

Hunters Woods Elementary School
for the Arts and Sciences
2401 Colts Neck Road, Reston, VA 20191



School Phone: 703-262-7400

October 6, 2009

Attendance Line 703-262-7474

Olivia M. Toatley, Principal

Avis Russell, Assistant Principal

Principal's Message

Dear Hunters Woods Families and Friends:

It is really beginning to feel like fall outside. Mornings are crisp and cool, leaves are slowly beginning to change color, and children are well-settled into the routines of school. With the cooler temperatures outside, we ask that you remind and encourage your children to dress appropriately for the weather.

We had a spectacular Fall Harvest Festival. We would like to thank the many volunteers that worked so hard to make this year's festival such a success.

It is hard to believe that we are nearly half-way through our first quarter. Interim reports will be sent home later this week. This is a good time to begin thinking of our upcoming parent-teacher conferences the first week in November. I've included a few tips for consideration before you meet with your child's teacher:

1. Listen to what your child says about school, what he or she likes best. Let them know that you and the teacher will meet to discuss how the year is going.
2. Prepare questions about your child's progress, strengths and weaknesses, homework, how he or she gets along with classmates.
3. Focus on academic and social progress and your child's strengths.
4. Share concerns openly, honestly, and with respect for the role played by both you and the teacher.
5. Select the most important points to discuss - prioritize your concerns.
6. Ask about feedback from other educators, such as special education teachers, art, music, and physical education teachers.
7. Let the teacher lead the discussion, allow the teacher to express his or her view, and make sure your priority concerns are addressed.
8. Ask the teacher how you can work together to address concerns that you and the teacher agree upon.

9. Remember, your child may be different at home and at school; both the parent and teacher gain new understandings from the conference.

And should you arrive without questions, here are some good ones to consider:

1. Should I help with homework?
2. Does my child follow directions?
3. Does my child participate in class discussions?
4. Is my child prepared for class?
5. How does my child get along with other children?
6. What is my child reluctant to do?
7. What is a goal you would like to see my child achieve?
8. What can I do at home to support what is being done at school?

We are enjoying working with your children. Hunters Woods is very fortunate to have such a strong parent/teacher partnership.

Sincerely,

Olivia Toatley, Principal

School Visitors

To maintain a safe environment during school hours, all parents must check in the office, sign in on the computer, and take a visitor sticker. School safety and security personnel will be checking for ID badges/visitor stickers.

Tardy Pass

If a student arrives to school after 8:40 am they must stop by the office and get a tardy pass. Parents should not take their children to the classroom without a tardy pass.

Absence Messages

Parents can leave messages on the absentee line if children are sick, tardy, or can't come to school for some other reason. We prefer you leave messages before 9:00 am. **Our absentee line number is 703-262-7474.**

Classroom Interruptions

In order to minimize interruptions to the precious instruction time, parents need to make sure that their children have **homework, lunch, lunch money, instruments, bus notes**, etc. before they leave home. Also, please try to make doctor's appointments after school.

Going Home with Friends/Early Dismissals

If your child is going home with a friend or bringing friends home, **please send a note to the office**. In order to issue a bus pass, the office staff needs notes from **both parents**.

For early dismissals, please send a note to school with your child giving the teacher advance notice. You will need to leave enough time to find a legal parking space, come to the office, and allow us to call the student from their classroom. Remember, education takes place throughout the building. Please help the office staff to locate your students more quickly by learning which specials and teams they are on and being aware of their daily school schedule.

Homework Request

For homework requests, please leave a message or send an e-mail to your child's teacher and allow teachers enough time to gather the homework.

Birthday Celebrations

Please make arrangements with your child's teacher for birthday celebrations. Because some students have allergies (i.e., latex, peanuts), we ask that you not send in balloons, flowers, or stuffed animals.

Emergency Care Cards

The office is still missing several emergency care forms. If you have not done so, please send your signed emergency care form to school as soon as possible. These forms contain vitally important safety and contact information.

