

## OTHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

### CHARACTER COUNTS!

*Character Counts!* is a character education program and ethical decision-making model incorporated into the FCPS curriculum at all grade levels. The program promotes six “pillars of character”: caring, citizenship, fairness, respect, responsibility and trustworthiness. Staff and parents are encouraged to model these character traits at school, at home and in the community. ★

### CHARTER SCHOOL

FCPS opened Monocacy Valley Montessori Public Charter School, Maryland’s first charter school, in September 2002.

Kindergartners through eighth graders, enrolled through a lottery system, attend classes grouped in mixed ages and abilities. MVMPCS also offers pre-K. According to the Montessori Method, students move throughout the classroom during the school day, pursuing knowledge according to their interests. Lessons direct them toward activities that help develop reasoning abilities and life skills. *To learn more about this school, use the directory listing on page 53.*

The charter school functions as a semi-independent school, with its own governance and instructional design. However, education achievement is measured against the same performance standards used by the local and state boards of education. Staff members are FCPS employees, and the school’s management reports to the Superintendent. For more information, read the Board of Education of Frederick County Public Charter Schools Policy (Section 440) online at [www.fcps.org](http://www.fcps.org) or get a copy by calling the FCPS Legal Services Office. ★

### EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCE LABORATORY

The Earth and Space Science Laboratory is located in Lincoln Elementary School and may be used by all students in Frederick County. Emphasis is placed on use by grades 1-5. Students visit the laboratory to expand their knowledge of astronomy, geology, oceanography or meteorology, depending on the earth science unit they are studying. Tuesday evening planetarium programs, presented from November through March, are open to the public. See the calendar pages for specifics. ★

### EXCEL SCHOOLS

At designated schools (see Schools Directory, page 52) students performing below grade-level standards are required to attend school beyond the regular hours and/or days of operation in order to receive specialized instruction. Each student has an individual learning plan, which outlines the additional learning opportunities and other support he or she will receive and the specific performance improvements expected to be gained. School administrators notify and coordinate with parents or guardians of students who are identified for the program. Only under extraordinary circumstances will the extended learning requirement be waived. Bus transportation is provided to those students who would normally receive it. ★

### FAST FORWARD

Through agreements with various post-secondary institutions, the FCPS Fast Forward program is an opportunity for students to earn college credit for certain high school classes in which they achieve a grade of “B” or better. See the High School Course Offering Guide for a list of qualifying courses. ★

### GIFTED AND TALENTED, ENRICHMENT

FCPS is committed to addressing the individual needs of all gifted and talented students. Based on multiple performance criteria, students with outstanding capabilities and specific academic aptitudes participate in enriched and accelerated learning activities.

Elementary students who have completed specific instructional levels in language arts and math have the opportunity to work on objectives beyond their grade placement. Highly advanced elementary students may be recommended for placement in the Elementary Magnet Program, serving academically gifted students in grades 1-5 at three schools. All elementary schools offer opportunities for enrichment, either through consultation with a representative from the Office of Gifted and Talented Education or a full-time school-based enrichment teacher.

Secondary students have the opportunity to enroll in a variety of honors classes and other challenging courses. Every middle school offers individual, small-group, whole-class and schoolwide enrichment activities through a full-time enrichment teacher. High schools offer honors classes and Advanced Placement (AP) courses along with options for independent study and internships. ★

### JUDY CENTER

The Judy Center prepares students for academic success in school through a combination of high-quality child care, educational experiences and comprehensive family services. Based at Waverley Elementary, the program also offers services at Hillcrest and South Frederick Elementary. Judy Center services are available to all families residing in those school districts with a child birth through age 5. ★

### LEARNING/LANGUAGE SUPPORT

The Learning/Language Support Program provides specialized intervention addressing the needs of students identified as having phonics-based reading difficulties. LLS teachers are trained to identify appropriate students and implement strategies for remediation. The program is available in all elementary and middle schools. For more information, call the Learning/Language Support Program Office. ★

### OUTDOOR SCHOOL

Outdoor School is a part of the FCPS grades 5 and 6 science curriculum. At each of these grade levels, students participate in a 2-day, out-of-school study at points of interest in Frederick County. Geology is the focus for 5th grade, and rivers and streams for grade 6. For more information, call the Outdoor School facilitator. ★

### PRE-KINDERGARTEN

FCPS offers pre-kindergarten programs in the 16 elementary schools designated by an asterisk on page 52. To enter the pre-kindergarten program this school year, a child must observe the 4th birthday on or before September 1, 2006. Students are selected first on eligibility for free or reduced-price meals. Additional factors that increase a child’s risk of not being successful in school may then be considered. Applications are available at the designated schools, and registration begins the first day of March parent-teacher conferences. Enrollment is limited. ★

