

# Fairfax Academy Transportation Information



## SHUTTLE BUSES

*Bus Shuttles for 2008-2009: **AM block (7:30-9am)** students have bus shuttles only from a limited number of schools: Falls Church, Madison, Oakton, Robinson, and Woodson. In the **MD block (9:30-11am)**, shuttles are available for all schools. In the **PM block (12:35-2:05pm)**, there are **NO bus shuttles for students**. If bus transportation is not available, students must provide their own transportation.*

***You are strongly encouraged to ride a bus shuttle if there is one available for you.*** Bus shuttles are safer than driving a private vehicle and provide door to door service at no cost to you. If the bus is late, the tardy is excused. In cold weather the buses are already warm; in hot weather they are already cool. However, buses are not chic, they have a rough ride, and they don't have bucket seats. Cars provide more flexibility, but there are many costs (gas, parking fees, etc.), and you are unexcused if the tardy or absence is caused by traffic, breakdowns, etc. You may also have to walk long distance to/from your assigned parking space in bad weather.

***The decision to use Bus Shuttle transportation must be made at the beginning of the school year.*** Due to difficulties in scheduling buses and bus drivers, students who have an option, must choose to either ride the shuttle bus provided by FCPS or use a private vehicle. **FCPS policy states that students cannot ride the bus on some days and drive a car on other days.**

***If students fail to ride a scheduled bus shuttle for three consecutive school days, that shuttle may be cancelled.*** A run will not be cancelled without prior notification to the academy and base school. Requests for reinstating a cancelled run should be made to the academy office in writing, including justification. However, it is possible that a run can not be reinstated after it is cancelled.

### Tips for Riding the Shuttle Bus

- **Be On Time!** Missing a bus is considered an unexcused absence; be sure to leave your classes 5-10 minutes before the scheduled departure time of your bus. Buses are on a very tight schedule. Remember, *your watch* may not be synchronized with *your bus driver's watch*!
- **Be Patient!** The first couple of weeks of school are hectic for everyone, including bus drivers. It may take a week or two before everything runs smoothly. If you are having trouble with your shuttle bus schedule, please notify the Academy Office so we can work with the Transportation Office to resolve the problems.
- **Communicate!** You must ***always*** notify your base school counselor or attendance office and the Academy Office whenever your bus is late or doesn't arrive. ***Your absence/tardy is excused when your bus is late or doesn't show (upon confirmation from the Transportation Office).***
- **Check with your School Counselor or Academy Liaison at your base school** to determine the departure time, waiting area, and the shuttle number for your bus. The Fairfax Academy Office also has this information. All buses arriving and leaving from Fairfax Academy do so in a designated area directly in front of the high school.

## **DRIVING & PARKING**

*Transportation options for 2008-2009: **AM block (7:30-9am)** students from Falls Church, Madison, Oakton, Robinson, & Woodson have the option to ride a shuttle bus – all other AM students must provide their own transportation. **MD (9:30-11am)** students from all schools have a bus shuttle available. **All PM (12:35-2:05 pm) students must provide their own transportation to the Academy – there are no bus shuttles available.***

### **Driving a Car**

When bus transportation is available, students are encouraged to ride the bus. Driving or riding in a car is a privilege that requires responsible student behavior with written parental permission on file in the academy office. If driving and parking regulations are not obeyed, or if students abuse their driving privilege, the privilege can be temporarily or permanently suspended. **Virginia's legal passenger limits for beginning drivers must be observed.**

AM & PM students without shuttle transportation will be guaranteed a parking space and may drive immediately. However, there will be a very limited number of parking spaces available for Academy students who have the option to ride a shuttle. ***Students with shuttle bus options are allowed to drive to Fairfax Academy only after they have been assigned an Academy parking space.***

