

Welcome to the 2024-2025 School Year!



Mr. Dickenson's Class

Grade 5

3 Hour Early Release Days

We have **7** Mondays where the students will be released at 12:35pm to allow for teacher planning and professional development.

Please complete the survey on your child's desk to confirm your child's after-school plans on these Mondays.

September 23

October 28

December 9

February 24

March 17

April 28

May 19



Meet Mr. Dickenson



♥ Hometown: Hampton, VA

♥ My Idea of Fun: Traveling, reading, walking, eating out, cooking, going to the beach, and teaching!

♥ Favorites: pizza, the color blue, and Vieques, PR



Professional Life:

B.A. (Communications) - Old Dominion University

M.S. Ed. - Virginia Commonwealth University

I've taught 3rd and 5th grade. This is my 25th year as a member of the FHES family.



Meet the 5th Grade Team



Catherine Faust

Mark Dickenson

Breann Grzankowski

Jeff Bechtle

Ana Ochoa

Nicole Stevens

Daily Schedule

8:45-9:00	Arrival & News
9:00-10:00	Specials
10:00-10:20	Morning Meeting
10:20-11:00	Science/Social Studies
11:00-12:00	Math
12:00-12:30	Falcon Time
12:30-1:00	Lunch
1:00-1:30	Recess
1:30-3:30	Language Arts





This Year's Focus



Developing
Critical and Creative
Thinking
skills

Reading and Writing

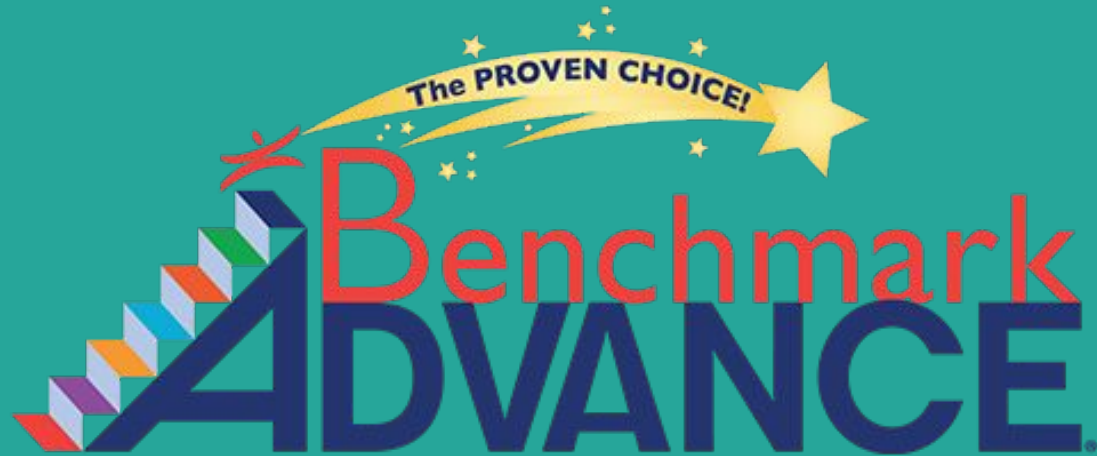
Students improve their literacy skills through targeted instruction that incorporates all subject areas.

Our Benchmark Advance curriculum includes:

- Themed units that incorporate science and social studies topics
- Word study
- Fiction and nonfiction writing
- Reading across all genres



