



## 2023-2024 Information Packet

Dear Fairfax Academy Families,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! We are excited to connect with our new students over the first few weeks of school and welcome our returning students back. Our mission is to inspire and empower a diverse body of learners to explore career pathways employing current trends led by our amazing faculty of industry professionals. Our classes represent performing and practical arts, world languages, and communications. Our team is here to work with all of our students on developing their creative and soft skills for post-secondary success! We provide students numerous hands-on experiences and career connections so they can find a path that supports their dreams.

Fairfax Academy has an amazing support team to assist all of our students with their various needs. In addition to our classroom educators, the Academy staff includes an Administrator, a Career Experience Specialist, a Professional School Counselor, an Administrative Assistant, and three resource teachers specializing in SPED and ESOL. Our entire team looks forward to meeting with students and parents over the coming weeks. Team members will be connecting with specific students during the first weeks of school to introduce themselves.

Being part of the Academy is a big choice and we are here to support you! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Academy office so we can direct your questions to the correct team member. We look forward to a fantastic year!

Andrea Cook, Academy Administrator

### YOUR ACADEMY TO-DO LIST



Review this packet so that you know:

- how to get to and from Academy (shuttle schedules will be available at Open House)
- Academy attendance procedures
- how to get lunch if your class is midday (5th or 6th periods)
- lanyard ID cards, and more.

Complete the forms packet (all students) – download one from [fairfaxacademy.fcps.edu](https://fairfaxacademy.fcps.edu) or come to E119 if you need one!  
Collect documentation needed for parking, if you'll be requesting a parking permit.

Review your "News You Choose" subscription to ensure you receive essential information from Fairfax Academy.

### WHERE TO FIND US

- |  |   |  |                      |
|--|---|--|----------------------|
|  | Academy Office: 703-219-2226 (Monday-Friday, 7:30am-3:30pm)   |  | @FairfaxAcademy      |
|  | Academy Attendance Line: 703-219-4060 (24/7)<br>Online: <a href="https://fairfaxacademy.fcps.edu/resources/attendance/attendance-form">https://fairfaxacademy.fcps.edu/resources/attendance/attendance-form</a>   |  | @Fairfax_Academy     |
|  | Andrea Cook, Academy Administrator: <a href="mailto:amcooke@fcps.edu">amcooke@fcps.edu</a>   Sarah Tarvid, Academy AA: <a href="mailto:starvide@fcps.edu">starvide@fcps.edu</a><br>Luke Donald, Academy Counselor: <a href="mailto:ladonaldt@fcps.edu">ladonaldt@fcps.edu</a> |  | @fairfaxacademy_fcps |

### FAIRFAX ACADEMY FOR COMMUNICATIONS & THE ARTS

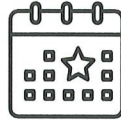
3501 Lion Run ▪ Fairfax, VA 22030 ▪ Office (FHS E119): (703) 219-2226  
American Sign Language | Arabic | Chinese | Korean | Dance | Fashion Careers | Game Design | Music & Computer Technology  
Musical Theatre & Actors Studio | Professional Photography Studio | Social Media Marketing | TV & Media Production

# ACADEMY BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

**Tuesday, September 12, 2023**

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Feeder school families

6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m. Fairfax HS families



Meet your student's teacher & the Academy team  
Learn about class curriculum & goals for the year  
Ask your questions!

*If your base school is Fairfax High School: Enter through Door 1  
If your base school is any other school (feeder schools): Enter through Door 10*

## TIPS FOR SUCCESS

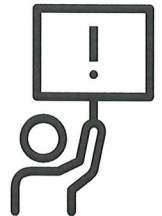
*The Academy team is here to support you. Here are some tips we know will help you make the most of your Academy time.*

- Come to class on time, work to the best of your abilities, and approach your Academy class as an academic priority.
- Attendance affects your success. Come to class every day; and if you need to be absent, make sure your attendance is updated. Touch base with your teacher when you're absent to find out what work needs to be made up.
- Use a reminder on your phone or computer to get to your shuttle on time. Talk to your base school teacher about your Academy class to coordinate your departures and arrivals. This small adjustment will quickly become an easy routine.
- Communicate! Don't hesitate to ask questions. Talk to your teacher, send us an email (contact info is on the front of this page), or visit the Academy office in FHS E119 – we are here to help. It's best to find solutions to your questions when they arise.

