

Dear Fairfax Academy Families,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 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 four 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. If your student has specific needs, please reach out to us directly; some information does not always reach us from base schools.

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

## IN THIS PACKET

### You'll learn about:

- Transportation tips
- Academy attendance procedures
- Lunch information
- Lanyards & ID cards

### The fun stuff:

- Academy Ambassadors
- Academy swag
- Industry & career focused events
- Academy events for your calendar



### Academy To-Dos:

- Parking permits & carpool
- Health information
- Sign up for newsletters

## WHERE TO FIND US



Academy Office: 703-219-2226 (Monday-Friday, 7:30am-3:30pm)



@FairfaxAcademy



Academy Attendance Line: 703-219-4060 (24/7)



@Fairfax\_Academy

Online: <https://fairfaxacademy.fcps.edu/resources/attendance/attendance-form>



@fairfaxacademy\_fcps



Andrea Cook, Academy Administrator: [amcookefcps.edu](mailto:amcookefcps.edu) | Academy Office: FHS E119  
 Sarah Tarvid, Academy AA: [starvidefcps.edu](mailto:starvidefcps.edu) | Luke Donald, Academy Counselor: [ladonald1@fcps.edu](mailto:ladonald1@fcps.edu)  
 Amy Hard, Career Experience Specialist: [amhardefcps.edu](mailto:amhardefcps.edu)

## 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

# FOR YOUR CALENDAR

## ACADEMY OPEN HOUSE

**Thursday, August 15, 2024, 2:00-5:00 p.m.**

Visit your classroom & get ready for the new school year!  
Teachers will be in classrooms 2:00-4:00  
Enter through Door 1



## PARKING PASS SALES

Wednesday, August 7 & August 14 | 5:00-6:00 p.m.  
During Open House (Thursday, August 15)  
During the first week of school  
In E119 (near Door 10)

## ACADEMY BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

**Wednesday, September 18, 2024**

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!  
FHS families: Enter through Door 1 | Families with base schools other than FHS: Enter through Door 10

## TIPS FOR SUCCESS

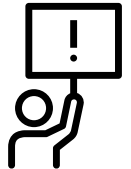
*The Academy team is here to support you. Here are some tips we know will help you make the most of your Academy experience.*

- 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 - ask your questions when they arise. 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.

## 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.
- Report absences on the day of the absence, but no more than two school days after the absence.
- Use an Academy Absence Notification (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.*

## STUDENT HEALTH INFORMATION

*Does your student have specific health needs we should be aware of while they are at Fairfax? Your base school clinic does not share this information with Academy. This information is needed to inform us of health needs that may impact your child's school day. Please email a copy of your FCPS Health Form to [starvide@fcps.edu](mailto:starvide@fcps.edu) or contact us directly to share this essential information.*

## IEP/504 INFORMATION

Contact Academy counselor, Luke Donald, at [ladonald1@fcps.edu](mailto:ladonald1@fcps.edu) or call his office at (703) 219-2384 with questions about your student's IEP/504 or other needs. We're here to support!

# 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** at Fairfax High School. Contact your base school counselor to determine the location of the shuttle bus pickup and dropoff at your base school. Important: Be at the bus stop 5 minutes before the scheduled time - buses run on a tight schedule and they leave promptly!

**DRIVERS** must obtain a Fairfax Academy parking tag (in addition to your base school tag, if you have one) and park in Academy marked spaces near Door 10. The cost is \$67 and the fee is waived if you have purchased a parking tag at your base school. Complete a transportation form (on our website or available in E119) and bring it to the office. *Want to carpool with another student?* Both students need to file a transportation form for documentation.



***If you're parked in an Academy spot, you need an Academy parking pass. Parking in violation of parking regulations may impact students' ability to hold or to apply for a parking permit in the future.***

## 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.

## 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 so staff can contact Transportation for help. Have one person from your school wait at the bus stop, if possible, while another student reports the late shuttle.

## 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.

## ACADEMY SWAG



We know you love a great T-shirt. We'll host an Academy swag store periodically throughout the school year. You can order a t-shirt, a hoodie, or some other Academy stuff - watch your newsletters for an order link!

## ACADEMY LANYARDS

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.

## 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 AMBASSADORS

Academy Ambassadors offers leadership training and collaborative opportunities to support and promote Academy events, student work, and community. If you want to jump in to lead and plan Academy events, activities, and other fun things throughout the year, please submit the Interest Form via your school Google account using the QR code. Former Ambassadors are strongly encouraged to continue and must also fill out the form.



