



## KATE WALLER BARRETT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*An Alumni NASA Explorer School*

4401 North Henderson Road, Arlington, Virginia 22203

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[www.apsva.us/barrett](http://www.apsva.us/barrett)

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

*Visit [www.apsva.us](http://www.apsva.us) and click on "About Us" for information about test results and the school population.*

### ***"Discovering the Gifts of Every Child"***

Named for a prominent Virginia physician and humanitarian, Kate Waller Barrett Elementary School opened its doors in 1939 to meet the educational needs of children in the rapidly developing neighborhoods of central Arlington. Barrett offers a quality education to all children in a caring environment that recognizes and encourages the talents and interests of every child. Barrett's diversity affords children an opportunity for a multicultural education, fostering cooperation, communication, and global understanding. Unique among Arlington schools, Barrett's *Project Discovery* and *Project Interaction* link the entire school in an integrated program using hands-on, activity-centered instruction to promote an in-depth understanding of science and math in everyday life, a mastery of technological tools that shape the frontiers of knowledge and a strong foundation in the communication arts that fosters critical thinking and clear expression.

As an Alumni NASA Explorer School, Barrett staff works with NASA education specialists, mathematicians, engineers, and scientists to incorporate innovative strategies, resources, and technology tools into math and science instruction.

### **INSTRUCTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS**

- *Project Discovery* provides hands-on/minds-on activity centered learning to promote an in-depth understanding of STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.
- *Project Interaction* is a school-wide initiative having three inter-related components: a communication arts curriculum with associated instructional methods; family/community involvement; and professional staff development.
- Alumni NASA Explorer School activities
- FLES Instruction in Spanish and Science Enrichment
- Title I Reading Program
- Pre-Kindergarten and Montessori programs
- Summer Reading Challenge
- Outdoor Habitat Classroom, Field Station and Peace Gardens
- Partnerships with Lockheed Martin, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Crystal City Hyatt Regency, Culpeper Gardens Senior Recreation Center, Outreach Committee of Trinity Community Services and American Association of University Women, Arlington Branch

### **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

- James B. Hunter Humanitarian Award 2010-11
- Toyota Tapestry \$10,000 Wildlife Refuge Grant 2011
- Virginia Index of Performance (VIP) Excellence Award 2009
- AAUW Educator of the Year, 2000, 2009
- Tony Winner- "Les Miserables" 2009
- 2004 Virginia Teacher of the Year
- Three Shortie Awards 2011
- NASA Spaced Out Sports Challenge Award 2011
- Science Museum of VA grant 2011
- National PTA Phoebe Apperson Hearst Family School Partnership prize 2010
- White House Astronomy Night 2010
- Roaring Robotics Donor Grant 2009
- Library minigrant "A Pocketful of Learning"

### **SPECIAL ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**

- Outdoor Habitat Classroom and Field Station
- National Geography Bee
- Project YES
- 4-H
- Tiger TV
- Musical productions
- Peer Mediators
- After-school enrichment activities
- Virginia Historical Society
- NASA Discovery Science Fair Week
- Author & Illustrator visits
- Chess Club
- Reading is Fundamental (RIF)
- Arts and Writers' Fair
- Virginia Young Readers
- Continental Math League Competition
- "Go Hog Wild for Reading" program
- Veterans' Day Assembly
- Fall, Winter, Spring Concert Series
- Family library & math nights
- VA Living Museum Discovery Exhibit
- Robotics

### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

- PTA, School Advisory Committee
- Family nights, pre-kindergarten and kindergarten days
- Friday Volunteer Program
- Parent evening workshop series
- Book Buddies Program
- Classroom and school volunteer opportunities
- Book Fair, PTA E-Newsletter, Yearbook, Photo Days
- Reading celebrations, Career Week, School Store
- Musical and concert series productions
- Outdoor Habitat Classroom and Gardens
- Roving Readers
- Barrett Grant Assistance group