

A Traditional History Lesson

Page Traditional School (1978 - 1995)
Arlington Traditional School (1995 – present)

A Countywide Tradition Since 1978

- 1978 - The School Board approved the establishment of a traditional alternative (option) countywide elementary school, Page Traditional School, for grades 1-5 with 252 students from 360 applicants. The closed Page School at 1501 N. Lincoln Street was selected as the site. Dr. Frank Miller was appointed the principal.
- 1979 – Grade six added
- 1980 – Grade seven and one half-day kindergarten added
- 1990 – Middle schools established; sixth and seventh grades moved to middle school
- 1992 – Second half-day kindergarten added. Holly Hawthorne appointed principal.
- 1995 - **Page Traditional School** was renamed **Arlington Traditional School** and relocated to the Stonewall Jackson building (built in 1926) at 855 N. Edison Street. Stonewall Jackson neighborhood elementary school had been closed for more than 15 years. About the same time, the Stonewall Jackson Civic Association changed its name to Bluemont Civic Association. The building was renovated for 2 classes per grade level, kindergarten to fifth grad. The building was not ready for the start of the school year. The whole school moved to Long Branch School for six weeks. The library, computer lab, and several rooms were housed in a trailer complex on the parking lot for the entire 1995-96 school year.
- 1997 – Increased to three classes per grade level. A third half-day kindergarten added. The school began growing by 50%.
- 1997-2004 - Trailers, trailers, trailers ...8-classroom trailer complex added on the front lawn of the school. Six classrooms (all 2nd and 3rd grades) and two preschool classes (VPI and countywide MIPA), were housed in trailers. More than 150% over capacity.
 - 1999 – Preschool Special Education countywide MIPA program added (housed in trailer) and full-day kindergarten established.
 - 2001 – Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) added (housed in trailer).
- 2004 – After years of construction, new addition completed consisting of main stairway, gymnasium with stage, kindergarten/1st grade wing, vocal and instrumental music rooms, art studio, and computer lab.
- 2011 – Addition of 48 students (two classes) VPI and Kindergarten, “bubble class,” that will continue through 5th grade. Trailer added on the front lawn (3rd grade).
- 2016 – Addition of 48 students (two classes) VPI and Kindergarten, another “bubble class,” that will continue through 5th grade. Two more trailers added on the front lawn (VPI and MIPA classes).
- 2017 – Four-classroom trailer housing grade 2 students (replaced the 3 single trailers). Added a fourth Grade 1.
- 2018 – Added a fifth kindergarten “bubble” class. Added a fourth Grade 2 class.
- 2019 – Added a fourth Grade 3 class. Added another four-classroom trailer housing grade 3 students. Increased class size in grades 4 and 5 from 24 students to 25 students.

Recent Recognitions

Awards

- **National Blue Ribbon Schools Award 2019**
- Virginia Board of Education Distinguished Achievement Award 2019

- Common Sense School designation 2018-2020
- Named A+ Elementary School by Niche 2018
- Governor’s Award of Educational Excellence 2018 and 2017
- Ranked #1 Public Elementary School in Virginia and DC Metropolitan Area (Niche K-12 School and Metropolitan Area Ranking) 2016 and 2017
- Virginia Board of Education Distinguished Achievement Award 2016
- Virginia School Board of Education Excellence Award 2013, 2014, 2015
- **National Blue Ribbon Schools Award 2012**
- Governor’s Award of Educational Excellence 2008-2012
- National Schools of Character (finalist) 2007 and 2008
- Parent Involvement School of Excellence 2006
- Washington Post Distinguished Educational Leadership Award and APS Principal of the Year 2005-2006
- **National *No Child Left Behind* Blue Ribbon Schools Award 2004**

News Articles/Books

- The Arlington Connection front page “Hope Spreads Through Education” 2015
- Arlington Magazine premier edition feature article “Old School” 2011
- On Purpose: How Great School Cultures Form Strong Character by Samuel Casey Carter (Chapter 8 “Arlington Traditional School: Arlington, Virginia”) 2011
- Washington Post Magazine, feature article “Learning Experience” 2006

Arlington Traditional School has helped with overcrowding in the following ways:

- moved from one building to another and changed the name of the school
- grown by over 50% (from 2 classes per grade level to 3 classes per grade level)
- added a countywide preschool special education MIPA class
- added a countywide Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) class
- been over capacity (up to over 150%) for 7 years
- housed students in trailers 3 different times (up to an 8-classroom complex) for 14 years
- participated in two Building Level Planning Committees to design the renovation of the school and building addition
- Added 48 students (two “bubble” classes) beginning with VPI and Kindergarten through 5th grade
- largest kindergarten class size in Arlington (24 students in every class)
- Added another 48 students (two “bubble” classes) beginning with VPI and Kindergarten through 5th grade
- Added another 1st grade
- Added a fifth kindergarten class and fourth grade 2 class
- Added a fifth grade 1 class and a fourth grade 3 class

Our school field is used as a helicopter landing area for medical emergencies. Parks and Recreations uses the school gym and school grounds (fields) evenings and weekends throughout the year. Civic associations, scouts, and other organizations use the building in the evenings.