## NEED TO KNOW: ACADEMY ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

*Fairfax Academy follows FCPS attendance policies; there are some procedures that are specific to Academy. Your base school does not communicate attendance information to Fairfax Academy for absences due to illness, field trips/activities, testing, etc. It is the parent's or guardian's responsibility to communicate absences to the Academy.*

- Call the Attendance line at 703-219-4060 or use the online attendance form at <https://fairfaxacademy.fcps.edu/resources/attendance/attendance-form>
- A parent or guardian must report absences from the email and phone number listed in SIS; students may not report their own absences even if they are over 18.
- Report absences on the day of the absence, but no more than two school days after the absence.
- Use a Pre-Arranged Absence form (on our website) for absences you know about in advance.



*Arriving late for your class?* Come to E119 for a pass to class. Bring a signed and dated note from a parent to excuse tardies.

*Need your student to check out early?* Parents must send a signed and dated note; students bring the note to E119 upon arrival. Parents may also call the Academy office at (703) 219-2226 and speak to a staff member to authorize early dismissal. Students may not leave Fairfax Academy early until we have received parent permission and the student has completed check-out in E119.

## HOW WE COMMUNICATE WITH YOU



Fairfax Academy sends out a biweekly email with news, updates, upcoming events, and other information. It contains information you need! Please review your contact information to be sure that you receive those messages.

Find the link to sign up or update your account by visiting [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu) and clicking on "Sign Up for Newsletters".

## ACADEMY LANYARDS

For the safety of all students, Academy students will be required to wear an ID on a lanyard while on the Fairfax HS campus. Lanyards help us identify Academy students when arriving and departing Fairfax HS, and while students are moving around the building. It is also important to be able to identify students in case of an emergency. You must wear your lanyard at all times while you are at Fairfax Academy. If lost, the replacement cost of a lanyard and ID is \$5.



## GETTING TO FAIRFAX ACADEMY

Students must select their transportation method at the beginning of the year. FCPS policy states that students cannot ride the bus on some days and drive a car on other days. You are strongly encouraged to ride a shuttle bus if one is available to you.



**SHUTTLE BUSES** will arrive at and leave from **DOOR 1 (this is a CHANGE from previous years!)** at Fairfax High School. Contact your base school counselor to determine the location of the shuttle bus pickup and dropoff at your base school (or pick up a shuttle schedule at Open House on August 17). Important: Be at the bus stop 5 minutes before the scheduled time – buses run on a tight schedule and they leave promptly! If you miss your bus, your absence will be unexcused, and your parent will be responsible for getting you back to your base school.

**DRIVERS** must obtain a Fairfax Academy parking tag and park in Academy marked spaces near Door 10. You can request a parking tag by turning in all your forms, and bringing your completed request with documentation to E119. The cost is \$67 and the fee is waived if you have purchased a parking tag at your base school.



Want to carpool with another student? Both students need to indicate this on the transportation agreement, with parental permission. If your transportation plan changes during the year, you need to notify the Academy office.

## TRANSPORTATION QUESTIONS

### Absences/Tardies Due to Transportation

Absence due to a missed shuttle is an unexcused absence. When this happens, go to your base school attendance office or main office so that your school staff can contact the Academy office. This lets us know that you are safe and accounted for.

Absences and tardies related to car transportation (including unavailability of carpools, traffic delays, and car trouble) are unexcused. Have a backup plan!

### When You Need Help With Transportation

Shuttles typically run on very reliable schedules. However, if your shuttle is late (at your base school or at Fairfax Academy), go to the main office or attendance office. Have one person from your school wait at the bus stop, if possible, while another student reports the late shuttle. The office staff will call transportation and help get you on your way.

## NEED TO KNOW: ACADEMY SCHEDULE & INCLEMENT WEATHER

### Delayed Openings & Early Releases


On a 2-hour delayed opening...

- AM and Mid-Day shuttles will not run. Drivers should remain at their base schools AM and Mid-Day.
- PM classes will be held as normal and shuttles will run on time.
- Fairfax HS students will follow the Fairfax HS altered bell schedule.
- You do not need to report absences for AM and Mid-Day classes for delayed opening days.