Health Room Helpful Tips



All medications require a medication authorization form filled out before medications can be kept in the health room. This includes prescription medication as well as over the counter (OTC)

medications such as Tums, Tylenol and Benadryl. Forms may be downloaded at www.fcps.edu or picked up in the school health room. The health room aide can help you with any questions that you may have. When dropping off any medication, including OTC's, the following policies apply:

1. Children may **not** bring medications to school. A responsible adult must drop them off in the school health room.
2. All medications must be in the original container.
3. Medication may not be shared by siblings. Each student must have his/her own bottle of medication.
4. Cough drops may be carried by students with a medication authorization form on file as long as they are in the original package and are not shared with other students.

H1N1 (Swine Flu) Update

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is partnering with the [Fairfax County Health Department \(FCHD\)](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health) to monitor the progression of the 2009 H1N1 Influenza (swine flu). The Fairfax County Health Department follows the guidelines of the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](http://www.cdc.gov) and provides recommendations to the school system.

As you may know, flu can be easily spread from person to person. Fairfax County Public Schools is taking steps to reduce the spread of flu. It is the school system's goal to keep schools open to students and functioning in a normal manner during this flu season. But, FCPS needs your help to do this.

Here are a few things you can do to help:

- **Teach your children good hand hygiene etiquette.** Hands should be washed frequently with soap and water, and hand washing should last for at least 20 seconds.
- **Teach your children to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues.** If a tissue is unavailable, children should cover their coughs or sneezes using the elbow, arm, or sleeve instead of their hands.

- **Learn the signs and symptoms of the flu.** Symptoms of the flu include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit, 37.8 degrees Celsius, or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and a very tired feeling. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea.
- **Keep sick children at home.** Any child who is found to be sick while at school will be sent home. It is also important to keep sick children at home for at least 24 hours after having a fever or showing signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing drugs.
- **Plan now for your children's care if you or your children become ill with the flu and need to stay home.**
- **Stay informed.** FCPS encourages you to visit www.flu.gov or call 1-800-CDC-INFO for the most current information about the flu.

For more information about flu in our community and what our school system is doing, visit <http://www.fcps.edu/news/swineflu.htm> or call your school.

Fall Picture Day is Coming

- Picture day is Thursday, October 29 starting at 8:50 am in the SACC and Black Box rooms.
- PTA is in need of volunteers to help the photographers. Volunteers will receive a voucher if they work at least three hours.
- If you wish to order Fall Photos, please complete an order form and return it with payment on picture day to give to the photographer. Forms will be sent home via Tuesday folder. Additional forms may be picked up in the school office.
- The individual student photos taken on October 29th will be printed in the school yearbook if you purchase photos or not.

If you do not want your child's photo to be put in the school yearbook, please contact Mary Stahl (D'Amico) at 703-262-7400 or e-mail her mary_damico@fcps.edu.

Primary Science Night!



Primary Science Night Planning Meeting
Please Help Support Our Super Scientists!
Tuesday Oct. 27th, 4:00 PM
Room 260 (Small Science Lab)

For further information contact:
Susan Kelly
Susan.T.Kelly@fcps.edu
703-262-7473

Headstart Class Needs Your Help

Parents, please send in your empty frozen juice cans for Ms. Cox's Headstart class. They are used by them for easel painting. Ms. Cox says, "I have never found anything superior and it is a green practice!" Thank you in advance for your contributions.

Three Ways to Purchase School Meals:

Online Payment, Check, or Cash

Fairfax County Public Schools is pleased to announce that it now offers three ways to pay for school meals:

- **Online**—Using www.myLunchMoney.com—The service is easy to use, convenient, private, and secure. There is a convenience fee of \$1.95 per transaction. Once the account is open, parents may check the fund account at any time from computer or phone.
- **Check**—Write a check—made out to Hunters Woods Food and Nutrition Services—and bring the check to the food service manager's office. A parent who wants his or her check payments to be for meals only (no à la carte items) should write it on the check or tell the manager.
- **Cash**—Cash may be brought to the food service manager's office for deposit in student accounts, or students may pay cash for breakfast and lunch on a daily basis.

Parents—Please Note!

- Parents may ask for a printed summary of their child(ren)'s account at any time by contacting the food service manager (or by signing on with myLunchMoney.com). You don't need to use the online account for this service.
- Parents are asked to remind their child(ren) not to share their personal identification number (PIN) with friends.
- A parent who wants his or her payments to be for meals only (no à la carte items or snacks) should tell the food service manager.