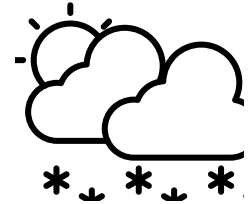
Contact Ms. Hard at [amhard@fcps.edu](mailto:amhard@fcps.edu) for more info.

## 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 an Academy Absence form.*

## ACADEMY EVENTS

*There's a full calendar of events in this packet. Here are a few highlights!*

### SEPTEMBER 2024 | ACADEMY KICKOFF

You'll meet the Academy team and learn more about Academy life.

### NOVEMBER 2024 | CAREER EXPO DAYS

Speakers, workshops, and guests will visit Fairfax Academy. You'll hear from people who are working in fields you're interested in -- learn about career pathways, see industry experts in action, be inspired!

### FEBRUARY 2025 | ACADEMY MTAS WINTER MUSICAL

The show will be announced after the start of the school year, but one thing is for sure -- the Fairfax Academy show is a can't-miss event.

### MARCH, APRIL, MAY 2025 | MCT FEST, FASHION IN MOTION, ACADEMY DANCE SHOWCASE, MTAS SHOWCASE

These performance events showcase the talent and achievements of students in Music & Computer Technology, Fashion Careers, Academy Dance, and Musical Theatre.

### MAY 2025 | ACADEMY AWARDS

Our annual awards program - Fairfax Academy presents awards in every Academy program, highlights student performances, and celebrates student excellence.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Parents/Guardians: DO YOU HAVE A CAREER IN THE ARTS and/or KOREAN, ARABIC, ASL, CHINESE Language/Culture?

Please email Career Experience Specialist, Ms. Hard at [amhard@fcps.edu](mailto:amhard@fcps.edu) if you are interested in sharing your career path with our students as a guest artist, mentor, speaker, or connection!

# 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*

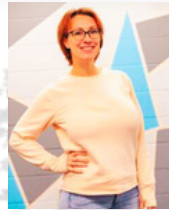
## CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION



**Mr. Balthrop**  
TV/Media



**Ms. Barry**  
Fashion



**Ms. Murphy**  
Game Design



**Mr. Ruohoniemi**  
Social Media



**Mr. Smith**  
Photography

## WORLD LANGUAGES



**Ms. Al-Nazer**  
Arabic



**Ms. Contompasis**  
ASL



**Ms. Kang**  
Korean



**Ms. Lee**  
Korean



**Ms. Nesbitt**  
ASL



**Ms. Zhang**  
Chinese

## SUPPORT TEAM



**Ms. Chae**  
ESOL



**Mr. Donald**  
Counselor



**Mr. Reyes**  
SPED



**Ms. St. Germain**  
SPED



**Ms. Sterrett**  
SPED



**Ms. Cook**  
Administrator



**Ms. Hard**  
CES



**Ms. Tarvid**  
Admin Asst

## Fairfax Academy Calendar of Events 2024-2025

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

Thursday, Aug. 15	Academy Open House	2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. <i>[Teachers available from 2-4pm]</i>
Monday, Aug. 19	FCPS First Day of School	8:10 a.m. - 2:55 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 9 - Thursday, Sept. 12	Academy Kick-Off Days	During class time
Wednesday, Sept. 18	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. 27	MTAS Senior Spotlight Showcase	7:00 p.m.
November 7 & 8 November 14 & 15 November 21 & 22	Academy Career Experience Expos	During class time
Thursday, December 12	MTAS Cabaret	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 4 <i>(Snow Date: Feb. 11)</i>	Academy Open House	6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Friday-Sunday, Feb. 7-9; Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 13-15	MTAS Winter Musical	Feb. 7, 8: 7:00 p.m.   Feb. 9: 2:00 p.m. Feb. 13, 14: 7:00 p.m. Feb. 15: 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 21	Dance Benefit Concert	7:00 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 22 <i>(Snow Date: Mar. 1)</i>	Academy Auditions & World Language Assessments	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
March 29	MCT Fest	7:00 p.m. (at Fairfax High School)
April 2025 (TBA)	Fashion in Motion	TBA (off site)
Friday/Saturday, May 9/10	Academy Dance Showcase	May 9: 7:00 p.m.   May 10: 1:00 p.m.
May 2024 (TBA)	MTAS Senior Signature Showcase	TBA (at Signature Theatre)
Tuesday, May 20	Academy Awards Show	7:00 p.m.