



ARLINGTON TRADITIONAL SCHOOL

Great schools don't happen by chance, they happen by design. Arlington Traditional School (ATS) has been guided by seven traditional tenets since the school was founded in 1978:

- * **Teacher-guided instruction in self-contained classrooms**
- * **Emphasis on basic education in the core academic areas**
- * **Regular homework assigned at all grade levels**
- * **Weekly written summary of student progress communicated to parents**
- * **Promotion based on grade level mastery**
- * **Behavior, dress, and grooming standards**
- * **Weekly assembly programs reinforce philosophy and build community**

The first five tenets are focused on academics; the sixth on behavior that promotes self-regulation by taking care of oneself and is expected of everyone; and the seventh on the character that is rewarded through the school's regular traditions, rites, and rituals. Everywhere in the school, these are referred to as the **ABCs of Success – Academics, Behavior, Character** (trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship).

Additional philosophy that sets us apart from other schools include:

- **Every child participates in the hallmark Summer Reading Challenge of reading 50 books.**
- **Every child in grades 1-5 performs a class play** at a Friday assembly.
- **Every child in grades 4 and 5 learns to play a musical instrument and plays in the beginning or advanced orchestra/band** and performs at an assembly and in the evening twice a year.
- **Every child in grades 4 and 5 sings in a grade-level chorus** and performs at an assembly and in the evening twice a year.
- **Every child in grade 5 is a school safety patrol** modeling leadership, assisting children before/after school, and running the School Store.
- **Sister school, Arlington Junior School, in Uganda, Africa**

ATS is an economically and ethnically diverse school with 562 students; 30.4% receive free or reduced lunch and 27.2% are enrolled in the English Language program, with families speaking 21 different languages and representing 30 countries. Almost 11.5% of our students receive special education services. Our student population includes: 19.9% Asian, 15.5% Black or African American, 14.6% Hispanic or Latino, 38.8% White, and 11% two or more races. ATS is home to a countywide preschool Multi-Intervention Program for students with Autism (MIP-A) adding yet another layer to our diversity and two Virginia Preschool Initiative classes.

Honors and Awards (state and national)

- **National Blue Ribbon Schools Award 2019, 2012, and 2004**
- **Governor's Award for Educational Excellence 2017 and 2018, 2008-2012**
- **#1 Public Elementary School in VA and DC Metropolitan Area (niche.com) 2016 and 2017**
- **Virginia Board of Education Distinguished Achievement Award 2016**
- **Virginia Board of Education Excellence Award 2013-2015**
- ***On Purpose: How Great School Cultures Form Strong Character*, by Samuel Casey Carter (Chapter 8 "Arlington Traditional School") 2011**
- **National Schools of Character finalist 2007 and 2008**
- **Parent Involvement School of Excellence 2006**

ATS school colors, blue and gold, signify the importance of individual achievement and the Golden Rule. Our goal is to **engage, educate, and empower** all students!