



October 6, 2016

High School Transitions Information

Assalaamu Alaikum

Dear 8th Grade Parents,

Congratulations & Mashallah! Your student is now an eighth grader!

As our Grade 8 students begin their final year at AFA we have created this HS transitions document to help support their journey toward graduation. Some of the information contained in this document is specific to graduation from AFA and some is related to preparing for the transition out of AFA. We hope that this document will guide you as you move through the rest of the 2016-2017 school year, Inshallah. If after reviewing this document you find you still have questions please contact Ms. Sulaima sulaima.kochaji@alfatih.org , our school registrar, for further assistance.

Things to keep in mind as you begin 8th Grade:

- 7th & 8th grade matters. Public and Private HS schools will consider your child's 7th & 8th grade transcripts.
- Your child's Algebra course is eligible for HS credit. Successful completion of this course will ensure that your child receives HS credit and will allow them to move on to Geometry in 9th grade.
- Your child's Arabic courses are eligible for HS credits. Successful completion of these course may allow your child to earn 1 or 2 years of HS Arabic credit.

AFA Graduation process:

- 8th grade graduation will be held in May/June (specific date TBD)
- Graduation planning begins in March/April
- 7th grade parent volunteers are needed to ensure 8th grade graduation is a success.
- All 8th grade graduates must pay a \$50 graduation fee. This fee will help offset cost of venue, refreshments/celebration, gifts, etc.
- **Graduation fees are due October 14, 2016.** Checks should be made out to Al Fatih Academy with a note on memo line that states your "child's name" and "Graduation Fee". Checks may be submitted at the front desk.

Moving on:

Alhamdulillah, we are blessed to live in an area, that upon graduation from middle school, offers many choices. Our graduates chose to move on to private institutions, public high schools, and even homeschooling. Please find below a list of options and the related information.

- **Public High School Options:**

Please find attached to this document, two informational sheets specific to Fairfax County Public Schools and Loudoun County Public Schools. These documents will guide you through the transition process.

- **Private Schools Options:**

If you are considering private school options, please visit <http://77241.inspyred.com/images/2016-07-29%20State%20Recognized.pdf> for a list of accredited schools.

- **Homeschooling Options:**

For families considering homeschooling options, please refer to the attached high school transitions document.

- **Magnet Schools for Science and Technology:**

For students seeking rigorous math and science instruction, there are two magnet schools serving Loudoun County and Fairfax County students. Both schools offer multiple information sessions throughout their respective counties that are open to the public. TJHSST visited Al Fatih Academy on September 21st and presented to all middle school students and interested parents.

- **TJHSST - Deadline October 14**

- <https://www.fcps.edu/registration/thomas-jefferson-high-school-science-and-technology-admissions/freshman-winter>

- **Loudoun County Academy of Science - Deadline Passed (September 22)**

- <http://www.loudoun.k12.va.us/domain/4845>



October 6, 2016

Middle School to High School Transition Information Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS)

FCPS policies and procedures of student registration are subject to change. This document is intended to provide general information. We encourage you to visit the FCPS website for the most up-to-date information of student registration: <https://www.fcps.edu/registration/general-registration-requirements>.

Student Registration

All parents of 8th grade students who reside in Fairfax County, and who intend to send their child to FCPS for 9th grade, should initiate the student registration process between **March and June 2017**. All students are assigned to attend their neighborhood high school, based on their home address. Review the boundary locator to determine your child's neighborhood school. Visit that school to start the student registration process: <http://boundary.fcps.edu/boundary/>

Request a meeting with the school counselor assigned to your child to select courses for 9th grade and determine the type of diploma your child intends to earn. If your child wants to attend a high school outside of your neighborhood, read below for transfer details.

Required Registration Documents

Parents are required to produce an original birth certificate at the time of registration to confirm both the child and the parents' identity. Foreign-born students may use a passport with an affidavit to confirm their birthdate and their identity. Photo identification of parent/guardian registering child is required.