**To be eligible to drive & park at Fairfax Academy, students must take the following steps:**

1. Complete & return **all** required Academy forms in this Opening Packet, including the **“Academy Transportation” / “Parental Permission for Students Using Private Vehicles for Academy Transportation”** (copied front to back) which requires Parent/Guardian signatures.
2. **Bring evidence** (the base school FCPS issued parking tag) to the Academy Office of having paid the \$150 FCPS Student Parking fee. This fee covers student parking at both the base school and the Fairfax Academy. Students who do NOT have an FCPS parking pass at their base school, must pay \$50 to Fairfax High School for a separate Fairfax Academy tag which is **ONLY** valid for the assigned Fairfax Academy parking space. These fees must be paid before being assigned a parking space.
3. Complete the Parking Permit form. This form is obtained from the Academy Office, completed by the student, and then submitted to the FHS Security Office, who will issue a Fairfax Academy parking tag. The Academy parking tag must be properly displayed in your car at all times when parking at Fairfax High School. If you are also parking at your base school, you must also display your base school tag.
4. Parking spaces are assigned in the following order: **First**, to students for whom bus shuttle transportation is not available. **Second**, to 2<sup>nd</sup>-Year Academy students; **Third**, to 1<sup>st</sup>-Year students after September 18, “first-come, first-served” until all spaces are assigned.

(continued on next page)

5. **The DEADLINE for returning forms is Friday, September 12.** Parking enforcement will begin September 24. Students will not be considered for any parking space until ALL the required Academy and parking forms are completed and returned to the Academy office.

## PLEASE NOTE:

Your car may be booted (and a \$50 fine must be paid to Fairfax High School before the boot will be removed) if:

- If you park at Fairfax High School in any space other than their assigned space.
- If you park without the properly displayed FCPS parking tag and/or Academy parking tag.
- If you do not follow FHS parking regulations.

Parking regulations are strictly enforced to protect the spaces of those who are parking legally.

### Tips for Driving & Parking

- **Registered parking is strictly enforced at Fairfax High School and Fairfax Academy.** The FHS Security Office issues Academy parking tags and handles all parking violations. If you receive a ticket or are booted, it must be resolved at the FHS Security Office, not the Academy Office.
- **Both the FCPS parking tag and the Academy parking tag** are uniquely numbered and cannot be transferred to or used by any other student.
- **Academy students must park only in the assigned Fairfax Academy spaces.** All other spaces are assigned to Fairfax High School students, faculty/staff, and visitors: if you park in any of these spaces, you may be booted! Most of the parking in the neighborhoods surrounding FHS is by permit only.
- **If the driver is absent, the students who ride in that car are still responsible for getting to the Academy on time for class.** Have a backup system in place!
- **If a student is late or absent when driving OR riding in a car to the Academy, the absence/tardy is not excused.** Traffic jams, speeding tickets, breakdowns/flats, and fender benders all fall into this category. **This is FCPS policy.**
- **Students who drive may make a stop between schools to pick up a lunch or snack.** However, no other stops are permitted (including stops at home).
- **Obey all traffic laws:** observe speed limits, no U-turns (especially on Rebel Run), obey Virginia's passenger limits for young drivers
- **Please Be Safe and Drive Very Carefully!**



To: Academy Students and their Parents  
From: **FCPS TRANSPORTATION OFFICES**  
Re: Academy Transportation

Your child has been enrolled in an academy course separate from his/her base school. School bus transportation is provided for the student, planned in accordance with program needs, class schedules, and bus efficiencies. Unfortunately, bus service may not be available to all schools every block.

Every effort is made to provide service while minimizing cost. ***If a student fails to ride on a scheduled bus for three consecutive school days, that run may be cancelled.*** A run will not be cancelled without prior notification to the academy and base school. Requests for reinstating a cancelled run should be made to the academy office, including justification. However, it is possible that a run can not be reinstated after it is cancelled.

If a student misses the return bus to the base school, the class from which they are absent at the base school will be considered an unexcused absence. Additionally, the student is responsible for transportation to the base school.

If your student does ***not*** plan to use school bus transportation to and/or from the academy, please notify the academy staff so that the transportation can be reallocated [***all parents should complete the enclosed Academy Transportation form and return it to the academy office.***] The academy office must be notified in writing by the parents of any transportation method changes during the school year.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.