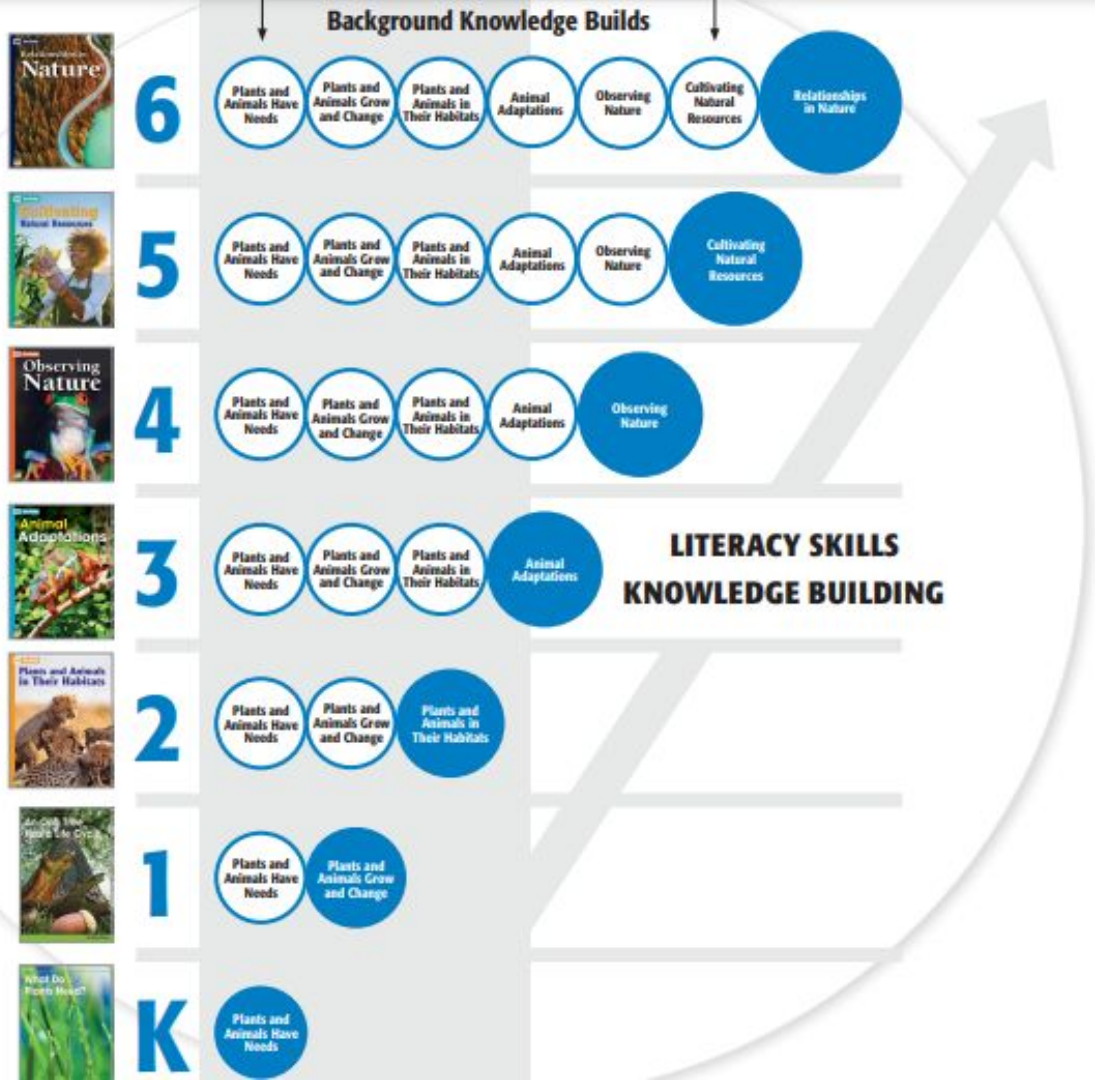
Our New Curriculum for K-6



Common Topics, K-6

Unit	Knowledge Strand	GRADES						
		K	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Life Science							
2	Character Matters							
3	Government and Citizenship							
4	Perspectives in Literature							
5	Technology and Society							
6	Themes Across Cultures							
7	History, Culture, and Geography							
8	Earth Science							
9	Economics							

Growing Knowledge Over Time



Essential Questions Get More Complex

Unit 1: Life Science

Plants and Animals Have Needs

Why do living things have different needs?

Kindergarten

Animal Adaptations

How do living things survive in their environment?

