



FAQs for Mantua 3-6 Grade Parents

Do students in grades 3-6 have “families” at the school?

No, students are not divided into families after second grade.

Are grade 3-6 students reassigned to new “flexible groups” throughout the year like the K-2 students are?

No, typically the students are grouped once at the beginning of the school year based on individual skill levels in math and word study, and stay with that group for the remainder of the year.

What is the “Blackboard 24-7” online tool?

Fairfax County Public Schools has extended learning beyond the traditional school day and beyond school facilities by using a tool called FCPS 24-7 Learning, commonly known as "Blackboard". Beginning in 3rd grade, students, parents, and teachers are invited to use FCPS 24-7 Learning to access homework and classroom assignments, view class calendars, explore links to enrichment activities, and much more. Visit <http://fcps.blackboard.com/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp> for more information.

What is an SOL?

The Virginia Standards of Learning (SOLs) are state-mandated standardized tests taken every year starting in third grade. They are taken in May and June. For more information, visit <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Superintendent/Sols/home.shtml>.

I’ve heard Mantua has an extensive music program for older students.

Starting in third grade, all students learn to play the recorder. In the fourth grade, students may elect to also play a string instrument once a week in the orchestra or join the chorus. In fifth grade, students may elect to play a band or orchestra instrument, and may join the chorus as an extra-curricular activity. Every student takes general music education classes, whether or not they choose to participate in orchestra, band or chorus. Information from the music teachers will come home with your student.

What is Colonial Day and Ancient Cultures Day, etc.?

You’ll find that students in grades 3-6 study a specific subject throughout the year, such as Colonial Virginia, ancient cultures, etc. These themes culminate in a special day when the students dress up in period clothing and participate in related activities, often assisted by parent volunteers.

What is the AA (Advanced Academics) Program?

Mantua has a full-time Advanced Academics (formerly called Gifted and Talented or GT) Center. Students are tested in the fall of second grade for possible placement in the AA Center for grades 3-6. For more information about AA, please see the Fairfax County Public Schools website, <http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/gt/index.html>.

What’s the basketball program?

Students in grades 3-6 are invited to play in the Mantua PTA Basketball League. Students are divided into boys’ and girls’ leagues. Grades 3 and 4 play together using an 8-foot goal and grades 5 and 6 play together using a standard 10-foot goal. The league is coached by Mantua parents/guardians and is designed for the kids to have fun while learning basketball fundamentals.