When FCPS releases 2 hours early (for weather and on scheduled Early Release days)...

- AM classes will be held as normal.
- Mid-Day, MD/PM double block, and PM shuttles will not run. Drivers should remain at their base schools.
- You do not need to report absences for Mid-Day, MD/PM, and PM classes on early release days.

 Sometimes testing, pep rallies, and other events change the schedule at base schools. The schedule at Fairfax Academy doesn't change (shuttle schedules remain the same). Students who are absent for these activities should use a Pre-Arranged Absence form.

## FOR MIDDAY STUDENTS: LUNCH

Students in a Fairfax Academy midday class (5th or 6th period) should be aware that the shuttle departure does not typically leave time for lunch at the base school. Bring lunch with you or purchase it in the Fairfax HS cafeteria when you arrive. Your student account will be available at both schools. Fairfax HS students in midday/double-blocked classes will go to A lunch before coming to their Academy class. Students in PM classes need to eat lunch before arriving at Academy.



# THE STARS OF THE ACADEMY

## THE ARTS



**Ms. Barnes**  
Dance



**Mr. Carlin**  
MCT



**Mr. DiCenzo**  
MTAS

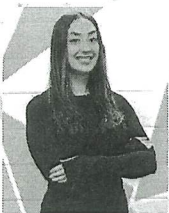
Check out our  
website for  
staff bios.

☆ *New staff*

## CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION



**Mr. Balthrop**  
TV/Media



**Ms. Barry**  
Fashion



**Ms. Murphy**  
Game Design



**Mr. Ruohoniemi**  
Social Media



**Mr. Smith**  
Photography

## WORLD LANGUAGES



**Ms. Al-Nazer**  
Arabic



**Mr. Forkner**  
ASL



**Ms. Kang**  
Korean



**Ms. Lee**  
Korean

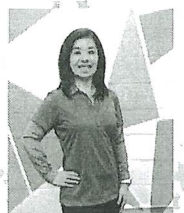


**Ms. Nesbitt**  
ASL



**Ms. Zhang**  
Chinese

## SUPPORT TEAM



**Ms. Chae**  
ESOL



**Ms. Cook**  
Administrator



**Mr. Donald**  
Counselor



**Ms. Hard**  
CES



**Ms. St. Germain**  
SPED



**Ms. Sterrett**  
SPED



**Ms. Tarvid**  
Admin Asst



## Fairfax Academy Calendar of Events 2023-2024

*Dates are subject to change. See your syllabus or class calendar for program-specific information and dates.*

Thursday, Aug. 17	Academy Open House	2:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. <i>[Teachers available from 2-3pm]</i>
Monday, Aug. 21	FCPS First Day of School	8:10 a.m. - 2:55 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 12	Academy Back to School Night	5:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m. Feeder Students 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. FHS Students
Friday, Sept. 15	BACK TO SCHOOL FORMS DUE!	All Classes
Wednesday, Oct. 11	PSAT Day – NO Academy classes	All High Schools
Wednesday, Oct. 18	MTAS “Sockhop Showcase”	7:00 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 27	Academy Career Experience Expo	8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 6 (Snow Date: Feb. 13)	Academy Open House	6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Friday-Sunday, Feb. 2-4; Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 8-10	MTAS Winter Musical	Feb. 2, 3: 7:00 p.m.   Feb. 4: 2:00 p.m. Feb. 8, 9: 7:00 p.m. Feb. 10: 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 23	Dance Benefit Concert	7:00 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 24 (Snow Date: Mar. 2)	Academy Auditions & World Language Assessments	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Friday, Mar. 8	MTAS Underclassmen Showcase	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Mar. 26	Academy Career Fair	6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
April 2024 (TBA)	MCT Fest	TBA
April 2024 (TBA)	Fashion in Motion	TBA
Friday/Saturday, May 10/11	Academy Dance Showcase	May 10: 7:00 p.m.   May 11: 1:00 p.m.
May 2024 (TBA)	MTAS Senior Signature Showcase	TBA
Tuesday, May 21	Academy Awards Show	7:00 p.m.