COMMUNITY

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is located in Fairfax County, Virginia, the most populous jurisdiction in Virginia and the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area with more than 1,055,580 residents. Approximately 59 percent of all county residents over 25 years of age have completed four years of college.

FCPS has 28 high schools with a total high school enrollment of 47,462. The average number of course units taken by each graduate is 28.4. The average class size in high school is 29.5 students. The average per-pupil cost for high school students is projected to be $11,688 in 2009-2010.

CURRICULUM

The instructional program for FCPS is defined by the Program of Studies. This comprehensive, rigorous curriculum contains benchmarks outlined in the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL), as well as, objectives that offer students opportunities to extend their learning based upon their aptitudes and interests.

Six high school academies, operating as schools within schools, offer highly technical and specialized courses not found at all high schools. Courses are available in Career and Technical Education (CTE), fine arts, and world languages and can be accessed by students from all high schools. The CTE courses offer numerous credentialing opportunities for students who pass industry certification exams.

Advanced academic courses are offered in all high schools and are open to all students who seek academic rigor. Students may enroll in honors (Pre-AP, Pre-IB) as underclassmen and continue in Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) or dual enrollment courses. FCPS is also home to Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, a public magnet school and a Governor’s School offering a comprehensive curriculum, emphasizing science, mathematics, and technology.

GRADUATES

Ninety-four percent of the approximately 12,391 FCPS 2009 high school graduates are attending post-secondary educational institutions. Of this group:

- 62.2 percent attend four-year colleges
- 29.0 percent attend two-year colleges
- 1.6 percent pursue military/employment
- 2.0 percent pursue other educational plans

CLASS RANK

FCPS high schools do not rank students.

ACHIEVEMENT

FCPS educates 14 percent of the public high school juniors in the Commonwealth of Virginia. In 2009, FCPS had 219 National Merit Semifinalists, which constituted 51 percent of Virginia’s semifinalists. Additionally, 16 seniors were selected as semifinalists in the 2009 National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Black Students.

The mean SAT scores for FCPS seniors as compared to state and national mean scores are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAT Scores</th>
<th>Critical Reading Average</th>
<th>Mathematics Average</th>
<th>Writing Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FCPS</td>
<td>545</td>
<td>547</td>
<td>552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>511</td>
<td>511</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NATION</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>501</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GRADING SYSTEM

Effective September 2009

FCPS adopted a new grading scale effective September 2009. Changes in the FCPS grading policy include a modified ten-point grading scale that uses pluses and minuses. An asterisk (*) is used on the transcript to distinguish B+, C+, and D+ grades earned prior to September 2009. For example, B+ = B+.

A (93-100) = 4.0 B- (80-82) = 2.7 D+ (67-69) = 1.3
A- (90-92) = 3.7 C+ (77-79) = 2.3 D (64-66) = 1.0
B+ (87-89) = 3.3 C (73-76) = 2.0 F (below 64) = 0.0
B (83-86) = 3.0 C- (70-72) = 1.7

Grading System Prior to September 2009

A (94-100) = 4.0 C (74-79) = 2.0
B+ (90-93) = 3.5 D+ (70-73) = 1.5
B (84-89) = 3.0 D (64-69) = 1.0
C (80-83) = 2.5

P: Pass WF: Withdrawal Fail WP: Withdrawal Pass
Audit: No Credit

Additional Weighting

AP, IB, and Dual Enrollment

Students who take a year-long AP or IB course are granted 1.0 added to their GPA calculation for each AP or IB course taken. Also, selected semester-long dual enrollment courses are granted 0.5 added to their GPA calculation.

Honors

At all FCPS high schools, honors courses in mathematics, science, English, and social studies receive a 0.5 weight.

Declaration of Nondiscrimination

No student, employee, or applicant for employment in the Fairfax County Public Schools shall, on the basis of age, race, color, sex, religion, national origin, marital status, or disability, or age (under certain conditions), be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. Compliance is coordinated by the directors of the following:

Office of Design and Construction Services (located at 10640 Page Avenue, Fairfax, Virginia 22030, (703-246-6230)); regarding access to facilities; Office of Equity and Compliance (571-423-3050 or TTY 703-280-9833)), regarding equal employment opportunity, discrimination, and sexual harassment issues; Office of Monitoring and Compliance (571-423-4210), Department of Special Services, regarding programs and activities for students with disabilities. Correspondence may be addressed to the above offices and sent to 8155 Gatehouse Road, Falls Church, Virginia 22042.

ALL SCHOOLS IN FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE ACCREDITED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS