STATEMENT OF MISSION
Fairfax County Public Schools, a world-class school system, inspires, enables, and empowers students to meet high academic standards, lead ethical lives, and demonstrate responsible citizenship.

PARENT TOUR INFORMATION

School Hours: Monday – Friday: 8:40 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.
Student Population Total: Approximately 580

State Maximum Grade Level Class Total:
- Kindergarten: 29
- Grade 1: 30
- Grade 2: 30
- Grade 3: 30
- Grade 4: 35
- Grade 5: 35
- Grade 6: 35

Instructional Programs:
- Art: Grades K-6, Once a week
- General Music: Grades 1-3, Three times a week – 30 minutes; Grades 4-6, Twice a week – 30 minutes
- Physical Education: Grades 1-3, Twice a week – 30 minutes; Grades 4-6, Twice a week – 45 minutes
- Technology Lab: Grades PK-6, Students and teachers have access to many forms of technology for learning and daily instruction. Some technologies include: Classroom Laptops, 1:1 Computers, Laptop Lab, Mobile Labs, Smart boards, iPads, digital cameras, document cameras, various instructional software. There is no specific schedule for computer labs- teachers sign up based on the needs of their classroom.
- Library: Grades K-6, Schedule varies according to grade level and class projects.

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING PROGRAM: One full-time and one part-time school counselor support the school program by conducting guidance lessons.

LEARNING DISABILITIES RESOURCE PROGRAM: This program is a special education program. Students who manifest mild to moderate difficulties and are achieving below expected levels in basic skill areas may be evaluated to determine the need for this program. A preschool program is available for children under the age of five with special needs.

READING PROGRAM: GFES has the services of a full-time reading resource teacher. The reading program provides opportunities for all students to improve reading through basic skills.

ADVANCED ACADEMIC PROGRAMS: Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) offers a continuum of advanced academic services for all students in grades K-8. Learning experiences are designed to develop higher-level thinking through enrichment, acceleration, and extension of the Program of Studies. Teachers, administrators, and advanced academic resource teachers (AARTs) work together to provide enrichment for the various levels of service.

Level I - Critical and Creative Thinking Strategies: Lessons are provided for all grades K-6 students that represent a broad range of thinking strategies which extend and enrich the FCPS Program of Studies (POS) and the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL). The lessons support differentiation within the classroom. Grade-level specific lessons are available in math, language arts, social studies, and science.

Level II – Differential Services: Students who exhibit a need for additional challenge in an area of academic strength are considered for Differentiated Services within the classroom. These services are specifically planned for the identified child to provide more challenging content, assignments, resources and/or instructional grouping within the classroom.
Level III – Part-Time Services: All students are considered for school-based services on an ongoing basis. Parent/guardians of students currently enrolled in FCPS may also initiate screening for the school-based program by submitting the AAP School-Based Services (Levels II–III) Referral Form to the school’s Advanced Academic Resource Teacher. The Local School Advanced Academic Screening Committee considers ability and achievement test scores, the Gifted Behavior Rating Scale (GBRS), progress reports, and parent/guardian input to determine the need for advanced academic services.

Level IV – Full-Time AAP: The level IV program provides full-time academic placement for highly gifted students. Teachers follow a curriculum framework to differentiate the depth, breadth, and pace of instruction based on the FCPS Program of Studies. Students work with academic peers in all core subject areas.

- SCREENING - Multiple criteria are reviewed to determine eligibility for all FCPS Advanced Academic Programs. The local school committee determines student eligibility for part-time school-based services. The countywide central selection committee determines eligibility for full-time AAP (Level IV) placement.

- TESTING - The Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT) is administered to all first graders. The Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT), Custom Form for Grade 2, will be administered to all FCPS second graders in the fall. These assessments are used as part of the screening process for advanced academic services. Students in grades 3-8 who are missing an ability test score are also tested. Parents of students in grades 3-8 may request a one-time retest option for either the CogAT or the Naglieri by informing the school at the start of the school year. A second grade screening pool is established using the test results from first and second grade testing. Students in the second grade pool are automatically screened for full-time AAP (Level IV) placement. Parents or guardians may exercise a one-time retest option during the fall testing cycle.

For further information including grade level information, test dates, deadlines, forms, etc., please visit the FCPS link to the Advanced Academic Program [http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap/index.shtml](http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap/index.shtml)

You may also contact our school’s Advanced Academic Resource Teacher, or call the AAP office at 571-423-4740.

JAPANESE PARTIAL IMMERSION PROGRAM: Students begin the Japanese Immersion Program in the first grade. Partial-immersion is a means of acquiring a foreign language through content matter instruction. Students spend half of the day studying the regular grade level curriculum in classes conducted in Japanese. These classes include science, math, health and Japanese culture. The other half of the day is conducted in English.

Applications for enrollment in the program become available in January of the child’s kindergarten year. Students new to our school, with experience in the Japanese language, may be tested by an immersion teacher for inclusion in the program. For further information, please visit the FCPS website: [http://www.fcps.edu/is/worldlanguages/immersionlearnmore.shtml](http://www.fcps.edu/is/worldlanguages/immersionlearnmore.shtml) or call the Office of World Language Office at 571-423-4602.

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE: These services are provided to students with communication disorders in oral language, articulation, voice, and fluency. Students may be evaluated to determine the need for this program.

ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL): The purpose of ESOL services is to provide English instruction and related services for those limited English proficient students who need support in order to achieve high academic standards. ESOL services’ goals are aligned with local, state, and federal goals for English learners.

PTA ACTIVITIES: We are very fortunate to have an active, supportive PTA at Great Falls Elementary School. There are many opportunities for volunteering within our school. The PTA sponsors many different activities throughout the school year. Some of the activities may include: a Fun Fair, spring and Fall Book Fairs, and after school activities for the students. Students will receive notification of upcoming activities in their Tuesday Weekly Communicators. Visit the PTA website: [www.gfespta.com](http://www.gfespta.com) for more information.

SACC PROGRAM (SCHOOL AGE CHILD CARE): SACC is a Fairfax County Office for Children program for elementary school age children whose parents are working, attending school, or disabled. Early morning and after school child care is available. For information and registration, visit [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ofc/Sacc.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ofc/Sacc.htm) or call the SACC registration office: 703-449-8989.

UPON PROMOTION FROM 6TH GRADE, STUDENTS WHO ATTEND GREAT FALLS ES MAY TRANSFER TO:

Cooper Middle School, 977 Balls Hill Rd., McLean, VA 703-442-5800
Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA 703-287-2700

Thank you for your interest in Great Falls Elementary School.