Getting to Know

Fairfax County Public Schools

Presented by

Family and School Partnerships
Instructional Services Department

www.fcps.edu/is/fam
Fairfax County Public Schools
Portrait of a Graduate

COMMUNICATOR  COLLABORATOR  ETHICAL AND GLOBAL CITIZEN  CREATIVE AND CRITICAL THINKER  GOAL-DIRECTED AND RESILIENT INDIVIDUAL
High School Graduation Requirements

Detailed diploma requirements on the web:
http://www.fcps.edu/is/schoolcounseling/graduation.shtml

- Standard Diploma - 22 credits
- Advanced Studies Diploma - 26 credits
- Mathematics requirements
- Career and Technical Education and High School Academy Programs
- Advanced Placement (AP) / International Baccalaureate (IB) Programs – IB Diploma offered at Annandale HS; IB-MYP at Poe MS & Annandale
Advanced Placement Program

• The Advanced Placement (AP) program provides rigorous academic courses in the major subject fields designed at college level but offered in high schools.

• A student enrolled in an AP course must take the corresponding AP examination to receive the 1.0 weighted grade.

• AP courses are recognized for college credit by many universities in the United States and abroad.

The AP program is offered at Centreville, Chantilly, Fairfax, Falls Church, Herndon, Langley, Madison, McLean, Oakton, West Potomac, West Springfield, Westfield and Woodson high schools and Hayfield, Lake Braddock, and South County secondary schools.

• For more information [http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap/advep.shtml](http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap/advep.shtml)
The IB began in Geneva, Switzerland, in the 1960s to provide students with an education that produces globally minded thinkers. The goal: “develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.”

Candidates for the IB diploma – offered in eight FCPS high schools, including Annandale High School and Marshall High School - are expected to:

- Take at least 6 IB courses – including some college-level courses that can earn the student free college credit if they pass an IB exam with a minimum score.
- Study a second world language.
- Undertake extensive community service hours.
- Produce an independent research paper.

Four FCPS high schools, including Annandale High, and five FCPS middle schools – including Holmes and Poe - offer the IB Middle Years Program. Participants can earn the MYP certificate in 10th grade.
Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology

- Ranked as #1 public school in America by Newsweek
- Class of 2021 applications due in mid-October
  - 2,841 students applied to the 2015-2016 freshman class – and 493 were accepted. (Usually around 480.)
  - $90 processing fee can be reduced or waived based on need
  - Go to www.tjadmissions.org for more information, or call 571-423-3770
  - The admissions office is based at Gatehouse, not at the high school.

- Students are eligible to apply if they:
  - Reside with a parent or legal guardian who lives fulltime in Arlington, Fairfax, Loudon or Prince William counties or Falls Church city (students residing in the Manassas and Manassas Park school districts and in the City of Alexandria district are not eligible.)
  - Student applicants must be taking a full year of Algebra I for high school credit or a higher level math course in 8th grade to apply.(Algebra Part A does not apply.)
  - Admissions process beings in late September of 8th-grade for the next year
  - TJ Admissions practice test:
    www.fcps.edu/pla/TJHSST_Admissions/forms/TJAdmissionsStudentHandbook.pdf
Student Learning Plan

- Virginia Board of Education requires a Student Learning Plan that aligns academic and career goals with the student’s course of study.

- All 7th grade students will begin development of a personal academic and career plan.

- The Student Learning Plan will be reviewed and updated prior to entering 9th grade and 11th grade.
The calendars below are available on the web at www.fcps.edu/cal.shtml:

- Student School Year Calendars
- School Board Calendars
- Graduation Calendars
- Noteworthy Events
- Religious and Cultural Observances
Code of Conduct

• We hold most seriously the obligation to provide a safe and secure environment for all students who participate in our school programs.

• Students are able to take full advantage of their educational opportunities when they are able to attend school without fear.

• Students must understand their responsibilities and rights in relation to achieving the best from their educational experience.