2009-10 School Meal Prices

- The prices for school meals during the 2009-10 school year will be as follows:

	Breakfast	Lunch
Elementary School	\$1.50	\$2.65
Reduced-Price Meals	\$.30	\$.40
Adults	\$1.95	\$3.65
Milk (sold separately)	\$.60	\$.60
Soy Milk (sold separately)	\$.75	\$.75
Kindergarten Snack—Milk or Juice		\$.60
Milk or Juice Plus Snack		\$.95

- For more information, such as school lunch menus, which are updated monthly, go to http://www.fcps.edu/fs/food/food_at_school.

What's New With Keep in Touch for 2009-10

FCPS has an electronic mass notification system known as Keep in Touch (KIT). KIT has two services: **KIT Basic** (automatic enrollment) and **KIT Plus** (subscription).

KIT Basic has automatic enrollment because it draws contact information from the student information system (SASI) and the employee (Lawson) databases. Contact information for KIT Basic may be updated at the school or through weCare@School, a feature of FCPS 24-7 Learning (Blackboard) - <http://www.fcps.edu/DIT/fcps247.html>. FCPS central offices and schools use KIT Basic to provide families and employees with three types of messages—attendance (new this year), emergency, and outreach—via e-mails and phone calls.

KIT Plus is a subscription service for students, community members, and citizens interested in news, events, and updates from FCPS. Subscribers may select from the following topics:

- Adult and Community Education (ACE) classes and news.
- Current issues (budget, boundary studies, summer programs).
- Delayed openings and school closings.
- FCPS job opportunities.
- Magnet schools and advanced academic programs.
- News releases and media tips.
- PTA, PTSA, PTO information.
- School Board news and updates.
- Special education services.
- *Supergram* (employee newsletter).
- Volunteer opportunities.

In addition to these topics, KIT Plus subscribers may also receive announcements from up to five schools of their choice. KIT Plus is a self-subscribing, -updating, and -unsubscribing service. FCPS families and employees may receive announcements from both KIT Basic and KIT Plus.

For more information, or to subscribe, visit <http://www.fcps.edu/kit>.

FCPS Is Now on Facebook and Twitter

Fairfax County Public Schools is now on Twitter, where news and information, emergency messages, and information about current issues are posted for those who choose to become followers of the school system. To follow FCPS on Twitter, visit <http://www.twitter.com/fcpsnews> and click on Follow.

FCPS also has a Facebook page; to follow FCPS on Facebook, visit <http://www.facebook.com/fcpsva> and select Become a Fan at the top of the page.

Citizens can also receive FCPS news and information by subscribing to the school system's Keep in Touch e-mail messaging system, or by subscribing to RSS (really simple syndication). To learn more about RSS, visit <http://www.fcps.edu> and go to the News Releases banner on the right side of the page, then click on the orange RSS logo.

PTA Fall Book Fair



Mark your calendars for the Fall Book Fair. This PTA sponsored event will take place November 16th-20th. Look for more information to come in your child's upcoming Tuesday folders. If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please e-mail us at bookfair@hunterswoodspta.org Thanks from the Book Fair Committee.

"Target" Hunters Woods

Did you know there's an easy way to help us raise money for our school—for books, reading programs and anything else that can use extra funding? It's called Take Charge of Education, and it's helping our school right now.

Here's how it works: Visit Target.com/tcoe or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate our school, then use your REDcard whenever you shop. When you use your REDcardSM (Target® Visa® Credit Card, Target Credit CardSM or Target Check CardSM), Target will donate up to 1% of your purchases to the eligible K-12 school of your choice.

Don't have a REDcard? It's easy to apply. Get started in person at any Target store or go to Target.com/redcard.

Grandparents, alumni, friends and neighbors are all welcome to participate in the program. The more people we involve, the harder the program works for our school. If you're already participating, thank you! Check out our school's progress anytime at Target.com/tcoe.

Hunters Woods Elementary School Advanced Academic Programs



Meet Mrs. Jenkins
Welcome Back! My name is Tracey Jenkins and I am the Advanced Academic Resource Teacher at Hunters Woods this year. I am excited to be here and

feel extremely fortunate to be working with such a fantastic staff and community. I appreciate how welcoming everyone has been and look forward to working with you all throughout the school year! I am returning back to the county after having a baby and staying home with my daughter for the past year and a half. Previously, I worked as a resource teacher in the Advanced Academic Programs office at Lacey Instructional Center. I was also an Advanced Academic Resource Teacher and classroom teacher at Ft. Belvoir ES for several years.

