



VIRGINIA BEACH FRIENDS SCHOOL

Knowledge. Character. Community.

WELCOME

We are delighted that you are applying for admission to Friends School. The goal of the admissions process is to get to know your child and their unique attributes, learning styles and passions in hopes that they would become a part of the Friends Community.

This document is designed to walk you through the steps in the admissions process.

Admissions Process

1. Initial visit with the Director of Admissions

Please call to schedule an appointment with the Director of Admissions. You will receive information about our school's programs, discuss your child's needs, tour the campus and have a chance to ask questions.

2. Submit the application and application fee

Upon receipt of your application and fee, the Admissions Office will open a file for your student.

3. Document submission

The following documents are required to continue the admissions process and can be found in the admissions packet and online:

- a. Application & Fee
- b. Applicant Questionnaire
- c. Authorization for Release of Records
- d. Teacher Recommendations
 - i. Lower School applicants are required to submit one (1) recommendation
 - ii. Middle and Upper School applicants are required to submit a Math and an English teacher recommendation from their previous school
- e. Personal Reference (Middle & Upper School applicants only)

These documents will become part of the students confidential admission file.

4. Academic Assessment

Once all records (academic, psychological and discipline) have been requested and received from the student's previous or current school, they will be reviewed by the admissions team to determine if the student should continue with the admissions process. The next step is a scheduled visit during which, all Lower, Middle and Upper School students will be given an academic assessment test. This test is scheduled by the Admissions Director and division teachers, and may be done during the student's visit if time permits; otherwise, a separate assessment date and time will be scheduled.

5. Day Visit

Applying students will be notified of their scheduled classroom visit. Classroom visits will be scheduled on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Depending on the individual child, we may offer a 2-day visit. During this visit, the student will be paired with a grade level peer who will accompany the visiting student to all classes and activities during their time with us. Visiting students should participate as fully as possible and may even be given homework. Each teacher will submit written observations of the student. These observations become part of the confidential admission file and are considered in the admissions team's final decision. Early School students will visit for half days, Lower, Middle and Upper School students will visit for whole days.

6. Admissions Team Review

The final step in this process is the review of the completed file by the admissions team. The admissions team may recommend that the applicant have additional testing administered through our Learning Center (at an additional non-refundable fee of \$150). Once the team has reached a decision, the Admissions Director will notify the family. The time frame of this final step varies depending on the receipt and review of all required documents and observations. The Admissions Director will keep the family informed of the progress and school's decision.

7. Contract Completion

Once the parent and admission team have finalized acceptance on both ends, the final contract will be scripted and submitted with necessary enrollment fees, etc.

Note: Tuition assistance will be awarded to families (who have applied for and who qualify for aid) after the student's acceptance and after the initial enrollment contract has been signed and returned to the Admissions Office. Financial aid awards have no bearing on the admissions decision.

Information for Your Student's Visit Days

- Visit day arrival times are listed below:
 - 8:30 am for Middle and Upper School students
 - 8:30 am for Lower School students
 - 8:30 am for Early School students (half day visits)

- Please report to the Main Office where the student will be greeted and escorted to his/her classroom.

- All students should dress appropriately for the weather and the potential of a movement or physical education class. Younger students should dress for outside activities.

- Please remember to bring a packed lunch and drink. Early & Lower School students will also need a snack.

- Students are welcome to bring a small backpack that includes basic supplies.

- Parents should plan to pick up their student in the Main Office at:
 - 12:00 pm for Early School students
 - 3:00 pm for Lower School, Middle and Upper School students



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FAQ- What does it mean to be a part of a Friends School Community?

What is a Friend?

The Religious Society of Friends was the original name for the organized religion of what is often called Quakerism. Quaker and Friends (with a capital F) are often used interchangeably. The term Quaker was put on Friends in a mocking manner in the 1600s in reference to their “quaking” at the Spirit when moved to speak. Many Quakers prefer the term Friend because it is the name chosen by Friends not imposed upon them by others. Virginia Beach Friends School is a Friends School because it was founded by Quakers and continues to uphold Friends testimonies and practices today.

What are the Testimonies?

Testimonies are the values or ideals that Quakers try to practice and live out in their everyday lives. These are also the testimonies that we try to uphold at VBFS. They are often referred to by using the acronym SPICES: Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality and Service/Stewardship. As members of this community we hope you will consider these testimonies when interacting with others.