• The cooperation of students, parents, school staff members, and the community remains essential in providing an appropriate environment for learning to take place.

Health Services
School Health Room Services

• If a child becomes ill, parents or guardians will be notified. Keep your contact information current!

• Parents or guardians must deliver medications directly to the Health Room. Students cannot transport medication.

• The School Health Aide, Donna Csutoros, can administer medications with appropriate parent and doctor permissions.

Donna Csutoros, School Health Aide
DLCsutoros@fcps.edu
703-641-8210
School Counseling Services

– School Counselors work with students and parents to help ensure that students’ educational, vocational, and emotional needs are being met. They provide crisis intervention services and individual and group counseling to help all students develop their personal strengths and become responsible and productive citizens.

– In middle school and high school, when students have multiple teachers, the school counselor becomes the primary point of contact for the parent.

Kathleen Gannon
School Counselor
kcgannon1@fcps.edu
703-641-8218
School Psychologist and Social Worker

- Psychologists provide a full range of prevention and intervention services that support the mental health and learning potential of all students.

- Social workers help remove barriers that prevent a student from fulfilling his or her academic potential. They are assigned to every school and center in the school system. Most social workers serve two to three sites.

Farah Fazel
School psychologist
FNFazel@fcps.edu
703-641-8231

Michael McRae
School social worker
MBMcRae@fcps.edu
703-641-8200
Special Education

• Early Childhood Identification and Services/Child Find identifies and intervenes. Call 571-423-4121 to schedule an appointment.

• Special education students are eligible for additional services.

• Special education’s Parent Resource Center and Library are at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 703-204-3941.

• Workshops are available about special education programs, policies, and procedures, and parenting a special needs child. http://www.fcps.edu/dss/osp/prc/index.shtml
Nutrition—School Meals

• Breakfasts and lunches are available at no cost for income-eligible students. Parent must submit a NEW application every school year.

• Parents may prepay for meals by the month, week, or day.
  - Online – www.MySchoolBucks.com
  - Check – written to the school
  - Cash

• Students may also bring lunches from home.

• Lunch Menu online
  http://www.fcps.edu/fs/food/food_at_school/

• Dietary restrictions are respected.

• Catering for elementary school birthdays!

Sarah Villegas
Cafeteria Manager
savillegas@fcps.edu
703-641-8221
Communication

• On the FCPS home page – www.fcps.edu

• The Parent Information Phone Line
  Amharic 571-423-4957      Arabic  571-423-4952      Chinese  571-423-4953
  Farsi      571-423-4954    Korean    571-423-4951    Spanish  571-423-4950
  Urdu      571-423-4955    Vietnamese 571-423-4956

• Cable TV – Red Apple 21
  • FCPS News Hour (English)
  • In Other Words (Arabic, Korean, Spanish, Vietnamese)

• “Twitter” – Join and receive FCPS news that answers the question, “What is happening?” Click on Twitter icon on FCPS home page. FCPS’ Spanish-language Twitter is at @fcpsES
Communication

• FCPS Mobile app for Android devices, iPhones and iPads

• Facebook – Become a FCPS Facebook fan. Click on the Facebook icon on FCPS home page. Also available in Spanish.

• Keep in Touch e-mail/text message/phone service. To receive texts, you need to make sure that your cell phone is listed in the “cell telephone” fields of your child’s emergency contact form. Send a text message to 23177 or 63079 with the words **SUBSCRIBE FCPS** to see if your phone is opted in.

• You have the option of subscribing to other FCPS information alerts with the new FCPS News You Choose. Go to [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu) and click on “Keep In Touch” to access the News You Choose sign-up.