## EDUCATION THAT IS MULTICULTURAL

Equity is a key component of FCPS' commitment to educational excellence. Education That Is Multicultural (ETM) enables students to understand and appreciate our country's diverse cultures. It prepares students to live, learn and participate productively in our increasingly diverse society. ETM is a continuous, integrated, multi-ethnic, multidisciplinary process for educating all students about diversity and commonality. Diversity factors include but are not limited to race, ethnicity, region, religion, gender, language, socioeconomic status, age and disabilities. A primary goal of ETM is to promote student achievement through multicultural resources and culturally responsive classroom practices. Additionally, ETM emphasizes equitable personnel practices and improved community relations. For more information, contact the Supervisor of Education That Is Multicultural. ★

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING (ELL)

English Language Learning instruction promotes successful integration into mainstream academic programs for students in pre-kindergarten through grade 12 whose first, or primary, language is not English and who have limited English proficiency. ELL students new to Frederick County are assessed for English language proficiency. The ELL Department recognizes the importance of parental involvement and provides interpreters for parent conferences and many translated documents. Most ELL elementary students receive their ELL support in their home school. Some new ELL students in grades 3-5 are served at Monocacy or Orchard Grove elementary schools. While Monocacy Middle School ELL students receive their ELL instruction at their home school, all other middle school students attend West Frederick Middle School. All high school ELL students attend Frederick High School and take ELL classes there. Summer-school support is offered in conjunction with the FCPS Summer Success Program. ★

## EVEN START

Located at Hillcrest and Rock Creek School, Even Start is a federally funded grant program offering classes 4 days per week for qualifying families served by Waverley and Hillcrest elementary schools. This family literacy program targets families in need of Adult Basic Education or English Language Learner classes. Parents and their young children birth through age 8 participate in various program components: adult education, parenting, early childhood education, interactive literacy activities and home visits. Even Start fosters school readiness for young children. A summer camp is also available in July. For details, contact the Adult Education Office. ★

## HEALTH EDUCATION

The health curriculum provides factual, sequential, age-appropriate information to assist students in gaining knowledge and skills that will lead to lifelong healthy attitudes and behaviors. It includes family life and human development, HIV/AIDS and substance abuse prevention, mental health, nutrition, fitness/exercise and wellness/safety concepts.

Family life program topics include physical and emotional maturation, reproduction, physical and sexual abuse, sexually transmitted diseases and information on pregnancy prevention with emphasis on abstinence.

A Family Life Advisory Committee, composed of parents and health education professionals, reviews and approves all curricular and instructional materials related to family life and HIV/AIDS education. Parental permission is required before a student takes the family life and HIV/AIDS prevention units. ★

## HEATHER RIDGE SCHOOL

This school provides an alternative educational program for all secondary students who require a highly structured setting. Heather Ridge emphasizes family involvement and utilizes individual and group counseling to enable students to learn the educational and behavioral objectives necessary to re-enter their home schools.

Heather Ridge operates a regular day program for students in grade 6 through the semester they reach age 16 and an afternoon (Twilight) program for students age 16 or older. Students may be referred to the Heather Ridge day program by their home school's IEP team, or to the Twilight program by the Superintendent or designee. ★

## HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIES

The following programs are available to students county-wide at the high schools listed. Out-of-district students must provide their own transportation, and enrollment may be limited. For more information, contact the school guidance office.

Brunswick: Teaching Academy  
Catoctin: Environmental Science Academy  
Frederick: Advanced Placement Diploma Academy  
Governor Thomas Johnson: Arts & Communications Magnet  
Linganore: Junior ROTC Magnet  
Middletown: Advanced Placement Experience Academy (APEX)  
Tuscarora: Pre-Engineering Academy  
Urbana: International Baccalaureate (IB) Magnet  
Walkersville: Pre-Engineering Academy ★

## SAFE AND DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS

The Safe and Drug-Free Schools program ensures substance abuse prevention education is provided to students from kindergarten through 12th grade. Age-appropriate research-based curriculum is provided along with teacher training and resources. PTA programs and a variety of Channel 18 TV shows provide drug-awareness education for parents. Guidance and support are given to peer-leadership organizations that promote drug-free living (SHOUT, SHOP and SADD).

Middle and high schools also use the Maryland Student Assistance Program to provide a systematic procedure of early identification, intervention, referral and follow-up for students who may be involved with alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

For details, contact the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Facilitator or your school counselor. ★

## SUMMER PROGRAMS

Our schools offer a variety of remedial, enrichment and credit courses for all grades during the summer. An elementary Summer Success Program helps currently enrolled students who have not met the county readiness standard for the next level. In addition, regular summer school is offered to middle school students who need to repeat or review a core course taken during the school year. High school students can make up a failing grade, have an opportunity to improve a previously earned grade, or earn credit for a course not taken. Information about courses, locations and fees is available in the spring from school principals. ★

## TITLE I

The Title I program provides supplemental instructional services to meet student needs in some schools with a high concentration of low-income families. Emphasis is on additional assistance in reading and mathematics. For further information, contact Dr. Gloria Julius, Director of Elementary Schools. ★