A physical exam is *not* required for high school students as they enter FCPS. Proof of residency and immunization records are required.

Required forms may be downloaded from https://www.fcps.edu/sites/default/files/media/forms/enroll_0.pdf.

Students requiring emergency medication will need to submit additional medical paperwork. More information can be found here: <https://www.fcps.edu/resources/student-safety-and-wellness/school-health-services>

Request Records from Al Fatih Academy

In preparation for your registration meeting, contact Sulaima Kochaji (sulaima.kochaji@alfatih.org) to request your child's official school transcripts from Al Fatih Academy. Please submit the **Request to Release Confidential Records to Another School** form (http://www.alfatih.org/editoruploads/files/Records_Requests_for_AFA_to_Release_2015.pdf) **at least 2 weeks before your meeting**.

Student Transfer from Neighborhood School – April 15 Deadline

Students and families that wish to initiate a transfer to another FCPS high school may do so under four approved reasons, on or before **April 15**:

- Academy sequence (to attend special classes in cosmetology, trade school, dance classes, animal science, etc.)
- Foreign Language Sequence
- Advanced Placement Program
- International Baccalaureate Program

Students must first register at their neighborhood (base) school. The second step is to complete a *New High School Curricular Student Transfer Application* (<https://www.fcps.edu/sites/default/files/media/forms/se221.pdf>). The form is due **April 15th** to the local neighborhood high school. FCPS will approve these transfer requests based on space availability in the requested program. Approvals will be granted for only one year, students must re-apply for transfers each year in high school. Upon approval into the program, both the parents and the students must sign forms to confirm their intention to participate fully in the transfer school program. Students with poor attendance patterns or discipline problems are less likely to gain an approval for renewal of transfer requests. For additional information, visit here: <https://www.fcps.edu/registration/student-transfers>.

Home Language Survey

All new FCPS students are required to complete a *Home Language Survey*. If the family indicates that a language other than English is spoken at home, or that the child knows a language other than English, the child will be required to take an English language assessment test. This requirement is a federal regulation. In Virginia, the WIDA test is administered to measure content area vocabulary. The results of the WIDA assessment will indicate if the child is eligible for English as a Second Language (ESOL) support at the high school level. Parents have the right to refuse ESOL services at any time. The form may be found here: <https://www.fcps.edu/sites/default/files/media/forms/se82.pdf>.

For additional information on the FCPS ESOL program, visit <https://www.fcps.edu/academics/high-school-academics-9-12/english-speakers-other-languages-esol>. Additionally, families who indicate that a language other than English is spoken at home will be asked to complete the student registration process at an FCPS Central Office.

World Languages Credit

AFA graduates will be eligible to earn 2 high school credits for their Arabic language study in the AFA middle school program (Grades 7 – 8). FCPS may recognize the Arabic language courses from the AFA transcript with a final grade of C or higher.

Algebra 1 Credit

AFA graduates will be eligible to earn 1 high school credit for their Algebra 1 coursework at AFA in Grade 8. FCPS will recognize the Algebra 1 course from the AFA transcript with a final grade of C or higher. **To earn verified credit for Algebra, the student must also pass the Virginia Standards of Learning Test for that subject.** Tests are typically offered throughout the summer and at the end of each school year. Consult with your child's counselor to schedule a test date. For additional information on this and other course requirements visit <https://www.fcps.edu/academics/graduation-requirements-and-course-planning/first-time-ninth-graders-2013-2014-and-beyond>.

Expunging High School Courses Taken in Middle School

In accordance with VDOE regulations, FCPS Regulation 2408 permits parents of students who take a high school credit-bearing course in middle school to request that the grade be omitted from the student's high school transcript and the student not earn high school credit for the course. **Parents must make this request in writing no later than the end of the first nine weeks of the school year following completion of the course.** Parents are strongly advised to discuss this decision with their student's school counselor and the impact of expunging a course on desired high school diploma type and standard and verified credit requirements. The request form may be found here: <https://www.fcps.edu/sites/default/files/media/forms/is104.pdf>.