• My FCPS-Family newsletter is offered online in five languages, go to [http://www.fcps.edu/cco/pubs/myfcps/family/](http://www.fcps.edu/cco/pubs/myfcps/family/)

• FCPS Go to Guide (formerly handbook)
Available only on the FCPS website or the FCPS Mobile app [http://www.fcps.edu/cco/pubs/handbook.pdf](http://www.fcps.edu/cco/pubs/handbook.pdf)
Communication

- Attend Back-to-School Nights and school events.
- Review your elementary-age children’s take-home packets.
- Ask your child questions about, check, and help with homework.
- Use your **Student Information System (SIS) Parent Account** to access your child’s report cards, absence and tardy record, discipline history, medical records and – in middle and high school, gradebooks for each class and course requests. Woodburn’s registrar, **Jackie Garcia**, can provide you with a SIS activation code if you need one.
- Use FCPS 24-7 Learning (Blackboard) to view your children’s assignments, change contact information, and assist with college application process. You **MUST** activate your new SIS parent account to access a 24-7 parent account. You access both with the same user name and password.

Jackie Garcia
Student Information Assistant/Registrar
JEGarcia1@fcps.edu
Attendance Policy

• Virginia state law requires that all school age students, ages 5-18, attend school regularly. Students who regularly attend school have the most success.

• Extended absences interrupt the continuity of learning.

• Poor (inconsistent) attendance can negatively affect academic, social, and emotional growth.

• After 15 consecutive days absent from school a student is withdrawn from FCPS and must officially enroll again in order to attend classes.
Attendance

- If your child is sick or tardy (late to school), then call your child’s school attendance phone line. Woodburn’s is 703-641-8282. Call the line BEFORE 10:30 a.m. to avoid receiving an electronic alert from the school.

- If you know ahead of time your child will be missing school (ex., trip, surgery), then send a note explaining the reason for the absence, or call the school attendance line and leave a message.

- If you have to pick up your child early from school (ex., doctor’s appointment), then send a note, or call the school attendance line, explaining the reason for early pickup and the time you expect to arrive.
Students must take required Standards of Learning (SOL) tests in core subjects:

Grade 3  Reading and Math  2 tests
Grade 4  Reading, Math, and Virginia Studies  3 tests
Grade 5  Reading, Math, and Science  3 tests
Grade 6  Reading and Math  2 tests
Grade 7  Reading and Math  2 tests
Grade 8  Reading, Writing, Math, Science, Civics/Economics  5 tests
Grade 9 to 12  Up to 11 SOL tests
Magnet Programs

Elementary Schools for the Arts and Sciences magnets

- Hunters Woods ES for the Arts and Sciences: Diane Beers 703-262-7405
- Bailey’s ES for the Arts and Sciences: Sofia Arias 703-575-6804  Includes, science and electronic music labs, performing arts theater, math Exploratorium, communications center (complete with television studio), fine arts studio, third-grade strings program, partner with Kennedy Center's Changing Education Through the Arts

http://www.fcps.edu/is/magnetschools/

Lotteries, K&1 closed in April for next year

World Language Immersion Schools – by lotteries, K&1, now closed, but late applications can be mailed

French – Kent Gardens ES (world language)
German – Orange Hunt ES (world language)
Japanese – Great Falls ES & Fox Mill ES (world language)
Korean – Powell ES and Fox Mill ES (two-way)
Spanish – Bailey’s*, London Towne, Lake Anne & Rose Hill ES (two-way)
Spanish – Fort Hunt, Laurel Ridge and Ravensworth ES (world language)

http://www.fcps.edu/is/worldlanguages/immersion.shtml

* http://www.fcps.edu/BaileysES/SpanishImmersion.html
Parent Resources

After-School Programs

• A wide variety of after-school activities are available during the school year, including enrichment classes.

• Middle schools and high schools offer optional team sports. All middle schools offer FREE after-school programs and late buses.

• Families of K through 6th graders may apply for School Age Child Care (SACC). Call 703-449-8989.

• Community, recreation, and summer school programs are available over the summer.
Parent Resources

Language Services

• Free language services are available for speakers of Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, Korean, Spanish, Urdu, Vietnamese, and other languages.

• Interpreters will be provided, at no cost, for parents at conferences, school events, and meetings at the request of a school staff member.

