

Arlington Traditional (Elementary) School

National No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School 2004
Sister School Arlington Academy of Hope, Uganda, Africa 2004
Principal of the Year and Washington Post Distinguished Educational Leadership Award 2005-06
National PTA Parent Involvement School of Excellence 2006
National Schools of Character Finalists 2007

A Countywide School

855 North Edison Street, Arlington, Virginia 22205

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www.apsva.us/ats

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



Arlington Traditional School has been a unique elementary school since 1978 and serves preschool through grade five students from all of Arlington's neighborhoods. Families follow specific application procedures and students are selected by lottery to be admitted into the school. Free bus transportation is provided for

students who need it. A member of the **ATS** community understands that a shared commitment to learning and good character in a structured, engaging environment with traditions leads to successful students and citizens. **ATS** is noted for the high academic performance and good character of its students. It is also noted for its consistent adherence to a traditional philosophy of education that includes:

- Teacher-guided instruction in self-contained classrooms
- Emphasis on basic education in the core academic areas
- Regular homework assigned to all grade levels
- Weekly summary of student progress
- Promotion based on grade level mastery
- Behavior, dress, and grooming standards
- Weekly assembly

Our school colors, blue and gold, signify the importance of individual achievement and the Golden Rule. We show our school spirit on Fridays by wearing blue and gold colors or our school shirts.

The **ABC's of Success- A**cademics, **B**ehavior and **C**haracter (trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship) are embedded in our philosophy and program. We hold high expectations and encourage all students to achieve their full potential as students and good citizens. Our program and students are supported by a strong and collaborative partnership with parents and our community. Together we celebrate our children's academic achievement and accomplishments in the arts and sciences. We believe all students must *learn to read, so they can read to learn!* Our students are the school's biggest fans. In the words of one, "My school is great because the teachers make learning fun! It's a great place to be!"

Goals

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

The Arlington Traditional School Management Plan is an outgrowth of the school system's Strategic Plan. We involve the entire staff in continuous school improvement activities. We want each student to reach his/her full potential and be a life-long learner. Our focus is high student achievement for all children, responsive education, and effective relationships.

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.

- Extremely high test scores
- Extensive library and Literary Lunches
- Poetry Breaks
- Excellent Extended Day Program
- ESOL/HILT Homework Club
- PTA-sponsored Reflections Contest and Enrichment Activities
- Weekly Assembly
- Weekend Staff Retreat
- Partnership with Arlington Academy of Hope, a school in Uganda, Africa
- Partnership with the Library of Congress- *Adventures of the American Mind*
- Partnerships with Kiwanis Club, Safeway, Fire Department, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Air Force Association and Lockheed Martin

Reading/Language Arts

- Phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, comprehension- systematic explicit phonics teaching in kindergarten and primary grades
- Theme-based Summer Reading Challenge- every child reads 50-60 books
- Reading Carnival Day- special activities, assembly, field trip
- Full-time reading/language arts teacher
- Junior Great Books
- Writers' Workshop and Publishing Center
- *Page and Pen* Literary Magazine
- Novel Studies
- Word Masters Challenge contest- grades four and five

Mathematics

- Numbers and number sense; computation and estimation; measurement and geometry; probability and statistics; patterns, functions and algebra
- Use of math manipulatives
- Mathematics check-ups, Investigations with emphasis on problem-solving, and ongoing assessment
- Math Month and Family Math Night
- Continental Math League contests, grades two-five
- Virginia Math League contest, grades four and five

Science

- Emphasis on "hands-on" and the scientific method
- Family Science and Technology Night-science projects required for all in grades three-five
- Science kits emphasizing the use of the scientific method and experimental design
- Outdoor Lab, acreage in Fauquier County where students study a natural environment- third-grade day trip, fifth-grade overnight
- Planetarium- Arlington facility
- Use of Arlington's nature centers- Potomac Overlook and Gulf Branch

Social Studies

- History, geography, civics, economics
- Use of children's literature to enhance units of study
- Field trips, class programs, and assemblies
- Use of History Alive! techniques
- National Geography Bee- grades four and five
- Integrated with Fine Arts
- Visiting Specialists- Colonial Day, Jamestown Foundation, Brass Rubbing

Awards and Recognition*

We're proud of the accomplishments of our students and staff. Here are some of their accomplishments.

