

Fairfax HS

Academy for Communications and the Arts



Dear Fairfax Academy Students and Parents,

We are pleased to welcome you to the Fairfax Academy for the 2008 -2009 school year and are very excited about what's in store for you! The academy offers you opportunities not available anywhere else in Fairfax County Public Schools, and in few schools anywhere in the US. We have hosted visiting educators, artists, performers, and business professionals from different areas of the United States and around the world, including Germany, South Korea, Great Britain, China, and New Zealand.

Fairfax Academy is especially proud of its faculty and staff. The academy teachers bring a wealth of experience from both the classroom and the real world. They know what you need to be successful in their curricular area. The staff gives you support and direction as you prepare for college and a career. Our academy cultivates relationships with colleges and universities that have strong programs in the arts and in communications. Through various partnerships with businesses and arts organizations in our region, your classroom experience is enhanced and supplemented with field trips and guest speakers, workshops, and opportunities for job shadowing and internships.

This year, we are very excited to be implementing a new program that will be incorporated into the curriculum of all of our academy courses. This program, sponsored by the Apple FCU Education Foundation, is called the Creative Leaders Project. It will emphasize 21st Century Skills and will help prepare our students for the new economy of the "Conceptual Age."

As you know, all students had to apply to attend the Fairfax Academy. Some students who applied were not accepted because they had not taken a recommended prerequisite class or because of other academic shortcomings. Others students are now on waiting lists to get into classes if space becomes available. Each year, the competition increases to get into the class that you are in. In summary, you should feel very lucky that you are now a part of a unique, exciting program. I hope that you will take full advantage of the opportunities given to you this year!

To get started, ***please read the Tips for Success on the back of this letter.*** It includes information about our ***Orientation Program on Tuesday, August 26th at 7:30pm*** as well as other guidelines to make your year at Fairfax Academy run smoothly. When you finish with the Tips for Success sheet, ***then read the rest of the packet.*** There are several forms that require signatures and completion by the beginning of school.

If you have any questions after you have read this information, please feel free to contact the academy office at (703) 219-2226. Thank you for your attention to this packet and I look forward to a great year at the academy!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dave Saunders'.

Dave Saunders
Academy Administrator

GETTING STARTED: ACADEMY TIPS FOR SUCCESS

ACADEMY ORIENTATION

If at all possible, you'll want to attend the **Academy Orientation** that will be held **Tuesday, August 26th** from **7:30 – 9:00 pm** in the **Fairfax High School Auditorium**. At the Orientation, you'll meet with your teacher and visit your classroom, learn more about parking and bus transportation, turn in all the forms from this packet. Our goal with the Orientation is to give you a jump start on your year as an Academy student. ***Please make every attempt to return signed forms at the Orientation!***

ACADEMY EXPECTATIONS

- ***Attend class every possible minute and every possible day.*** Keep absences to a minimum and make your travel time as efficient as possible.
- ***Work to the best of your academic abilities in class.*** Seek help from your teachers if you get behind.
- ***Be on your best behavior while on Fairfax High School's campus and while traveling between schools.***
- ***Familiarize yourself with the other Academy policies outlined in the information packet as well as the course expectations of your teacher.***

As students accepted into our elite program, you are expected to meet our high expectations for academic achievement, attendance, and behavior. If you feel that you will not be able to meet these expectations, please let us know now so that other students who may be waiting to get into your class may take advantage of the opportunity.

ACADEMY COMMUNICATION

Communication is very essential for a successful academy experience and there will be several methods used to exchange information with you.

- **Telephone:** You are welcome to call the Academy Office during office hours, 7:00 am – 4:00 pm. If you need to call after hours, or if the line is busy, please leave a message on the answering machine.
- **Website:** This is the most complete resource for Academy information. Please use the website for information about your class (syllabus), Academy policies (including all the information in this packet), important dates and announcements, and the latest Academy news. There are also links to a number of career and college resources. The URL is: www.fcps.edu/FairfaxAcademy.
- **E-mail:** Academy teachers and staff welcome communication by e-mail from students and parents, and teachers appreciate being able to also use this form of communication with students and parents. Please make sure both parents' e-mail addresses are on the emergency care form. Our teachers' email addresses are on our website, and are included on the class syllabus.
- **Blackboard:** All of our teachers will be using the FCPS 24/7 Learning website. Please make sure you sign up for your own FCPS 24/7 account to access class information.
- **Keep in Touch:** New this year! Based on the contact information found on the emergency care form, you will receive occasional emails regarding important,

timely information regarding the academy. You will have the opportunity to opt out of this service.