Advanced Academics

Honors courses in grades 9-12 are open to all students who seek academic rigor. Students who demonstrate high achievement in one or more areas of academic strength may participate in honors courses in any of the four core academic subject areas. Honors classes use a curriculum that extends the program of studies (POS) in depth and complexity. Honors classes, which are available in all high schools, seek to provide opportunities to build on the

individual student strengths, develop critical and creative thinking skills, and prepare students for advanced coursework. Students in 9th - 11th grades are encouraged to pursue honors coursework in preparation for AP and IB classes.

Additional details may be found here: <https://www.fcps.edu/academics/high-school-academics-9-12/advanced-academics>

Home Instruction - Deadline August 15

In accordance with Section 22.1-254.1 of the Code of Virginia, any parent may elect to provide home instruction for his or her school-age child in lieu of school attendance. Parents or guardians should send their notice of intent and supporting documents by email, fax, or mail by **August 15** to: HomeInstruction@FCPS.edu (Fax: 571-423-4317) or Home Instruction/Fairfax County Public Schools/Gatehouse Administration Center/8115 Gatehouse Road, Falls Church, VA 22042.

For additional details, please visit <https://www.fcps.edu/registration/home-instruction>

Part-Time Enrollment - Due between April 15 and June 1

On a non-tuition paying basis, high school-age students whose parents or guardians have complied with the Code of Virginia's requirements to provide home instruction may apply to enroll in up to two core courses (English, mathematics, science, social studies, foreign language) per year, in the high school serving the student's attendance area, on a space-available basis. Student transfer applications to another high school will not be considered unless a course is not offered at the school serving the student's attendance area or unless there is no space available in the course in the school serving the student's attendance area.

A completed and signed partial enrollment application and a completed and signed parent or guardian agreement form must be submitted between **April 15 and June 1** for the following academic year.

Registration Summary

We look forward to working with the families of our AFA Middle School students to support you in making an effective transition to an FCPS high school. If you would like our assistance in preparing to meet the high school guidance counselor, please contact me directly. If you need assistance with the paperwork associated with transitioning to FCPS, please contact Sulaima Kochaji at sulaima.kochaji@alfatih.org.



Middle School to High School Transition Information Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS)

LCPS policies and procedures of student registration are subject to change. This document is intended to provide general information. We encourage you to visit the LCPS website for the most up-to-date information of student registration: <http://www.lcps.org/page/1012>

Student Registration

All parents of 8th grade students who reside in Loudoun County, and who intend to send their child to LCPS for 9th grade, should initiate the student registration process between **March and June 2017**. All students are assigned to attend their neighborhood high school, based on their home address. Review the boundary locator to determine your child's neighborhood school. Visit that school to start the registration process: https://webinter.lcps.org/Lcps_Locate/

Request a meeting with the school counselor assigned to your child to select courses for 9th grade and determine the type of diploma your child intends to earn. If your child wants to attend a high school outside of your neighborhood, read below for transfer details.

Required Registration Documents

Parents are required to produce an original birth certificate at the time of registration to confirm both the child and the parents' identity. Foreign-born students may use a passport with an affidavit to confirm their birthdate and their identity. Photo identification of parent/guardian registering child is required.

A physical exam is *not* required for high school students as they enter LCPS. However, a [TB Screening](#) is mandatory. Proof of residency and immunization records are also required. Students requiring emergency medication will need to submit additional medical paperwork. More information and forms can be found here: <http://www.lcps.org/Page/2014>

Request Records from Al Fatih Academy

In preparation for your registration meeting, contact Sulaima Kochaji (sulaima.kochaji@alfatih.org) to request your child's official school transcripts from Al Fatih Academy. Please submit the **Request to Release Confidential Records to Another School** form (http://www.alfatih.org/editoruploads/files/Records_Requests_for_AFA_to_Release_2015.pdf) **at least 2 weeks before your meeting**.