I graduated from Virginia Union University with a degree in Elementary Education. I have since completed my gifted endorsement, and in May of 2010 I will complete the Educational Leadership cohort M.Ed. program at Virginia Tech/Northern Virginia Campus.

I will be at Hunters Woods ES - *Every other Monday, Thursday and Friday*. My email address is tjenkins1@fcps.edu. My phone number is (703) 262-7400 ext. 7455, and I am in room 292.

For more information regarding Advanced Academic Programs offered in FCPS, please visit the Advanced Academic Programs website at: <http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/gt/>

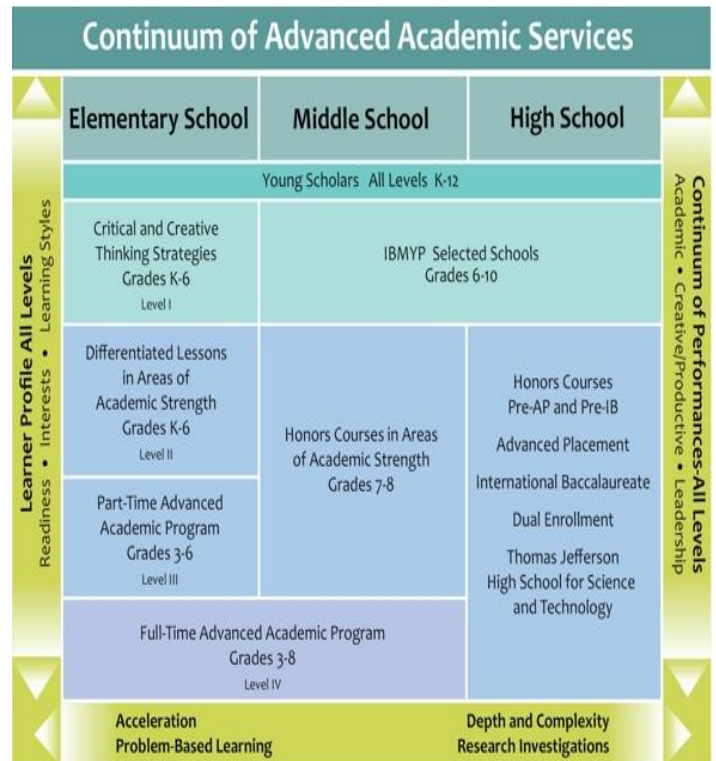


Advanced Academics Programs

As you know, the county has transitioned to a new name for both my title and the services provided in the schools. The term "Gifted and Talented" has been replaced with "Advanced Academic

Programs". This reiterates that while we recognize all strengths in students, the focus of my role is one of academics and providing best practices for all learners.

I will be providing Advanced Academic services for identified Level II and III students. I will work



across grade levels K-6 and in various capacities (pull-out, inclusion, small group, and flexible groups).

Advanced Academic Programs Parent Night at Hunters Woods

This informational meeting will be held on *Thursday, October 22nd from 7:00 - 8:00 PM in the Museum Pod*. This meeting is for parents of identified Level II and Level III students in Grades 3-6 who have been identified to receive SE=School-based services, DE=Differentiated Services and YS=Young Scholars. I will share in greater detail the Level of Services continuum and how services will be offered at Hunters Woods this year.

Important Dates

FCPS Advanced Academic Programs Parent Nights

Tuesday, October 8, 2009	Mclean HS	7:30 PM
Tuesday, October 13, 2009	Oakton HS	7:30 PM
Thursday, October 15, 2009	Annandale HS	7:30 PM
Monday, October 19, 2009	West Potomac HS	7:30 PM

Advanced Academic Programs and Students NEW to FCPS

Parents of students who are NEW to FCPS and are interested in completing an Advanced Academic Level IV Referral Form for January 2010 placement should do so by **October 30, 2009**.

Parents/guardians should deliver documents to the Advanced Academic Resource Teacher at your local school by this deadline.