3rd Grade

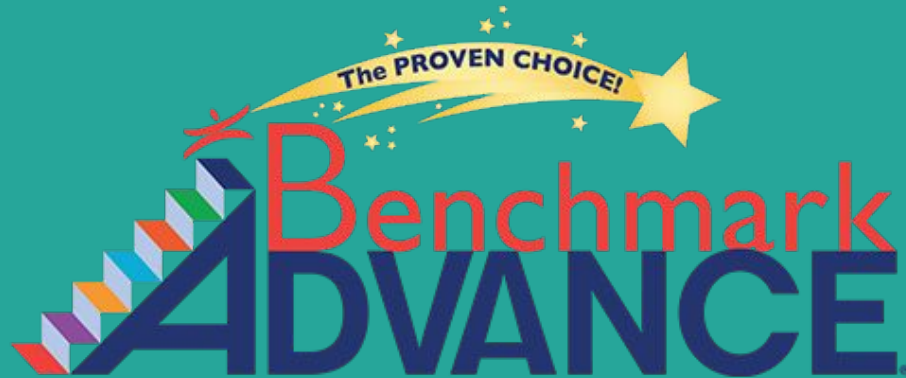
Relationships in Nature

What roles can we play in the balance of nature?

6th Grade

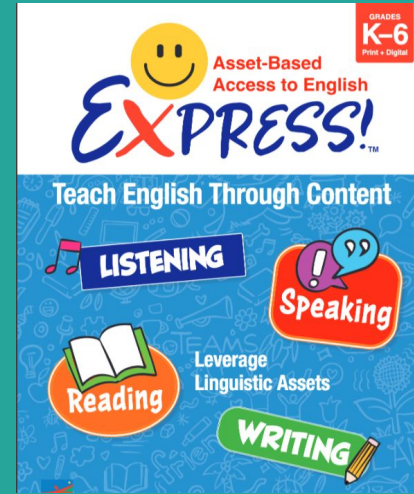
Core Instruction & Students with Disabilities

Benchmark Advance has numerous scaffolds and supports to assist all teachers in providing core instruction responsive to the needs of students with disabilities.

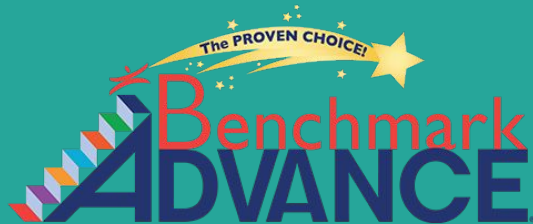


Core Instruction & Multilingual Learners

Benchmark Express is the English Language Development curriculum that complements Benchmark Advance in providing tier 1 instruction for multilingual learners.



Benchmark Advance includes scaffolds and supports for multilingual learners.



Core Instruction & AAP

All students receiving Advanced Academic services will participate in Benchmark Advance, which includes extensions for advanced learners. In addition to inquiry-based research embedded in Benchmark, each quarter will focus on at least one supplemental AAP ELA curricular resource to be used throughout that quarter.

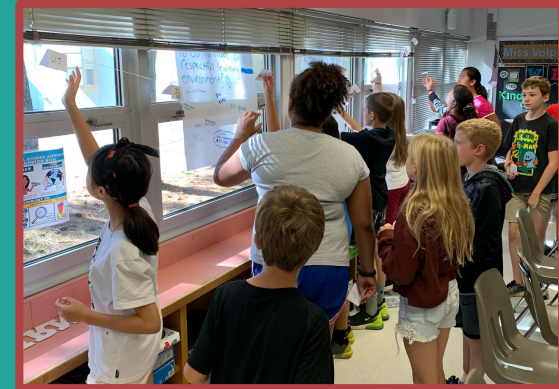
Advanced Academic Programs (AAP)

Fairfax County Public Schools offers a continuum of advanced academic services for students K-12 that builds upon students' individual strengths and skills and maximizes academic potential for all learners.

Math

Students develop confidence, build conceptual understanding and increase fluency with numbers through a variety of learning opportunities.

- Heterogeneous, Flexible Grouping
- Format: Math Workshop
- Targeted Extensions and Scaffolding



Number Sense Routines

Which One Doesn't Belong?

9	16
25	43

5th Grade Math

Quarter 1 Topics :

- Measures of Central Tendency
- Graphs
- Prime & Composite Numbers
- Algebraic Expressions
- Order of Operations
- Whole Number Computation



Looking Ahead: Fraction and Decimal Computation, Geometric Measurement, Probability... and more!