What is Meeting For Worship? When is it? Do I have to go?

Meeting for Worship is a time when a group of people sit in silence focusing on their Inner Light, if moved individuals stand and share a message with the group. At VBFS we have meeting for worship every week on Wednesdays at 10am in the Meetinghouse. The Lower School students begin worship with a story that explains the testimonies or Quaker history, and then they wonder together a chance to practice deep listening and speaking out of the silence. We may also gather for a community wide Meeting a few times throughout the year in the gym. The all school MFWs are often led by a group of students who use queries, or reflective questions, to invite the school to think about a particular topic during worship.

Any and all visitors are also welcome to join local Virginia Beach area Friends for Sunday worship, also held in the meetinghouse here on campus. Worship is unprogrammed and begins at 10:30am, lasts for 1 hour and is followed by social hour. Childcare and first day school are provided for children.

Why do Friends shake hands?

Friends often make a point to shake hands with one another and those they meet as representation of their belief in equality and community: every person is worthy of equal respect and as a community we seek to welcome and support everyone. At VBFS, Meeting for Worship begins with individual shaking people’s hands as they enter the Meetinghouse and everyone

shakes each other's hands at the close of meeting. Advisors and teachers often shake the hands of their students at the beginning of the day.

What Quaker practices are a part of the student experience at VBFS?

Silence- meetings (and sometimes classes) will begin and end with silence,

All voices are heard and valued in classes and group settings teachers work to ensure that all voices are heard respecting the Inner teacher in all of us

Service- we expect students to give back to the VBFS community and involved in the greater Hampton Roads community, there is a service requirement for US and MS students

Environmental Stewardship- we try to be mindful of our impact on the earth and its resources, using double sided paper, or electronic copies, collecting batteries for recycling, turning off lights, participating in Lynnhaven river and beach clean ups,

Community building- our US/MS students buddy with a lower school student for weekly activities throughout the year

Conflict resolution- we invite students to resolve conflicts with peers in a productive manner that respects each person's individual inner light

Learn about Quaker history and testimonies- Students will have opportunities to learn about Quaker history and testimonies in their coursework through out their time at Friends

How can I learn more about Friends Education?

Assistant Head of School Galen Hamann will share more about Friends Education periodically for the whole community throughout the year. She is always available to answer questions or find resources. Friends Council on Education is a great resource for educators that offers webinars, peer network groups, and workshops. <http://www.friendscouncil.org/>. Pendle Hill and Woolman Hill are retreat centers that also hold workshops <http://www.pendlehill.org/> <http://www.woolmanhill.org/>. Virginia Beach Friends Meeting's website is <https://vbfriends.org/>.

A New Vision for Virginia Beach Friends School

Welcoming students Pre-K through Grade 12



Virginia Beach Friends School is small by design, says the new Head of School, Mike Barclay, who took the helm July 1. “Classes have no more than 15 students, with an average student-to-teacher ratio of 7:1. Teachers get to know each student and instruct to their needs, helping them grow as lifelong learners.”

Tucked away in a leafy oasis in Hilltop, Friends School serves students from across the region. “VBFS is a community that values diversity and inclusivity,” Michael continues. “Our student body represents a wide variety of religious faiths, backgrounds, and cultures.”

Friends School was started in 1955 by Louise and Bob Wilson, both Quakers from North Carolina who were also instrumental in starting the Virginia Beach Friends Meeting in 1954.

Today the school has grown into a robust Pre-K through 12 school that continues the Quaker tradition of providing an inquiry-based education for all students, regardless of their religion or background.

“The foundation of a VBFS education is rooted in the Quaker Testimonies: Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality, and Stewardship, or S.P.I.C.E.S. as we like to call it,” explains Mike. “Our students, no matter the age, learn to see themselves as members of a global community striving to make the world a better place.”

Friends students make the most of their school experience. Regardless of their interests, they are encouraged to pursue passions in and out of the classroom. “Whether it’s taking an active role in service learning projects, playing sports, participating in internships, conducting peer-to-peer mentoring, or completing meaningful capstone projects—VBFS students never fall through the cracks,” Mike says.

He notes that VBFS has a strong sense of community and shares something in common with the one-room schoolhouse of long ago, in that students of varying ages and abilities often collaborate at Friends.

“We want to showcase the changes taking place at Friends, welcome more students, and let people know about our wonderful school.”



