



ARLINGTON SCIENCE FOCUS (ELEMENTARY) SCHOOL

A Team School with Jamestown, Key and Taylor

Governor's Award for Academic Excellence 2009, 2010, 2011

1501 North Lincoln Street, Arlington, Virginia 22201

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www.apsva.us/asfs

This school is fully accredited by the State of Virginia and through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Visit www.apsva.us and click on "About Us" for information about test results and the school population.

The program at Arlington Science Focus School is designed to develop extensive understanding of science content and process through inquiry-based learning. Students embark on an exciting adventure each day where science content is used as the catalyst to teach all curriculum by using natural inquiry to develop students' skills of thinking, analyzing, reflecting, problem-solving, and hypothesizing. We believe that students learn best by doing and, therefore, they are encouraged to use various strategies to tackle complex problems. Consequently, they gain confidence in themselves as learners. Students are also engaged in a weekly multi-age "Science City" experiment. They participate in hands-on activities dealing with ecology, biology, health, geology, zoology, physics, astronomy and chemistry that are directly correlated to the Virginia Standards of Learning.

Our philosophy celebrates diversity and uniqueness. As we implement Gardner's Theory of the Multiple Intelligences in our classrooms, we focus on promoting skills that are valued in the community and the broader society. We recognize that children learn and process knowledge differently; therefore, students receive their education by cultivating the eight intelligences of verbal/linguistic, musical, visual/spatial, logical/mathematical, bodily-kinesthetic, interpersonal, intrapersonal and naturalist. This approach allows students to gradually assume responsibility for their own learning.

INSTRUCTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Weekly Science City Experiments
- Investigation Station – "hands on" science lab
- Water Gardens and Courtyard
- Outdoor Education Gardens, Weather Station
- Bright Link Interactive Technology in every instructional space
- Reading Recovery, My Reading Coach, Summer Book Club
- Student-televised daily news shows on WASF
- School Yard Habitat Day, Family Math Day
- Continental Math League, Math Dice Competition
- Geography Bee, Odyssey of the Mind
- Freshwater aquarium, Aquarium Club
- Integrated instruction
- Musical performances integrate core curriculum

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- Governor's Award for Academic Excellence 2009, 2010, 2011
- Intel School of Distinction Finalist, Science 2010
- Virginia Index of Performance (VIP) Excellence Award 2008
- Children's Engineering program for Northern Virginia
- Student recognition: Principal's List, Honor Roll, Citizenship, Bring Up Grades Awards and Math Olympiads
- Teacher recognized by the Virginia Commission of Fine Arts
- *Washington Post* Teacher Mini and Arts Education grants
- Teachers recognized by Harvard, Smithsonian, NASA and Aries for excellence in science

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

- After-school enrichment classes or tutorial program
- Electric News newsletter
- PTA, School Advisory Committee
- Ice Cream Social/Book Swap, Book Fair, Silent Auction
- "Outside the Box" Science Day
- Evening seminars for parents
- International Event
- Classroom volunteers, field trip chaperones, guest speakers
- Computer and science labs, outdoor gardening

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Five-A-Day Challenge, Project Fit
- Partnerships with Batelle Corporation, Red Top Cab & Lockheed Martin
- School-wide musical performances
- Y.E.S. Club
- World languages offered
- Guest author/illustrator, scientists and speakers
- Read Across America, Celebrating Writing Day
- Reflections Contest
- Jump Rope for Heart, Walk for the Homeless
- ASFS Dog Walk
- Greek Olympics, Family Gym Night
- Space Shuttle simulator
- Art/Technology Fair
- PTA Silent Auction