- AYP
- Full accreditation
- Passing all SOLs every year
- National School of Character Finalist 2007
- National *No Child Left Behind* Blue Ribbon School 2004
- Principal of the Year and Distinguished Educational Leadership Award 2005-06
- Parent Involvement School of Excellence 2006
- AAUW Educator of the Year 2006
- Music Teacher of the Year Opera Guild 2006-07
- Recipient of 2 North TIER Technology Professional Development grants
- HP Technology for Teaching Grant winner
- National Board Certified teachers
- Arc of Northern VA Teacher Award
- USA Today's "All USA Teacher" (Second Team)
- WETA contest winners
- Past State Geography Bee runner-up
- Reflections winners at county and state level
- All-county orchestra/band/chorus members
- County Fair winners
- Physical Fitness awards
- Presidential Academic Fitness Awards
- DAR Citizenship and History Award
- Kiwanis Kids Honor Club
- Veterans of Foreign Wars Elementary Teacher of the Year (local, district, state) winner
- Virginia May the Month for Children Award winner

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 inside and outside the classroom.

Fine Arts

- Class Plays- every class is a star on stage every year at a school-wide assembly
- Recorder Ensembles- all third-grade students
- Music Recital Night – grades three-five
- Every fourth and fifth-grade student is expected to learn to play a musical instrument (string, wind, percussion)
- Beginning and advanced orchestra and band
- Chorus- grades four and five
- Art and music displays and performances at school and throughout the community
- Art enrichment and contests
- Humanities and PTA cultural heritage programs – visiting artists that enhance learning

Citizenship and Leadership

- Sister School - Arlington Academy of Hope in Uganda, Africa
- Community partnerships and service projects
- Safety Patrols – every fifth-grader
- Student Council Association (SCA)
- School Store
- Peer Mediation
- YES (Youth Experiencing Success) Club – grades four and five
- Blue Stars Mentoring Program - staff to students
- Gold Stars mentoring program - student to student
- Kiwanis Kids Honor Club – grades two-five
- ESOL/HILT Homework Club
- Shooting Stars – SOL preparation
- Tech YES – Technology Certification Program

Opportunities for Parental Involvement

- National PTA Parent Involvement School of Excellence 2006
- Parent Teacher Association (PTA)
- Classroom volunteers
- School Improvement committees
- Extensive after-school enrichment classes
- School Plan Advisory Committee
- School-wide assemblies
- School publications (monthly newsletter, Calendar & Handbook, Directory, Literary Magazine, Yearbook)
- Parent education nights
- Community service projects

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.

Number of computer stations in labs and classrooms: 130

Student Stations: 88

Teacher Stations: 42

Number of computer labs: 2 PC Labs - 1 Mobile iBook Lab

Additional technology tools are available to students and teachers including digital cameras at each grade level, digital video cameras, scanners, networked black and color printers and 7 Interactive SMARTboards. In addition to the above, we have 7 new presentation stations: mobile cart with laptop, LCD projector, DVD/VCR combo and speaker system.

Technology is a tool for learning integrated in all areas of the curriculum at our school.

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

Safety Assemblies: yes

Youth Resource Officer: on call

Student Safety Patrols: yes

Transportation

Almost all the students ride the bus and live more than one mile from school.

School Population

Total Student Enrollment, Pre K-5: 426

Students who receive English as a second language support, K-5: 70

Asian/Pacific Islander, K-5: 19.7%

Black, K-5: 6.8%

Hispanic, K-5: 11.9%

White, K-5: 61.6%

Other, K-5: 0.0%

Total Teaching Faculty: 36

Total Administrators: 1.5

Teachers with a master's degree or beyond: 22

Average Years of Teaching Experience in Arlington: 10.0

Total Average Years of Teaching Experience: 15.0

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

Virginia School Report Cards at: 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.