



FROM THE DESK OF **MR. JAMES**

RE: Exciting Updates for Best Academy & Fairfax Global Academy

Dear Students and Parents,

Although this 2020-2021 Academic School Year has been deemed a lost year by many educational experts, the administrative staff of BA/FGA have worked tirelessly to keep our students performing significantly above the national benchmark. With failing grades spiking in Virginia's largest school system due to its online learning gap, the national trend demonstrates a similar movement – with more than 40 percent of students earning failing grades during the first two quarters ([Natanson, 2020](#)).

Our full-day virtual school, Fairfax Global Academy, completed the third-quarter mark on Friday, March 19, with a grade point average of 3.80 from Kindergarteners to eleventh graders. This clearly speaks to the tremendous level of dedication and support from the parents and our teachers. We have held our ground and did not let the global pandemic intrude into our students from achieving their academic goals. We thank you for your continued interest and support for the school and ask you to keep the momentum going until the end of the school year.

With the recent updates to the CDC guidelines and the ongoing vaccination process in our region, we are excited to share the following announcements with you. The early signs have indicated that we will have historic summer camp sessions where students will have the option to choose between in-person and online platforms to stay busy over the summer.

STUDENTS ARE BACK IN CLASSROOMS WITH DESKS 3 FEET APART – 6 FEET STILL A GOLDEN STANDARD

The safety and wellbeing of our family and staff remain our top priority. With a much smaller student body, the BA/FGA staff have exercised a greater amount of caution during the pandemic. We are still evaluating the options to welcome our students back into the physical classroom settings and resume the in-person learning option from this summer with a limited number of seats per classroom. [Click here to read CDC's full press release](#). There have recently been updates to the CDC guidelines for K-12 schools' operation strategy and we will continuously monitor the situation to adjust our approach moving forward.



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ENROLLMENT-TREND FOR SUMMER CAMP 2021 SHOWS A HIGHER DEMAND THAN PREVIOUS YEARS

We thank you for entrusting your students with us. We want to express our gratitude by offering [Early Bird Rates for families considering Best Academy's Summer Camp sessions](#). This reduced rate will be valid until April 15, 2021, along with sibling discounts for those enrolling more than one child with us. As mentioned, there is a limited number of in-person seats per grade, and some seats have already been filled since the start of the registration process in January. We strongly advise you to complete the registration process as soon as possible if you are certain about spending your summer with us. If the instruction option you want to select is unavailable, please contact the school at 703-978-0008 to be placed on our waitlist. With enough students waiting to be placed, we may split the group into two smaller classes – allowing more in-person seats to be created.

NEW SISTER SCHOOL: THOMAS EDISON SCHOOL OF FAIRFAX

We are elated to share the news that Thomas Edison School of Fairfax (TESF) will open its doors this fall. The school is accredited by [Cognia \(formerly known as SACS/AdvancED\)](#) and certified by the [Virginia Council of Private Education \(VCPE\)](#), which will allow a seamless transfer of credits between TEF and other private and public institutions. The school has developed its Gifted and Talented (GT) curriculum in partnership with the [College of William and Mary's Center of Gifted Education](#). We are looking to serve rising kindergarten through second-grade students who have completed the [SAGES GT Screening Test](#). If you are interested in taking the screening test for qualification purposes, please call the school office to schedule the screening test at 703-978-0008.

CLARIFICATION OF OUR PORTFOLIO OF SCHOOLS AND PLANS FOR EACH

Along with its sister schools, Best Academy will continue to serve the communities around us and beyond. With three schools under the same umbrella, we can serve you with more specific purposes moving forward. Since opening our doors in 1994, we have helped thousands of students in the greater Washington D.C. area reach their academic goals. Many of our former students from the '90s send their children to Best Academy. The incredible story of academic success is passed down to multiple generations of students who believe in our education philosophy. Best Academy will continue to serve students during after-school hours with our weekly enrichment programs. If you are happy with your base school and want to use us as a supplement to what the students are studying, Best Academy will be there to help. However, if this is not the case, there are two options to consider in Fairfax Global Academy and Thomas Edison School of Fairfax.

Fairfax Global Academy will focus on covering students that prefer the online learning platform. FGA is accredited as a K-12 virtual school, so in-person instructions will not be offered. Thomas Edison School of Fairfax conducts its teaching 100% in-person, serving kindergarten through second grades. We plan to grow with our students – looking to expand our grade levels from K-2 to K-12 in the future.



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WE STILL NEED YOUR SUPPORT

This year has been a tough year for all of us, with unexpected twists and turns. Despite what has been in the news about the crimes involving different races and cultures, we are proud to share that more than 20 countries are represented and celebrated here at BA/FGA. We will continuously instill our educational values and encouraging attitudes to help raise model citizens who positively impact our society. We deeply appreciate your partnership and support for the school. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at jameslee@mybestacademy.com or call the school office at **703-978-0008**.

My very best,

James Lee, M.A.

Director of Academic Affairs

Fairfax Global Academy

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Best Academy

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