

Washington-Lee High School

An International Baccalaureate School

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www.apsva.us/washington-lee

This school is fully accredited by the State of Virginia and through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.



Washington-Lee is the first of the three comprehensive high schools in Arlington to be established. Now in its 85th year of operation, the school boasts a diverse student population representing more than fifty countries from across the globe. **Washington-Lee** has

international exchange opportunities with Rheims, France.

Washington-Lee is proud of its history and traditions, which include honors by the U.S. Department of Education, the Virginia Board of Education, the Virginia Department of Education, *The Washington Post* and *Newsweek* magazine.

The International Baccalaureate Diploma was first offered at **Washington-Lee** in 1998, when the first cohort of thirteen students graduated. Since that time, over 260 students have earned the prestigious IB Diploma, in conjunction with the State of Virginia Advanced Studies Diploma.

Washington-Lee graduates in 2008 earned more than \$4.0 million in scholarship awards. Ninety-three percent (93%) of its graduates go directly on to post secondary education, with more than eighty-one percent (81%) enrolling in four-year colleges and universities.

Washington-Lee and the Arlington Career Center are providing an opportunity for seniors to pursue a career interest during the final three weeks of the senior year. This project, *Exploring Work from Theory to Practice*, is now in its third year. It is open to any senior who has a 2.5 grade point average or higher as well as the recommendation of senior year instructors. Students read selections from texts that deal with the theory and practice of work. These readings provide a foundation for seminar discussions and subsequent workplace experiences. Students record their thoughts and observations in journals and share with students, parents, instructors and mentors during a final seminar at the end of the school year.

Washington-Lee offers an extensive selection of Advanced Placement (AP) courses which require students to complete an exit exam that may lead to college credit. Students may begin AP classes as early as the sophomore year with AP European History or AP Government for sophomores, which is the gateway course for students interested in the IB Diploma program.

Students entering **Washington-Lee** in the ninth grade are automatically enrolled in the *Freshman Connection*, a transition program designed to ease the process of entering high school from middle school. Students are divided into clusters with four subject area teachers with each group who meet regularly with each other to provide support for students as they adjust to the rigors of academic and social life at the high school level. Two guidance counselors are assigned to the freshman class as well as a designated assistant principal.

Goals

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

- Increase the number of individual Standards Of Learning (SOL) tests passed and increase the passing percentages on all end-of-year tests.
- Narrow the gap in achievement on SOL's between African American students and white students and Hispanic students and white students.
- Engage all teachers, counselors, librarians in professional development activities related to increased student performance.
- Engage in action planning for continuous quality improvement in the areas of student performance, site-based staff development, school environment, internationalism, and community-school relations.

Instructional Highlights

All Arlington high 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.

- International Baccalaureate Diploma Program
- Advanced Placement classes in math, English, art, music, foreign language, social studies
- Differentiated English classes
- *Freshman Connection*: ninth grade transition program
- Exploring Work from Theory to Practice program for seniors
- Distance learning programs
- Spanish for native speakers classes
- Interdisciplinary classes
- Integration/Team Teachers in Special Education
- Summer reading and math assignments
- Salvadorean and French exchange programs
- Foreign exchange programs such as AFS and YFU
- International school activities
- Professional Development School with Virginia Tech, George Washington University and Marymount University

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.

- African Awareness Society
- Art Club
- Badminton Club
- Chess Club
- Cricket Club
- Dance Team
- Debate Team
- Diversity Peer Training
- Environmental Club
- Everybody Bowls
- FBLA
- FCCLA
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes
- French Club
- French Honor Society
- Freshman Class
- Future Educators of America
- Gay-Straight Alliance
- Illustrator's Club
- IT Club
- It's Academic
- Independent Political Club
- Junior Class
- Key Club

- Latin American Student Association (LASA)
- Latin Certamen Club
- Life Skills After-School Club
- Math Team/VA Math League
- Military History Club
- Model United Nation
- Modern Japanese Culture Club
- Mountain Club
- Music Aficionado's Club
- Music Appreciation Club
- National Art Honor Society
- National Honor Society
- Newspaper
- PAW Club
- Penman
- Peer Mediators
- Politics and Money (PAM)
- Photo Club
- Pro-Life Club
- Roller Hockey Club
- Russian Club
- Sailing Club
- Senior Class
- Social Studies Honor Society
- Sophomore Class
- S.O.S. Africa Club
- Spanish Club
- Spanish Honor Society
- Step Team
- Student Council Association
- Student Ethics Office
- Students for John McCain
- Table Top Gaming Club
- Yearbook
- Young Democrats
- Young Republicans

Awards and Recognition*

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

- 85 years of providing educational excellence to students
- Arlington Teacher of the Year, 1996 and 1998
- Teachers have been published.
- National Merit Semi-finalists (1988 to present -117)
- Outstanding band, orchestra, and vocal awards
- Nationally recognized literary magazine, *The Penman*
- Class of 2008 awarded \$4.0 million in scholarships
- One of *Newsweek* magazine's Top 100 High Schools

Interscholastic Competition

- *It's Academic*
- Debate
- Basketball/Boys & Girls
- Cross Country/Boys & Girls
- Soccer/Boys & Girls
- One Act Play
- Field Hockey
- Indoor Track/Boys & Girls
- Spring Track/Boys & Girls
- Tennis/Boys & Girls
- Gymnastics/Girls
- Crew/Boys & Girls
- Football
- Cheerleading
- Golf
- Swimming and Diving/Boys & Girls
- Wrestling
- Rifle
- Volleyball
- Softball
- Baseball
- Lacrosse/Boys & Girls

Opportunities for Parental Involvement

- PTA membership and special committees
- Freshman Orientation Night and three Transfer Orientation Meetings
- Backyard Chats sponsored by PTA
- Principal Chats
- Night meetings with counselors for college and financial aid information
- Athletic Booster Club participation
- Hispanic Parents Association meetings

Intramural Opportunities

- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Soccer
- Weight-training
- Ping pong
- Badminton
- Fitness Activities

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: 693
 Student Stations: 579
 Teacher Stations: 112
 Number of computer labs: 12
 Laptop Lab: 1
 SMART Boards in each classroom

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: 13
 School Bus Drills Per Year: 2
 Safety Assemblies: yes
 Youth Resource Officer: yes

Transportation

52% ride the bus and live more than 1 1/2 miles from school
 48% live within the 1 1/2-mile-walking zone

School Population*

Total Student Enrollment: 1536
 Students who receive English as a second language: 134
 Asian/Pacific Islander: 12.2%
 Black: 13.2%
 Hispanic: 31.7%
 White: 42.2%
 American Indian/Alaskan Native: 0.1%
 Unspecified: 0.6%
 Enrolled in International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement Courses: 450
 Total Teaching Faculty: 120
 Total Administrators: 7
 Teachers with a master's degree or beyond: 89
 Average Years of Teaching Experience in Arlington: 9
 Total Average Years of Teaching Experience: 12

2007-08 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:
www.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 2007-08 data.