



An Achievable Dream Frequently Asked Questions

Why was Lynnhaven Middle School selected to house the middle school years of An Achievable Dream Academy?

Virginia Beach City Public Schools (VBCPS) administration selected Lynnhaven as the site for the program's middle school years after completing a comprehensive review of facilities in the division. Lynnhaven has the building capacity to house An Achievable Dream Academy in addition to the school's current enrollment (the building has a capacity for 1,250 students, but an enrollment of approximately 930). Additionally, Lynnhaven is close in proximity to the An Achievable Dream Academy elementary program at Seatack Elementary School. In fact, there are a number of An Achievable Dream Academy students who are already zoned to attend Lynnhaven Middle School.

Where in the building will it be located? Will grade levels be able to stay on one hall?

An Achievable Dream Academy classes will be located on the current grade six hallway with the other grade six students. That said, as the program expands, there is the possibility that grade levels will not stay on one hallway.

How does the school plan to create a unified school climate and culture with the addition of An Achievable Dream?

All students at Lynnhaven Middle School – in the An Achievable Dream Academy or not – are Bluefish. Each student plays an integral part of the school enrollment, and will be expected to adhere to the same expectations from the school. All students will have the opportunity to participate in the same school functions and activities, including clubs, SCA and sports teams. As with any program, the school's faculty will work to integrate new students to the school's climate and culture.

As these students will be rising sixth-graders, new to middle school, they will participate in the same transitional activities as zoned students as they acclimate to themselves to the Bluefish way. This will include a brief overview of the An Achievable Dream program during the first week of school and during all middle school transitional activities. Additionally, all Lynnhaven parents are encouraged to join the school PTA to provide additional participation and support.

How will administrators, faculty and guidance be assigned?

All staffing decisions, including school administrators, teachers and school counselors, will be assigned at the principal's discretion. Of course, the principal will also have the support of administrators from An Achievable Dream Academy and the VBCPS Department of School Leadership.

Will there be academy buses or will bus routes from the zoned students be extended to pick up academy kids that live nearby?

Similar to VBCPS middle and high academy programs across the city, students in An Achievable Dream Academy will ride buses designated for the program. This will not impact bus transportation for students zoned for Lynnhaven Middle School.

Will the addition of the An Achievable Dream Academy mean Lynnhaven will have to add portables?
VBCPS has made a concerted effort over the past five years to remove mobile classrooms divisionwide. Lynnhaven Middle School currently has space to house both zoned students and An Achievable Dream Academy students without the need for mobile classrooms.

Will Lynnhaven students have access to the same technology/resources as students enrolled in the An Achievable Dream Academy?

VBCPS continues to invest funding to support technology enhancements across the division. Lynnhaven Middle School will continue to receive technology to support student instruction. Zoned students and An Achievable Dream students will receive the same resources provided by VBCPS. The only additional resources that are provided for An Achievable Dream students are in regards to its Social, Academic and Moral Education (SAME) curriculum. This custom-built curriculum includes classes on personal finance, ethics, conflict resolution and etiquette, and require differing software programs and class materials.

Will An Achievable Dream Academy students have to wear uniforms?

Yes. Male students wear shirts and ties Monday through Thursday and the academy polo on Fridays. Female students wear their academy polos throughout the week.

Will out-of-zone requests be approved for families who are zoned for Lynnhaven Middle School, but would prefer to attend another middle school?

There are established criteria for parents to apply for an out-of-zone waiver, including child care, medical reasons or extenuating circumstances. Families should note, however, that the expansion of An Achievable Dream Academy is not an extenuating circumstance and will not be grounds alone for an approved out-of-zone request.

How is the An Achievable Dream program paid for?

An Achievable Dream has an extensive fundraising network and covers the costs associated for the extended day offerings, field trips, SAME curriculum, uniforms and other program resources. As part of the partnership with VBCPS, the division provides transportation and the building space to house the program.

For more information about the An Achievable Dream program, visit achievabledream.org or vbschools.com/aad.