Student Transfer from Neighborhood School – Application available from April 1 – August 15

Students and families that wish to initiate a transfer to another LCPS high school may do so under three approved reasons, before **August 15**:

- Employee Special Permission
- Special Permission
- Family Relocation

Students must first register at their neighborhood school. The second step is to complete the online application which will be available from **April 1 through August 15**. LCPS will approve these transfer requests based on space availability in the requested program. For additional information, visit this link at: <http://www.lcps.org//Domain/11494>

Home Language Information

All new LCPS students are required to complete the Home Language Information section of the Student Registration form. If the family indicates that a language other than English is spoken at home, or that the first spoken language was not English, arrangements will be made by the school to screen the student to determine his or her need for English Language Learner(ELL) instruction. The results of the assessment will indicate if the child is eligible for English Language Learners support at the high school level.

For additional information on the LCPS ELL program, visit <http://www.lcps.org/Page/354>. Students may still initiate the registration process at their base school.

World Languages Credit

AFA graduates will be eligible to earn 2 high school credits for their Arabic language study in the AFA middle school program (Grades 7 – 8). LCPS may recognize the Arabic language courses from the AFA transcript with a final grade of C or higher.

Algebra 1 Credit

AFA graduates will be eligible to earn 1 high school credit for their Algebra 1 coursework at AFA in Grade 8. LCPS will recognize the Algebra 1 course from the AFA transcript with a final grade of C or higher. **To earn verified credit for Algebra, the student must also pass the Virginia Standards of Learning Test for that subject.** Consult with your child's counselor to schedule a test date. For additional information on this and other course requirements visit <http://www.lcps.org/page/1910>.

Expunging High School Courses Taken in Middle School – August 15 Deadline

In accordance with VDOE regulations, LCPS Policy 5-5.1 permits parents of students who take a high school credit-bearing course in middle school to request that the grade be omitted from the student's high school transcript and the student not earn high school credit for the course. **Parents must make this request in writing no later than August 15.** Parents are strongly advised to discuss this decision with their student's school counselor and the impact of expunging a course on desired high school diploma type and standard and verified credit requirements. The decision to expunge is irreversible. The request form may be found here:

<http://www.lcps.org/cms/lib4/VA01000195/Centricity/Domain/123/Expunge%20Form-2014-15-Grades%206-7%20-%20English.pdf>

Advanced Academics

Academic courses challenge students to master rigorous standards while providing individualized support. Honors courses are offered in Grades 9, 10, and 11. While they focus on the same skills as grade level and academic courses, honors courses are distinguished by a more rigorous and inquiry based. Students in 9th - 11th grades are encouraged to pursue honors coursework in preparation for AP classes. Please discuss requirements with your child's counselor.

Home Instruction – Deadline August 31

In accordance with Loudoun County School Board Policy §8-11, any parent may elect to provide home instruction for his or her school-age child in lieu of school attendance. Parents or guardians should provide their notice of intent and supporting documents via the online *Notice of Intent to Provide Home Instruction* form on or before **August 31**:

<https://webinter.lcps.org/HomeInstruction/>

For additional details, please visit <http://www.lcps.org/Page/78225>.

Part-Time Enrollment – Due August 1

The families of non-enrolled Loudoun County students in grades 7-12 who wish to enroll their students on a part-time basis in the Loudoun County Public Schools may be eligible to do so for participation in **high school credit classes** in accordance with the regulations developed by the Superintendent.

For additional details and application instructions, please visit <http://www.lcps.org/Page/78797>.

Registration Summary

We look forward to working with the families of our AFA Middle School students to support you in making an effective transition to an LCPS high school. If you would like our assistance in preparing to meet the high school guidance counselor, please contact me directly. If you need assistance with the paperwork associated with transitioning to FCPS, please contact Sulaima Kochaji at sulaima.kochaji@alfatih.org.