



ABINGDON SCHOOL: CHANGES FOR THE FUTURE

A SPECIAL FCA REPORT

The recent reorganization of the Arlington County Schools has produced a new and exciting program at Abingdon Elementary School. The School, which is a part of the Fairlington Community, now has a full student body, an expanded staff, and many new offerings. It is a neighborhood school, where Fairlington children can share their elementary school years with their neighbors.

The principal is Margaret McCourt-Dirner, who was named Arlington's Outstanding Young Educator in 1983. She came to Abingdon at the beginning of the 1982-83 school year after a distinguished career as a teacher, staff development coordinator, elementary expository writing project coordinator, and principal in the Arlington system.

Ms. McCourt-Dirner, as head of the newly remodeled, newly reorganized Abingdon School, has selected an experienced staff of top-notch educators for the school. Twenty-one of thirty-two members of the teaching staff will be new to Abingdon.

School Philosophy

Abingdon provides a modern education in a traditional setting. The school emphasizes basic skills, homework, and a positive approach to discipline. The instruction is geared to the needs of the children as individuals, and is designed to challenge each child to make the most of his or her abilities.

Parent-teacher communication is frequent and two-way. Weekly written evaluations of each student's progress, as well as monthly curriculum newsletters, are sent home by every classroom teacher.

Special programs

Abingdon has numerous special programs, such as Gifted/Talented, ESOL/HILT, Art, Music, Chapter I reading, and Extended Daycare. The school has an outstanding gym for the physical education program, and a separate multi-purpose room for dramatics and other special activities.

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In addition, Abingdon provides several unique programs, including:

- Transitional kindergarten/first grade
- Two preschool special education classes
- Pilot French program (grades 1 & 2)
- In-school prepared lunches (6-7 choices daily)
- Daily library activities available to all students

### Special Features

The Abingdon/Claremont merger has benefitted the school in other important areas, such as --

- Our open spaces have been converted to traditional classrooms
- The kitchen has been renovated
- We have a talented and ethnically diverse student population
- We have gained new secretarial/clerical positions

### For More Information

The school is located at 3035 S. Abingdon St. For more details concerning programs and volunteer activities, or if you would like to arrange a visit to the school, please contact Ms. McCourt-Dirner at 931-3400.

## **ABINGDON SCHOOL** ABINGDON, VIRGINIA

