. Scoring procedures at all levels of the contest will be identical.
2. Material Organization (Logical interpretation of the subject, adherence to topic): 30 points
3. Creativity: 15 points
4. Vocabulary and Style (Phrasing and continuity): 30 points

5. Grammar, Punctuation, Spelling: 20 points
6. Adherence to contest rules (prepared in a proper format): 5 points

Section VI – Penalties

1. Failure to list official topic on the title page and at the top of page 1 of the essay: 3 points
2. Failure to identify total number of words: 5 points
3. Failure to type essay, doubled-spaced and single-sided: 5 pts. per infraction (15 pt. max)
4. Failure to stay within the 700-800 words: 5 points for each 25 words over/under limit. French Essays will allow 50 words over/under for the deduction. Words are to be counted manually.
5. Self-identification: 5 points or fraction based on degree.

Section VII - Awards

1. Club level – official medallion and/or certificate
2. Clubs are allowed to give monetary awards of up to \$500 per winner for the Essay contest in addition to the official medallions. The Club level awards may be given in the form of a scholarship, savings bond or cash prize but are completely discretionary.
3. District level - plaque and a \$2,500 college scholarship for the first-place winner.
 - A. Scholarships are paid through the Optimist International Foundations in the United States and Caribbean and the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation in Canada.
 - B. Scholarships awarded are for use only at a college, university, or trade school.
 - C. All scholarships will be payable only to the educational institution of the recipient's choice, subject to the approval of Optimist International.
 - D. All scholarships will be administered by Optimist International.
 - E. Winners of an Optimist International scholarship must claim their scholarship by the age of 25.

The contest chairperson will decide all protests in accordance with the official rules. The District Chair is the final authority, and no appeals will be recognized.



HOW TO ENTER:

Students are to enter through a local Optimist Club in their area. Most local clubs run their Essay contest from October to the end of January. Judging at the local level is completed in February. Late entries are not accepted.

Once submitted, essays may not be returned. Standings are not reported to applicants. The sponsoring club will contact the winners.

Name of local Club:

Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

Chairperson: Dan Irvine, Mike Fitzella

Essay and Application Form due January 17, 2024 to Mrs. Otto (Imotto@fcps.edu, Room 103U, or her mailbox in the Main Office)

****Read the directions carefully as stated in the guidelines.**

If your essay is selected as a winner, a copy of your birth certificate and/or passport will be required. If selected, you will be expected to attend the recognition event in February.