



THE CARDINAL



Wisdom begins with respect for the Lord.

Mathematics: An Advantage for Life

A strong foundation in mathematics gives children a competitive advantage throughout life, regardless of what career path they choose. Any student can do well in math with preparation, focus and a little hard work.

A STRONG FOUNDATION

Our young kindergarten students start with creative, oral and written drills in mathematics. They quickly move on to first-grade level work, which allows them to stay ahead by one grade level through Lower and Middle School. Each level builds logically from the one before, establishing true mastery of complex concepts by easily working with simple facts.

Our Lower School follows the A Beka program one year above grade level, supplemented with various resources, including Singapore Math and Core Knowledge — not to be confused with the Common Core.

Addition and subtraction are mastered at the kindergarten level. Multiplication is introduced in the first grade and the tables are memorized in the second grade. By third grade, students tackle

long division; all arithmetic skills are mastered by sixth grade and students are introduced to basic concepts of Algebra and Geometry.

Our seventh grade students take Pre-Algebra. (Note that some government schools now call this class Algebra 1.) Eighth grade students take Algebra 1. In high school, students take Algebra 2, Geometry, Advanced Math (with Functions), Analytical Geometry



and Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus and the elective Business Math.

BEWARE OF FALSE MEASURES

In an effort to close achievement gaps, some government schools have resorted to “dumbing down” their math programs. This kind of thinking reflects no understanding of the true nature of mathematics.

The U.S. Department of Education’s new Common Core

curriculum is especially suspect. Its higher levels blur distinctions between discrete skill sets. By reducing content and presenting what remains out of context, educators who follow Common Core rob students of the essential building blocks of the discipline.

Common Core levels for younger students delay instruction in the most basic mathematical elements. These children are more or less

trained to perform simple operations by counting on their fingers or resorting to calculators. Without a foundation and with little structure, these students suffer a disadvantage in working competently with higher math.

GREAT RESULTS

The mathematics curriculum at the Fairfax Christian School challenges students to their highest levels of achievement. Our students gain a vast working knowledge of mathematics, which applies to all aspects of their lives. Through focus, preparation and hard work, mathematics becomes more than just getting the right answers. It lays a foundation of discipline and problem-solving which cannot be otherwise achieved.

News & Events

Revised School Calendar

Because of the unusual number of snow days, we have made the following changes to our schedule:

- Easter Break has been shortened to Good Friday, April 18th, through Easter Monday, April 21st. Student absences that week will only be excused with pre-arrangement and pre-approval.
- School will be in session on Memorial Day (May 26th).
- Final Exams for seniors are scheduled to begin Thursday, May 29th.
- Final Exams for non-seniors and ERB testing are scheduled to begin Monday, June 9th.
- The last day of school will be Friday, June 13th, 2014.

Spring Scramble

Students, parents, alumni and friends are invited to join us for our annual Spring Scramble Golf Tournament at Hidden Creek Country Club on Friday, May 2nd. Registration begins at 8:00am; the tournament begins with a shotgun start at 9:00am. FCS parents and students play for free. For more information and to register, visit golf.fairfaxchristianschool.com.

Field Day

Field Day will be held on Friday, April 25th, from 12:00 noon to 2:00pm.

Test Dates

The next SAT will be given on May 3rd. Register at sat.collegeboard.org/register.

The TOEFL is being offered in Vienna, Arlington, Fairfax and Falls Church on April 12th. To register for the TOEFL, go to www.ets.org.

Please contact Mrs. Butler at butler@fairfaxchristianschool.com with any questions about testing.

WiFi Policy Change

All students must have their iPad's WiFi connection turned off unless a teacher has specifically asked the class to login. Failure to turn off WiFi (unless otherwise directed) will be considered an Honor Code violation with subsequent consequences.

Medication Policy Reminder

Students are not allowed to carry any medication with them during the day, including over-the-counter medications. Medications must be brought to the school office by the parent or guardian in the original containers, clearly labeled for the student. Students who must self-administer medication must have a signed physician's order giving permission for self-administration. Students unable to self-administer must have a parent or guardian come to school to administer the medication to them as needed.

Left Turn Restriction

To avoid a potential traffic safety issue, we ask that parents who turn left out of the main campus please drop off their children between 7:30am and 7:45am. After 7:45am, please turn right onto Hunter Mill Road, then turn right onto Sunset Hills Road; you can make a fairly safe and convenient u-turn at Reston Presbyterian Church.

Spring Ball

FCS will host its first Spring Ball on Friday, May 23rd, from 8:00pm to 10:00pm, at Hidden Creek Country Club. This is a formal event which will feature ballroom dancing. Light appetizers will be served. Students in 5th through 12th grade are invited. Middle School students must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Spring Musical

The FCS Spring Musical will be performed on Thursday, May 1st.

