



## Arlington Science Focus (Elementary) School

A Team School with Jamestown, Key and Taylor  
1501 North Lincoln Street, Arlington, Virginia 22201

**Mary Begley, Principal**

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[www.apsva.us/asfs](http://www.apsva.us/asfs)

*This school is accredited through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.*



The program at **Arlington Science Focus School** is designed to develop extensive understanding of science content and process through inquiry-based learning.

Students embark on an exciting adventure each day where science content is used as the catalyst to teach all curriculum by using natural inquiry to develop students' skills of thinking, analyzing, reflecting, problem-solving, and hypothesizing. We believe that students learn best by doing and, therefore, they are encouraged to use various strategies to tackle complex problems. Consequently, they gain confidence in themselves as learners. Students are also engaged in a weekly multi-age "Science City" experiment. They participate in hands-on activities dealing with ecology, biology, geology, zoology, physics, astronomy and chemistry that are directly correlated to the Virginia Standards of Learning.

Our philosophy celebrates diversity and uniqueness. As we implement Gardner's Theory of the Multiple Intelligences in our classrooms, we focus on promoting skills that are valued in the community and the broader society. We recognize that children learn and process knowledge differently; therefore, students receive their education by cultivating the eight intelligences of verbal/linguistic, musical, visual/spatial, logical/mathematical, bodily-kinesthetic, interpersonal, intrapersonal and naturalist. This approach allows students to gradually assume responsibility for their own learning.

We provide a strong academic program that is enriched with many challenging experiences. In doing so, **Arlington Science Focus School** students truly are young scientists constructing the future.

## Goals

*All of our schools set annual goals. Our school's goals are listed here.*

- Utilize proven strategies from current brain research on theories of learning.
- Improve student performance in reading, language, mathematics, science, and social studies.
- Incorporate design technology and problem solving strategies in the Investigation Station.
- Monitor progress of Y.E.S. Club students in grades 3, 4, and 5 with the Standards of Learning and other appropriate information.
- Monitor student progress in the area of reading comprehension, decoding and writing through the use of school developed or identified tools and Arlington assessment measures, as appropriate.
- Facilitate student mastery of the Standards of Learning through increased use of curriculum-based software.

## Special Activities and Community Service

*Our students participate in many activities, clubs and programs that support their academics and challenge them to learn and grow outside the classroom.*

- Ice Cream Social/Bookswap
- Recycling
- Five-A-Day Challenge
- Partnership with Batelle Corporation
- School Yard Habitat site
- Partnership with National Wildlife Federation
- International Evening and other school-wide musical performances
- Y.E.S. Club
- Foreign languages offered before school
- After-school enrichment classes
- Walk for the Homeless
- Celebrate Writing Day
- Guest author/illustrator
- Dr. Seuss Read Across America
- Reflections Contest
- Poetry competition
- Jump Rope for Heart
- Field trips to various Virginia and Maryland sites
- Extended Day Program
- PTA Silent Auction
- Special collections for the needy
- Outside the Box Science Day
- Family Gym Night
- Back-to-School Family Picnic
- ASFS Dog Walk
- Partnership with CREF
- Guest scientists and speakers
- Greek Olympics
- Project Fit
- Flag Patrol
- Jason Project (National Geographic)
- Odyssey of the Mind

## Awards and Recognition\*

*We're proud of the accomplishments of our students and staff.*

- WETA Literacy Support (Reading Rockets)
- 2003 International Technology Education Association (ITEA) Program of Excellence Award
- Received 2002 Program of the Year Award from Virginia Technology Education Association (VTEA)
- Children's Engineering Program for Northern Virginia
- Participation in the PTA Reflections contest
- Several students received awards at the Arlington County Fair.
- Many students were recognized for excellence on the Principal's List, Honor Roll, Citizenship, Bring Up Grades Awards, and Math Olympiads
- Winners in the Poetry-In-Motion contest
- Teacher recognized by the Virginia Commission of Fine Arts.

- Two teachers awarded a *Washington Post* Teacher's Mini Grant.
- Teacher awarded a *Washington Post* Arts Education Grant.
- Teachers awarded Arlington Community Foundation grants
- Partner with College of New Jersey for Design Technology
- Science lab teacher selected as a state finalist in the National Science Foundation's 2002 Presidential Awards of Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching Program
- One National Board Certified Teacher
- Teachers recognized by Harvard, Smithsonian, NASA and Aries for excellence in science
- ITC recognized as "Technology Teacher of the Year"
- WJLA Weatherbug Educator of the Year

## Instructional Highlights\*

All Arlington elementary schools teach the adopted curricula and offer gifted services, special education services, reading support and English language support to those students who qualify. Yet each school's program is a little different. These are some of the instructional features of our school's program.

