

The Auburn School

Professional Newsletter

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Did You Know?

The Auburn School Fairfax Campus is an accredited K-12 program through Cognia (formerly AdvancED) and a member of the Virginia Association of Independent Specialized Education Facilities (VAISEF) and WISER DC. Our summer program, Camp Aristotle, is annually recognized as one of Northern Virginia magazine's top camp programs for children with special needs.



STAFF HIGHLIGHT

JULY 2023



Kara holds a BA in Psychology from Christopher Newport University and an MA in Applied Developmental Psychology from George Mason University.

As the Camp Director for Camp Aristotle 2023, Kara puts social learning at the heart of every activity. This year's theme is animal conservation, with each week focusing on a different endangered species.

Top left: Kara Watrud, M.A.

Bottom right: Camp Aristotle campers playing outside.

KARA WATRUD

Social Learning Specialist

Kara is our new **Social Learning Specialist** and **Camp Director** for Camp Aristotle, Fairfax Campus, Summer 2023! A few times a week the students attend Social Learning as one of their "specials," a resource class outside of academics. During these classes, students learn how to **build self-regulation techniques**, work on **executive functioning activities**, learn what it means to be part of a group, how to **maintain friendships**, and so much more. Kara uses several **evidence-based curriculums** including: Think Social!, Superflex, Unstuck & On Target, and PEERS. Kara also hosts several social events throughout the year to give students and their families **opportunities to socialize** with each other and help **make connections outside of the classroom**.





STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



GRAHAM HUSE, SENIOR

Graham has been a model student in the 8 years he's been at The Auburn School. We've loved having him here all these years and are so proud of how much he's grown. We are lucky to have had Graham and we're excited to prepare him for life after Auburn!

4TH GRADE TO SENIOR YEAR

Graham started with us in 4th grade and is now entering his senior year! He is always so kind to the younger students and has become a great role model for them as well. As a senior he'll have the privilege to decorate his own parking spot should he choose to drive himself, and get to take some fun classes like computer science!



AVID PHOTOGRAPHER

Graham has become a role model to his fellow classmates and is chiming in to help explain concepts or situations to his classmates and is always up to talk about films! He's been an extraordinary helper during our social events as he has become our designated photographer!



SHINING STAR

Emma Escano's Virginia Ice Theatre Performance

THIS MONTH'S SHINING STAR

Testimonial from Alisa Escano

Emma Escano, a 7th grader from The Auburn School Fairfax, is on the Adaptive Skating Team and they won FIRST place in the country! We are so excited and very proud of Emma and her team. The Virginia Ice Theatre has been such a positive experience for Emma. Every skater on the team is paired with a mentor to skate with them. Emma loves ice skating; she is so comfortable on the ice and loves performing in front of the crowd. We have seen such a boost in Emma's confidence since joining the team. The entire organization is super supportive of Emma. The parents and kids from the adaptive team as well as all of the other teams have welcomed her as a part of their family. **The coaches and parents at VIT work hard to make every practice and performance a positive experience for Emma and all the skaters on the team.**

ALL skating levels are welcome on the Adaptive team, from basic/beginner to expert. Everyone on the team has a part. **Virginia Ice Theatre provides a great opportunity for these kids to work in a team environment and feel a sense of accomplishment when they perform in front of the audiences.** The 2023-2024 season will start in the Fall and will run through the end of June.

Virginia Ice Theatre at Nationals

Middle, bottom row: Emma Escano



Emma Escano and her mentor



ADMISSIONS CORNER

Now Accepting Student Enrollment for the 2023-2024 School Year



AUBURN'S MISSION

A Guide to our students and curriculum

The Auburn School grows the **social and academic potential** of bright students with **social and communication challenges**.

Auburn's program simultaneously supports the development of academic skills, social competency and pragmatic language in an engaging social environment.

The Auburn School is unique in that it offers both **high level academics and strong programs supporting social growth**. We offer a challenging program designed to build on our students' unique talents and interests, and we are prepared to support accelerated studies. Auburn supplements core subjects with diverse opportunities in visual arts, physical activity, and other areas. Study skills and organization techniques are embedded throughout the curriculum.

OUR STUDENTS

The Auburn School is appropriate for students who:

- Are intellectually curious students with average to gifted cognitive abilities
- Have differences and difficulties in the areas of communication, socialization, pragmatic language, and organization
- Can learn successfully and appropriately in a small classroom setting



Visit The Auburn School

Auburn's teachers are highly motivated, skilled and caring professionals who are trained to teach children with social and communication challenges. All teachers receive extensive training before and during each school year in "best practice" instructional methods and curriculum content. Supporting our faculty is a team of administrators and specialists that include distinguished national, state and local education leaders and professionals.

To see for yourself the difference The Auburn School is making in the lives of our students, we encourage you to visit our school and observe our students, our classes and our teachers.

Visit us online at

www.theauburnschool.org/admissions/fairfax-campus-admissions for information on upcoming Open Houses or **contact our Director of Admissions Fran Foreman** at frances.foreman@theauburnschool.org to schedule a tour.

Apply to Auburn

The Auburn School's application procedures and materials are available on our website through the link above. We review applications on a rolling basis as space remains available. As part of the application process, The Auburn School requires a full psycho-educational evaluation completed in the last two years.

Financial Assistance

We are committed to working with any family who can benefit from our program to ensure adequate financial support is provided. To assist families that may not otherwise be able to consider Auburn, we have established a generous financial aid program offering tuition assistance. We also offer a monthly payment plan.



**Now accepting
applications for the
23-24 school year!**