“Whether they are reading buddies or participating in community service projects, younger students are able to improve at a faster rate while older students learn leadership skills.”

Mike brings more than twenty years of educational experience to Friends and was unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees to be the new Head of School. “In Mike, we see a leader of deep understanding, creativity, and vision who will propel the school into a strong future while advancing and upholding the mission of Virginia Beach Friends School,” notes Search Committee Chair Dr. Michael Rossi.

Helping Mike shape the future of Friends School is another new hire, Galen McNemar Hamann, who is the Assistant Head of School for Academic Affairs. Both Michael and Galen are dedicated to ensuring that VBFS students are taught how to think rather than what to think, to become critical thinkers who have a love for learning.

Mike and Galen see such a bright future for Friends. Not only are they committed to the school from a professional basis, but also a personal one as their respective children will be attending Friends. Along with the rest of the VBFS faculty and Board of Trustees, they look forward to shining a light on this great educational option in Hampton Roads.

The school has just launched a new brand awareness campaign called “Make New Friends.” Its goal is to reintroduce Virginia Beach Friends School to the surrounding community creatively and engagingly. “We want to showcase the changes taking place at Friends, welcome more students, and let people know about our wonderful school,” says Mike.

Please contact the school at any time to inquire and schedule a visit. VBFS is enrolling now for the upcoming year for students Pre-Kindergarten through High School. Find out more at our Summer Open House from 1-3 p.m. on Sunday, August 19th. *



Virginia Beach Friends School
1537 Laskin Rd.
Va. Beach, VA 23451
757.428.7534 • vbfschool.org



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2019-2020 Annual Tuition Schedule

Est. 1955

	Annual Tuition	Materials & Activities Fee	Dewar's Tuition Refund Plan**
Cottage			
T/Th Half Days - AM	\$ 2,212.00	\$192.00	\$59.72
T/Th Full Days	\$ 3,200.00	\$192.00	\$86.40
MWF Half Days - AM	\$ 3,318.00	\$288.00	\$89.59
MWF Full Days	\$ 4,880.00	\$288.00	\$131.76
5 Half Days - AM	\$ 5,665.00	\$ 364.00	\$152.96
5 Full Days	\$ 8,240.00	\$ 364.00	\$ 224.48
Early Childhood			
5 Half Days - AM	\$ 5,800.00	\$ 416.00	\$ 156.60
5 Full Days	\$ 8,460.00	\$ 416.00	\$ 228.42
Kindergarten			
5 Full Days	\$ 8,460.00	\$ 477.00	\$228.42
Lower School Grades 1-4	\$ 10,506.00	\$ 550.00	\$283.66
Middle School Grades 5-8	\$ 14,626.00	\$ 599.50	\$ 394.90
Upper School Grades 9-11	\$ 16,626.00	\$ 702.00	\$ 448.90
Upper School Grade 12	\$ 16,626.00	\$ 760.50	\$448.90

Fees - Fees are due May 8th, 2019 and are non-refundable and not pro-rated. The Tuition Protection Plan is **optional** for Payment Plan A and **mandatory** for Payment Plans B and C. If you choose Payment Plan A and **opt not** to purchase The Tuition Protection Plan, no portion of the tuition will be refunded in the event of withdrawal or dismissal.

Payment Plans – A \$275.00 non-refundable deposit is required with the signed contract. Upon contract signing you will need to choose one of the following Payment Plans to pay the tuition balance:

- **Payment Plan A:** One payment payable to VBFS; **eligible for 5% discount on tuition paid by August 1, 2019.** *This discount is not applicable to tuition assistance recipients.*
- **Payment Plan B:** Two payments made directly to the school 1st payment due in August, 2nd and Final payment due in January 2020.
- **Payment Plan C:** Administered through FACTS Management Company **10 monthly payments only.**
- ****Dewars Insurance required - Paid Directly to Dewar's.**

Tuition Assistance - The school offers partial tuition assistance based on need and other significant considerations. Additionally we offer **5% Military Discount to all military families and a 10% sibling discount.** ****Not to exceed 10% total discounts.**

Early Arrival and Late Departure Programs – These programs are billed at the end of each month as a per child fee.

Early Arrival Program:	7:30 – 8:00 a.m.	\$7.00/day
Late Departure Program:	3:00 – 5:00 p.m.	\$7.00/per hour/partial hour