**DETACH THIS FORM AND KEEP IT.**

**Washington Township High School**

Peer-to-Peer Freshman Transition Program:

What Students Need to Know

Our school was selected to participate in Peer-to-Peer Transition Project, an NJ program that supports incoming freshmen in making a successful adjustment into high school. Approximately 120 students, consisting of juniors and seniors, will be selected as Peer Counselors in this program. Peer Counselors will lead group discussions and activities with classes of approximately 25 freshmen to help them make a smooth transition in their first year of high school.

**What does it mean to be a Peer Counselor?**

Peer Counselors will participate together in at least 4 hours of training in preparation for leading three Classroom Sessions. Peer Counselors will also offer mentoring services to freshmen. Training activities are designed to help students get to know each other and to learn to work effectively with their freshmen groups by developing a foundation of critical knowledge and skills around leadership and facilitation.

**How much time is involved?**

In addition to 4 initial hours of training in September, Peer Counselors will be taken out of Phys. Ed/Health, study hall, or an elective to teach the classroom sessions. Peer Counselors are also expected to stay in touch with the students in their groups, and be available, as needed, to meet with program advisors. They are expected to attend and assist in organizing any Freshman Transition Program activities, such as the Spirit Parade and fundraisers throughout the school year. Peer Counselors will also be invited to assist WTHS staff members during WTHS Summer Orientation in August; however, participation is not mandatory.

**How can I become a Peer Counselor?**

Interested students must apply to the program. Applicants must be in good academic standing – grades, attendance, discipline.

**Applications are due at the Counseling Office by the end of March.**

**Decision letters will be emailed by May 10th.**

**Mandatory Training will be held in September.**

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL**

**PEER TO PEER FRESHMAN TRANSITION PROGRAM**

Dear Applicant:

The Freshman Transition Program trains juniors and seniors to help freshmen make healthy decisions in their relationships and in the way they use time and balance responsibilities. Our goal is to empower teens by giving them a set of experiences that promote respect for one another and responsible decision making.

We are excited to begin another year of the Freshman Transition Program. We recognize that teens can be very influential with one another. As a Peer Counselor, you will have the opportunity to:

* Receive 4 hours of initial training in group facilitation.
* Teach a minimum of 3 Classroom Sessions to freshmen classes.
* Organize and participate in school activities.
* Provide ongoing support to freshmen in our high school.

Peer Counselors are trained in responsible decision-making, group facilitation, and leadership. We will use problem-solving and group cohesion exercises, as well as participate in small group discussions. Peer Counselors are required to participate in 4 hours of initial training and all follow-up meetings as needed, prepare in advance for upcoming classroom sessions, and teach all scheduled classroom sessions.

Participation in the Freshman Transition Program requires commitment of time, dedication and responsibility. Students who participate are role models in a position of leadership. We ask you to apply only if you are interested in helping and supporting others, especially freshmen. We encourage you to discuss the responsibilities of being a Peer Counselor with your family. For club information, please check the bulletin board across from the Counseling office, our webpage under clubs & activities, and follow us on Instagram @ wths.peercounselors for updated information.

Respectfully,

WTHS Freshman Transition Program Advisors

Mrs. Andra Williams, Mrs. Nicole Venere, Mrs. Jessica Slates, and Mrs. Fran Mulvihill

**RETURN APPLICATION PAGES ONLY.**

**Washington Township High School**

**Peer to Peer Freshman Transition Program**

**Peer Counselor Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Homeroom Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICATION DUE: END OF MARCH – COUNSELING OFFICE**

|  |
| --- |
| If I am selected to be a Peer Counselor in the Freshmen Transition Program, I will be aware of and willing to examine my influence as a role model, and I will behave accordingly. Specifically, I will uphold all school rules both in and out of school.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Signature of Student**  **Date** |

|  |
| --- |
| If my child is selected, he/she has permission to participate as a Peer Counselor in the Freshman Transition Program for his/her junior and senior years.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **Signature of Parent/Guardian**  **Date** |
| **WTHS STAFF ENDORSEMENT (teacher, advisor, counselor, principal, coach)***Applicant is a respectful and responsible student with the ability to serve as a positive role model.* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **Staff Member’s Name**  **Staff Member’s Signature**  **Date**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Staff Member’s Name** **Staff Member’s Signature**  **Date****Comments:** |

**Washington Township High School**

**Peer to Peer Freshman Transition Program**

**Peer Counselor Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What sports, clubs, and/or volunteer activities have you been involved in during high school?

2. What characteristics do you have that would make you a good leader and a positive role model?

3. What do you think are the most important things for freshmen to know about entering our high school?

4. How will you help our freshman class adjust to high school, succeed academically and socially, and get involved in all that we offer at WTHS?

5. Provide one quote that describes who you are or your outlook on life.