



Mustang Message

Franconia Elementary School
January 5, 2011



Recognize this? This is the new addition at the rear of the school by the playground. At the end of the month, this will be our new temporary main entrance. The parking lot will open up and the main office will be located at this entrance. Kiss & Ride students will also be entering and exiting through this rear door as the second phase of renovation begins.

Stay tuned for more info regarding the second phase of renovation at Franconia!

From the Principal

Vacationing in a new culture and language can be exciting. Raising a school-aged child in a new culture can be exhausting. The never-ending papers and requests can confuse and overwhelm families. Who can you call?

Our part-time parent liaison, Odette Boyce, helps us link home with school. She can explain school communications and forms and acquaint families with school and community services. Mrs. Boyce works diligently with everyone in the school to support all of our students. She speaks Spanish and can arrange for interpreters, when needed.

In some cultures, parent participation in schools is neither expected nor encouraged. We want all of our families to feel welcome and valued at Franconia. For help, call our parent liaison at 703-822-2204!

Merrell V. Dade

Principal

Resources for preschool children

All children grow and develop at different rates. However, the sooner a delay in development is discovered, the sooner we can offer help. Developmental screening is the first step in identifying students who may need special services. Screening is FREE. Interpreters are available to help parents and children with the process. For preschoolers 20 months to 5 years, call the Virginia Hills Child Find office at 703-317-1400. You can also go to <http://www.fcps.edu/dss/sei/ecids/transition.htm> to find out about the early intervention services offered in the county.

For Your Information

Advanced Academic referrals due February 4

Fairfax County offers a continuum of advanced academic services for all students in grades K-8. Learning experiences are designed to develop higher-level thinking through enrichment, acceleration, and extension of the Program of Studies.

Level I— lessons in critical and creative thinking skills for all FCPS students K-6.

Level II— differentiated instruction at an advanced level for many FCPS students through collaboration between the classroom teacher and the Advanced Academic Resource Teacher.

Level III— part-time Advanced Academic Program for identified students in grades 3-6. This program is school-based.

Level IV— full-time Advanced Academic Program for eligible students in grades 3-8.

Screening—Multiple criteria are reviewed to determine eligibility for all FCPS Advanced Academic Program (AAP) services. Formal identification begins with Level III services and the local school AAP committee determines student eligibility for school-based AAP services. The county-wide AAP Central Selection Committee determines eligibility for Level IV center placement.

Testing—Each fall, all FCPS second grade students, as well as students in grades 3-7 without ability scores, are administered the Cognitive Ability Test and/or the Naglieri Test. A second grade AAP center screening pool is established using these results. Second grade students are automatically screened for AAP center placement.

Referral—Parents/guardians of students not in the second grade screen pool may initiate the AAP center screening process by completing and submitting an Advanced Academic Program Referral form no later than February 4, 2011. For more info, go to <http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/gt/forms.html>.