



Fairfax County Public Schools

Summer Learning and Enrichment

Coming Next Month: New FCPS Schools Opening in Fall 2012

Explore Enrichment Opportunities

Do you have an aspiring musician, painter, or sculptor in the family? If you're looking for opportunities to help your student pursue a special interest, the Institute for the Arts (IFTA) likely has a class to help him or her focus on skills, concepts, and the artistic process.

IFTA is a visual and performing arts program for students entering grades 7-12 in the 2012-13 school year. Dozens of enrichment classes, taught by professionals, help students grow and expand their knowledge of dance, music, theatre, cartooning, computer graphics, photography, and more.

The Elementary Institute for Arts (E-IFTA) offers enrichment classes for students entering grades 4-6 in the 2012-13 school year. Students experience total immersion in the arts as they rotate through exciting and stimulating classes in dance, drama, music, and visual art.

"Students develop skills and talents while exploring subjects or fields that interest them when they take enrichment courses," said Folly. "For example, Tech Adventure Camp gives students a chance to rotate through a series of eight classes including automotive technology, culinary arts, CAD/3D design, gaming, graphic arts, robotics, video and webpage design. It is great exposure to many forms of technology for students who have an interest in that area."

Young people interested in pursuing a career as models, fashion designers, makeup artists, or hair stylists will explore all that and more at Fashion Camp, July 9-13, at Fairfax High School. The camp is open to all students entering first grade through ninth grade. Campers will participate in activities designed for separate age groups. Campers will learn about fashion trends and create their own personally styled outfits, jewelry, and accessories in preparation for a fashion show at the end of the week.

Dive into a Good Book

Summer is a great time for children to explore books and discover reading for enjoyment. Students who read during the summer are more likely to improve their word recognition and reading comprehension skills. So encourage your child to pick up a book, discover a new subject or author, and have fun too! Many schools provide summer reading lists for students and the Fairfax County Public Library offers a summer reading program.

Summer Learning Fun

Splashing around in the pool, bicycle riding in the neighborhood, playing video games -- just a few ways children spend their summer days. Do you want to add some exciting, fun, and even educational activities to your child's summer?

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) offers many programs to keep students learning throughout the summer including fashion camp, art classes, drivers' education classes, foreign language camps, and more.

"Learning doesn't occur just between September and June," said Levi Folly, manager of FCPS summer programs. "Summer academic and enrichment courses expose students to subjects and areas they might not access during the school year and they provide opportunities for students to focus on areas of interest with like-minded students."

"Completing an academic course during the summer gives students more flexibility in their

fall schedule. In fact, most students who take an academic summer course do so to get ahead," he said.

Academic programs are available for students who want to accelerate their course of study during the summer, need to recover a credit, or pass a Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) end-of-course test.

The Summer Online Campus is open to FCPS

students and non-FCPS students and includes mathematics, science, English, history, physical education, and Spanish courses. New online courses include creative writing, Algebra 2 head start, college essay writing, and rich writing.

FCPS also offers two summer sessions for students seeking SOL credit. An SOL writing test remediation session will be held July 9-20 and a non-writing test session will be held July 9-24 for the following courses: Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology, Chemistry, World History-Geography 1, World History-Geography 2, and Virginia-US History.

Current FCPS high school seniors who need to earn one standard credit in Algebra 2, Geometry, English 12, or Virginia-U.S. government in order to graduate can enroll in the Term Graduate Academy to receive credit and graduate by August 31. The classes will be taught at Lake Braddock Secondary School July 9-27.

Left: The go-cart was constructed in the Automotive Technology class "Start Your Engines" at Tech Adventure Camp last summer. The campers assembled and drove the go-carts.



To learn more about all FCPS summer programs visit www.fcps.edu and click on Summer Programs.

Learn Languages and More Through ACE

FCPS Adult and Community Education (ACE) offer a variety of classes for everyone in the community.

Exploring world languages through games, art, songs, crafts, and activities help students in grades K-6 learn other languages. The Foreign Language Experience (FLEX) Summer Camps provide instruction in Chinese, French, German, and Spanish.

High school students who need classroom and behind-the-wheel training to meet state driver education requirements can fulfill the requirement by completing their classes through ACE.



Getting To Know Us

IFTA Visual Art Chair
Joe Dailey

Joe Dailey admits he enjoys spending several weeks each summer with young people in a high energy atmosphere.

He is the visual arts chairman for the Institute for the Arts (IFTA), a unique academic program for students who want to explore visual and performing arts during the summer. Courses in dance, music, theatre, and the visual arts offer students opportunities to explore various arts disciplines they may not experience in their regular school setting.

"The students are pretty spectacular," he said. "They come to IFTA excited about creating and processing their thoughts and they are excited to be with other students just like themselves who share the same interests."

IFTA students register to take four classes from a variety of course offerings. They are encouraged to enroll in one course from each discipline to grow and expand their knowledge of the arts during the month long program.

"It's a great experience for the students because they are with other students who want to excel and be challenged," said Dailey. "It's also rejuvenating for teachers to work with these students."

Students who enroll in IFTA can earn a half a credit for completing the program.

"IFTA will be an experience they won't forget," said Dailey. "The students are in their element, developing concepts and creating art. The experience from the process is very rewarding."

FCPS also offers an arts enrichment program for elementary school students in grades 3-5 through the Elementary Institute for the Arts (E-IFTA).

Did You Know?

Many FCPS high school booster clubs offer summer camps for students. Contact your school to learn more!