Admissions Open House

Students and their families who would like to learn more about our school are invited to attend the Admissions Open House on Saturday, April 26, at 10:00am. Attendees should meet in the Admissions Office in the Main Building by 10:00am. For more information about this event, please email our Admissions Director, Mrs. Liz McCoy, at mccoy@fairfaxchristianschool.com

SCIENCE FAIR

Our students put on quite a show at the Science Fair! Congratulations to this year's winners.

High School:

1st - Bahar Dastgheib, Laurie Velasquez & Noelia Velasquez
"Mouse Maze"

2nd - Kate Hyun, Lyle Ghayur, Eliana Marrs, Garvin Oliver & Noah de la Rosa
"Expressions & Color"

3rd - Jill Xie, Xin Li, Darren Wang & Gye Park
"Surface Tension of Solutions"

Honorable Mention - Martha Mumenthaler

Middle & Lower School:

1st Place - Marie Chapman & Marissa Martin
"The Thrill of the Chase"

2nd Place - Eve Thompson, Beth Phillips & Anna Zhong
"A Scientific Explosion"

3rd Place - Christian McCann
"Conducting Electricity with Different Metals"

Honorable Mention - Mindy Davis, Julian Pluas, Emily Vargas-Perdomo, Alyssa Thoburn & Emily Cerna-Velasquez

SPELLING BEE

Owen Barnert is the winner of our school spelling bee. Owen went on to participate at the county level of the Scripps National Spelling Bee. We're proud of you, Owen!



GEOGRAPHY BEE

Jack Forsys won our school geography bee. He went on to place 8th in the state-level National Geographic Geography Bee. Well done, Jack!



Girls' Basketball

MVP (Varsity) - Caitlyn VanZandt

MVP (JV) - Noelia Velasquez

Most Improved (Varsity) - Serena Darwish-Perdomo

Most Improved (JV) - Emily Cerna-Velasquez



WINTER SPORTS ASSEMBLY

Congratulations are in order for members of the boys' and girls' basketball teams, honored at this year's Winter Sports Assembly. In addition to player medals, trophies were awarded for Best Offensive Player, Best Defensive Player, Most Valuable Player, and Most Improved.



Boys' Basketball

Best Offensive (Varsity) - Aaron Tang

Best Offensive (JV) - Erik VanZandt

Best Defensive (Varsity) - Billy Li

Best Defensive (JV) - Lyle Ghayur

Most Improved (Varsity) - Dennis Deng

Most Improved (JV) - Noah de la Rosa



Teacher Feature: Mme. Lucette P. Fulford



You might see her anywhere on the main campus: she teaches in every building, at every grade level. Wherever she is, she will greet you with a cheery *Bonjour!* or a remark (in French, of course) about the weather. This lady is Madame Fulford, French teacher to innumerable FCS students.

Lucette Fulford was born and raised in France. Her first career in the United States was with the French Embassy in Washington, D.C. Then followed a second career: marriage, and raising four children. Years later, she returned to the workplace, this time as a teacher. She taught for four years at Marymount Junior School before signing on to teach at FCS in 1985.

For almost 29 years, Madame Fulford has taught French to FCS students from kindergarten through 12th grade. Lower

School students enjoy learning the language through simple phrases and songs. Middle and High School students who opt to continue their French studies are placed by proficiency level in more advanced classes.

“I am thankful to FCS for giving me the opportunity to teach a language that I love.”

The mere mention of her name prompts a smile from each of her students. “Of all the French teachers I’ve had,” said one High School transfer student, “she makes French the most fun.” Their appreciation and esteem are well deserved: Madame Fulford takes special care to

tailor her classes to students’ needs and interests, fearlessly embracing the challenge to reach every student.

As a native speaker, Madame Fulford is well-equipped to demonstrate the beauty of the French language and to share the rich culture and history behind it. Her lessons transcend the textbook, bringing authentic French into the classroom.

Madame Fulford has seen many of her students return as FCS faculty and administration. She also teaches some children of former students. Even those who do not return to the school sometimes contact her, just to ask after her and thank her for her contribution to their lives. Her influence extends beyond the purely academic: her humor and grace are an inspiration to everyone around her.

Throughout her teaching career, Madame Fulford’s love for the French language and desire to share it with others have served her well. She appreciates the authentic Christian values of our school, and wholeheartedly incorporates them into her curriculum.

With invaluable experience, unparalleled dedication, and a joyful spirit, Madame Fulford brings more than a language and cultural heritage to FCS. She enriches the lives she touches with that certain *je ne sais quoi*.