



GUNSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

2700 South Lang Street, Arlington, Virginia 22206

Margaret Gill, Principal

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www.apsva.us/gunston

This school is fully accredited by the State of Virginia and through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Visit www.apsva.us and click on "About Us" for information about test results and the school population.

"We are Gunston Middle School, a community of scholars where all students are planning for and preparing to attend college."

Heard daily by students and staff, our goal is clear: academic excellence in a rigorous and nurturing environment that meets the needs of our diverse student body. Our students are encouraged to work hard, explore new interests, develop positive relationships and build on existing strengths. Our talented, dedicated staff works hard to make sure every child has the tools and time to be successful. A vibrant after-school program with homework help, elective classes, community service opportunities, clubs, sports and special events supplements the rigorous school day. See the Gunston website (www.apsva.us/gunston) for a complete listing.

Gunston is home to three academic programs: the traditional middle school program; the Spanish partial immersion language program which offers content instruction in Spanish in science, social studies and language arts; and the Montessori Middle Years program, a continuation of the elementary program. They are organized by interdisciplinary teams who meet regularly to monitor student progress and develop strategies to address each student's academic needs. Over 84 percent of Gunston's teachers and staff have a master's or doctoral degree.

Our elective program is award-winning. Network 21 is a nationally-recognized studio that teaches students all aspects of media production. Our music programs routinely receive superior and excellent ratings. Our Jazz band performs throughout the community. For many years, our visual arts program has won numerous Scholastic awards. Our business and technology education program was cited for excellence by the Virginia Department of Education.

At Gunston, we educate the whole child as they navigate the challenges of adolescence.

INSTRUCTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Our instructional program is guided by three principles: rigor, relevance and relationships.

RIGOR

- High standards stressed
- Seventy percent of students enrolled in a high school foreign language; thirty-seven percent enrolled in algebra
- Cross-curricular instruction and student-centered, interactive classrooms
- Differentiated instruction

RELEVANCE

- Strong focus on community service including monthly service projects

- State-of-the-art technology including SMART Boards, video production, web broadcasting
- Curriculum enhancements including career day, guest speakers and community tutors
- Real-world connections to curriculum

RELATIONSHIPS

- One-on-one mentoring and group cohort programs provide academic and social support.
- Small teacher advisories and bonding activities build positive student/staff connections.
- Numerous clubs and activities promote positive social interactions.
- Numerous, strong community partnerships with local organizations

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION 2010-11

- Gunston student placed 1st in the National History Day Competition
- Finalist in the Signature Theater silent film festival and winner of 6 awards at the Arlington Youth Film Festival.
- Student placed first in the Regional Science Fair
- Four students presented at the Virginia Junior Academy of Science Competition
- Seven students awarded Gold Key for Scholastic Art Competition
- Nineteen 8th grade students competed and won National Writing Month Competition
- Students selected to read original poems as part of African American Read in Project
- Students ranked Nationally on National Language Exams for French and Latin
- Student served as a Senate page for the 2011 General Assembly Session.
- Regional team winners at Continental Math League
- Student won 1st place in the investWrite State Essay Contest
- Student was 2011 winner of the Latinas Leading Tomorrow's Arlington County Estrella Award
- Twenty-six students earned STAR awards for academic achievement.
- Regional award winner in the Scholastic Writing Awards competition sponsored by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers.
- Martin Luther King Jr. Literary and Visual Arts Contest Winners in Photography and Visual Arts
- Received both excellent and superior ratings in the District Orchestra Festival