• Request language assistance through child’s teacher or school’s parent liaison.

• The Parent Information Phone Line
  Amharic (571-423-4957)       Arabic       (571-423-4952)
  Farsi     (571-423-4954)      Korean       (571-423-4951)
  Urdu      (571-423-4955)      Vietnamese (571-423-4956)
  Chinese   (571-423-4953)      Spanish      (571-423-4950)
Parent liaisons are school staff members who work with parents and staff. They help get the information and assistance you need to support your child at home and ensure your child’s success in school.

Parent liaisons serve as a communication link between home and school. They welcome and orient families to the school and familiarize them with Fairfax County Public School’s procedures and practices. All parent liaisons are proficient in English; many speak one or more additional languages.

Parent liaisons serve ALL parents.

Robyn Fernandez, Parent Liaison
Languages spoken: English & Spanish
Tuesday and Thursday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday: 12 noon to 4 p.m.
RLFernandez@fcps.edu
703-641-8205
Parent Resources

Community Liaison

Provides all families with information about school and community services.

- Free school physicals, immunizations
- Child care programs
- Parent Centers, Family Resource Centers
- Recreation, leisure, and libraries
- Medical insurance
- Adult English classes
- Job skills and employment
- Other information as required

Locations

- Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services (Arabic, English, Korean, Spanish)
- South County Government Center (English, Spanish)
- Lake Anne/Reston Government Center (English, Spanish)
When is it safe to leave a child alone?

http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/childrenyouth/supervision_eng.htm - Guidelines

7 years and under:
Should not be left alone for any period of time. This may include leaving children unattended in cars, playgrounds, and backyards. The determining consideration would be the dangers in the environment and the ability of the caretaker to intervene.

8 to 10 years:
Should not be left alone for more than 1 1/2 hours and only during daylight and early evening hours.

11 to 12 years:
May be left alone for up to 3 hours but not late at night or in circumstances requiring inappropriate responsibility.

13 to 15 years:
May be left unsupervised, but not overnight.

16 to 17 years:
May be left unsupervised (in some cases, for up to two consecutive overnight periods).
Parent Resources

Transitional ESOL High School for students, 18 and older

http://www.fcps.edu/is/esol/transitional.shtml

- FREE for adults learning English who want to earn a high school diploma. Once students reach intermediate level of WIDA 3, they may continue their studies at Fairfax Adult High School, earning their high school diploma from that location, which charges for classes after age 22.

- **Seven sites:**
  - Annandale High School: 3:45–9:45 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 3:45-5:50 p.m. Friday
  - Bryant Alt. High School: 3:45–9:45 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 3:45-5:50 p.m. Friday
  - Falls Church High School: 3:45–9:45 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 3:45-5:50 p.m. Friday
  - Lee High School: 2:15 – 9:45 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 4:15-6 p.m. Friday
  - Pimmit Hills Center: 8:45 a.m.-2:45 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 8:45-11:45 a.m. Friday
  - JEB Stuart High School: 3:45–9:45 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 3:45-5:50 p.m. Friday
  - South Lakes High School: 3:45–9:45 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 3:45-5:50 p.m. Friday

- **Instructional program:** ESOL English 9, English Language Development, mathematics, Strategies for Success, and US/VA Government or Science Concepts. Students earn high school credits for graduation in English 9, English Language Development (World Language credit), Algebra 1, and Government, and elective credits for FAST/Individual math, science concepts and Strategies for Success.
Resources

Discounted/Loaner/Free Computers, Internet, and Software
Locations of Computers in my Community
Locations of WiFi Access in my Community
FCPS Access Programs
Community Access Programs

Visit web at: http://www.fcps.edu/is/access4all/index.shtml
Family and School Partnerships

www.fcps.edu/is/fam
Karen Branch-Brioso
Family Engagement Representative
for Region 2
703-204-4329

krbranchbrio@fcps.edu
Fairfax County Public Schools
www.fcps.edu