



Johnson Elementary School

1645 Cherry Avenue, Charlottesville, VA 22903
434-245-2417 Fax 434-245-2617

Web: <http://www.ccs.k12.va.us/schools/johnson>

School hours 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Mr. Vernon Bock, Principal



“We are Family”

Our School Family

The Johnson Elementary School motto is “We are family.” Small class sizes and a steady focus on achievement create a climate for academic excellence. Johnson earned the 2009 Governor’s Award for Educational Excellence, the highest honor in the Virginia Index of Performance program.

Johnson Elementary is located in the southwest section of the city on approximately 13 acres of wooded land. Built in 1954, the school was named for Dr. James G. Johnson, who was Superintendent of Schools for 35 years. In 1993, the school was renovated extensively and an enlarged library, new floors, and office space was added.



The school staff uses an array of research-based reading programs to build a strong foundation for literacy. The school has 3 full-time reading specialists, 1.5 math specialist positions, and instructional assistants in all K-1 classrooms. Johnson students beat their goal of reading 25, 000 books during the 2010 – 2011 school year. The QUEST gifted program uses a “push/pull” model that pulls students for individualized attention while also bringing higher level activities into the general classroom.

To comprehensively address child development needs, students have 90 minutes of physical education each week and 30 minutes of recess each day. They also receive fine arts instruction in visual arts, music, and



dance through the Richmond Ballet’s *Minds in Motion* program. Leadership development is a big part of student life, as students develop a sense of responsibility through the school safety patrol, book discussions, or time management training. Each week, a student is selected as a Johnson Super Star. This past year, the Learning Leopard Store was introduced to recognize the achievements of 3rd and 4th grade students.

Second grade students mix science and cooking when a pastry chef visited the school last spring. The students prepared healthy snacks to share with grade 3 and 4 classes. Students were also introduced to astronomy when a portable planetarium came to the school.

Johnson has a large international population, offering a global perspective in a small neighborhood context. Students, staff, and parents gather frequently for PTO activities, family dinners, and cultural celebrations. A high level of involvement by staff, parents, and community partners has created a school family at Johnson that supports character development and academic excellence.

Afterschool clubs expose students to sports and hobbies, including jewelry-making, Frisbee golf, and running. C.L.A.S.S., a division-wide afterschool program, runs from 3-5:30 p.m. daily.

The Johnson Promise

As a Johnson School student, I promise:

- to respect all people even if they are different from me;
- to have a positive attitude about learning;
- to solve problems using cooperation, not violence;
- to take responsibility for the choices I make;
- to be honest and to earn the trust of others.
- When I do this, I help make Johnson a place where all people feel safe, respected, and ready to learn.

Opportunities for Parent Involvement

PEP—Parents as Educational Partners assists ESL parents in building relationships and supporting the work of the schools.

Donuts for Dads and Muffins for Moms are popular before-school events where parents meet each other and read a book with their child while sharing donuts or muffins.

International Day recognizes many of the cultures that are represented by Johnson students through an introduction to cultural foods and traditions by students and family members.

An active PTO supports students and teachers through many activities and pot luck dinners including the annual Bingo Night and Silent Auction fundraiser.

Green Initiatives

- 2009 ENERGY STAR® certified building
- Schoolwide Energy Improvement Plan
- Master Naturalist field trip to Camp Albemarle
- Eliminated use of Styrofoam products in cafeterias and switched to washable trays
- Integrated pest management
- Buses use biodiesel fuel, anti-idling policy
- Single stream recycling
- Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Grant through USDA

What Parents Say about Johnson

“This is a great elementary school. The technological resources are good; as are instructional and special classes (library, guidance are favorites of one child; Quest is a favorite of another). Teachers, administrators, and staff are responsive and engaged.”

“We switched from a private school to the City schools and I have been amazed at the quality of teaching, the positive atmosphere and the ability to engage my kids intellectually while meeting the needs of kids from such different backgrounds. I can't say enough.”



Awards and Recognitions

- 2009 Governor's Award for Educational Excellence, the highest honor in the Virginia Index of Performance program for school improvement.
- 2010 Virginia Board of Education's VIP Excellence Award.
- 2011 Virginia Title 1 Distinguished School
- Math specialist received the VA Council for Teachers of Mathematics 2009 Outstanding Mathematics Teacher of the Year Award

Technology

Like other Charlottesville City schools, Johnson has interactive SMART white boards available in every room and a learning cart for every grade level that consists of iPods, student clicker response systems, a video camera, and a digital camera.

School Population (June 2011)

Enrollment: 258

Asian/Pacific Islander: 8.1%

African American: 55.4%

Hispanic: 8.5%

White: 27.9%

ESL students: 34.9%

Gifted students: 14.7%

Special Education students: 15.1%

Pupil/teacher ratio: 17:1