Advanced Math

Quarter 1 Topics :

- Measures of Central Tendency
- Identifying & Representing Integers
- Inequalities
- Fractions, Decimals, and Percentages
- Ratios and Proportions



Looking Ahead: Integer and Fraction Computation, Coordinate Planes, One-Step Equations ... and more!

Science

Students learn new concepts and the scientific method through exploration and experimentation.

Experimental Design

Force, Motion, & Energy

Landforms

Electricity and Magnetism

Light and Sound



Social Studies

Students will study ancient civilizations looking for cultural universals and identifying the ways that the ancient past still affects our lives today.

Research: Greek Mythology Project



Homework

Students should **read** 20-30 minutes every day.

All students will receive math homework from Monday-Thursday.

Students will not have homework on days that they have a test or on the final day of the week.



Responsive Classroom

We will promote an
academic, socially,
and culturally
responsive learning
environment for our
students.



ONE

SCHOOL | COMMUNITY | WORLD

#ONEkindactVienna

ONE Kind Act can change the world

...

We are continuing our ONE
campaign and growing our
growth mindset.

You Belong Here !



Communication

Weekly newsletters
will be shared with
you via email.

If you have not received
the weekly newsletter,
please let me know before
you leave.

Dear Families,

We had a wonderful first week of school! This week we worked on building a classroom community. We enjoyed playing games, strengthening our communication and collaboration skills, and learning about our families, interests, favorite activities, and a whole lot more. Students jumped into Language Arts with daily reading, writing, and word study. We are excited to explore more content next week. We are looking forward to a fantastic year!

Please see the attachments for important information about Band, Strings, and Chorus registration.

Below are some important dates and announcements:

- **Headphones:** All students need a pair of headphones (or earbuds) for next week.
- **Band & Strings** registration is open! Ms. Landers and Ms. Mims are so excited to welcome young musicians into our band and orchestra programs. Registration is due **by August 29th**.
 - Questions? Please Email: Helen Landers, Band Director, hlanders@fcps.edu
Tamara Mims, Orchestra Director, tmims@fcps.edu
- **Chorus** registration is open! Ms. D'Alelio and Ms. Golomb look forward to another wonderful year of singing together. Chorus is a free, optional activity that occurs once per week during the school day. It does **not** conflict with Band or Strings. Registration is due **by September 5th**.
 - Questions? Please Email: Kathie D'Alelio - kmdalelio@fcps.edu or Emma Golomb - emgolomb@fcps.edu
- On **Tuesday, September 10th from 5:30-7:00 PM** we will host Back to School Night, so please save the date. We hope you can join us!
- **School is closed on Friday, August 30th and Monday, September 2nd** for Labor Day.

Conferences

- Conferences will be held at the end of the first quarter. I will send an email with a link to sign up.
- You can also request a conference any time if you have a concern to discuss.



Report Cards and Standards-Based Grading

	1	2	3	4
Frequency	Seldom	Some of the time	Most of the time	Nearly all the time
Support	Considerable	Moderate	Limited	No support
Understanding	Limited	Partial	General	Thorough
Errors	Frequent	Some	Few	None

Meets 5th grade expectations



Report Cards and Standards- Based Grading

Report Cards will be available in
ParentVUE on

Tuesday, November 12th @ 6am

*Paper copies will be sent home for Q1

5th Grade Events

- Greek Gods & Goddesses Agora
- Field trips: (Pending Approval and Availability)
Planet Word Museum and Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- End of Year Picnic at Peterson Lane Park



“No significant
learning can occur
without a significant
relationship.”

~James Comer



FLINT HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

parent teacher association

Please consider joining
if you haven't already!

The PTA supports our school with:

- Classroom Technology
 - Teacher Materials
 - Field Trip Expenses
 - Teacher Training
 - Community Building
- And so much more!

Before you leave....



Please write a note to
your child so they have
something to read in the
morning.

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Questions?

Thank you for coming to
Back to School Night!



I look forward to a wonderful year working with you
and your child!