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|--|--|
| ■ Science City   | ■ Tech YES   |
| ■ Asian Water Garden and Courtyard                                     | ■ Student Council                                      |
| ■ Weather Station  | ■ Y.E.S. Club  |
| ■ Books on the Menu  | ■ Integration model for special education              |
| ■ Computer Lab   | ■ Odyssey of the Mind                                  |
| ■ Computers and Internet access in all classrooms                      | ■ Family Math Day                                      |
| ■ Investigation Station - "hands on" science lab                       | ■ My Reading Coach                                     |
| ■ Science Facts of the Day   | ■ School-wide television news program                  |
| ■ Reading Recovery   | ■ Use of design briefs in Children's Engineering model |
| ■ Book Buddies   | ■ Focus on Gardner's Multiple Intelligences            |
| ■ Student-televised daily news shows on W-ASF                          | ■ A 210 gallon freshwater aquarium                     |
| ■ Arlington Arts Commission for Virginia Tile Mural Project, 2002-2005 | ■ Aquarium Club  |
| ■ Summer Book Club   | ■ Outdoor Education gardens                            |
| ■ Fully integrated curriculum  | ■ Math Dice Competition                                |
| ■ School Yard Habitat Day  | ■ RIF Program  |
| ■ President's Council Physical Fitness Program                         |  |

## Opportunities for Parental Involvement

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| ■ Junior Great Books              | ■ Math Day                              |
| ■ Volunteering in classrooms      | ■ PTA leadership                        |
| ■ Odyssey of the Mind             | ■ Field trips, chaperones               |
| ■ Curriculum committees           | ■ Computer and science labs             |
| ■ Silent Auction                  | ■ After-school tutorial program         |
| ■ After-school enrichment classes | ■ Guest speaker to share expertise      |
| ■ Electric News newsletter        | ■ Evening instructional parent seminars |
| ■ Building Planning Committee     | ■ "Outside the Box" day                 |
| ■ Ice Cream Social/Book Swap      | ■ International Evening                 |
| ■ Friday folders                  | ■ Partners in Print                     |
| ■ Book Fair                       | ■ School Advisory Committee             |
| ■ Community service               | ■ After-school enrichment               |
| ■ Walk for the Homeless           | ■ Outdoor gardening                     |
| ■ Art in the classroom            |   |

## Technology\*

Student access to technology is an Arlington priority. All of our schools have state-of-the-art computer labs, teacher voice mail, access to the Internet and a school home page. While students have access to some older computers for backup or overflow, the number of new and mid-level stations used for instruction and testing are reported below.

Technology is integrated across the curriculum to support the ASF Program.

Number of Computer Stations in labs and classrooms: 189

Student Stations: 143

Teacher Stations: 46

Number of computer labs: 1 (plus research lab in library)

Wireless Cart with laptops: 20 laptops

Palm Pilots with keyboards in portable lab: 25

Interactive White Boards: 3

Flexcams: 4

Portable Internet interfaces: 14

## School Safety

To effectively promote the learning and teaching needed to achieve our high academic goals, we believe it is important to provide a safe school that is free of disruption.

Fire Drills Per Year: 12

School Bus Drills Per Year: 2

Full Safety Patrol Teams: 2

Youth Resource Officer: on call

## Transportation

99% ride the bus and live more than one mile from school

1% live within the one mile walking zone

## School Population

Total Student Enrollment, Pre K-5: 465

Students who receive English as a second language support, K-5: 96

Asian/Pacific Islander, K-5: 23.1%

Black, K-5: 9.5%

Hispanic, K-5: 4.4%

White, K-5: 62.4%

American Indian/Alaskan Native, K-5: 0.0%

Unspecified, K-5: 0.7%

Total Teaching Faculty: 39

Total Administrators: 2

Teachers with a master's degree or beyond: 32

Average Years of Teaching Experience in Arlington: 9.0

Total Average Years of Teaching Experience: 13.0

## 2006-07 Test Results

Virginia State Accreditation Status: Fully Accredited

Adequate Yearly Progress (according to federal NCLB guidelines): Yes

More detailed information about testing results is available at:

[www2.apsva.us/testscores](http://www2.apsva.us/testscores)

Virginia School Report Cards at: [www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/src](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/src)

Each of Arlington's schools is unique and this report is intended to give you a brief description of your child's school and its programs. It also highlights the achievements of the school in a variety of areas that are important to your child's education.

\*Indicates 2006-07 data.