Rachel Carson Middle School

FAIRFAX COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

13618 McLearen Road
Herndon, Virginia 20171
https://carsonms.fcps.edu/
Main Office: 703-925-3600

August, 2026

Welcome Panthers,

My name is Riley Barrows, and I am the After-School Specialist at Rachel Carson Middle School. I am excited to welcome you and your child to Rachel Carson and our After-School Program! Our mission is to provide students with meaningful opportunities to grow academically, socially, and personally through a variety of engaging activities. We strive to offer high-quality programming that supports academic achievement, social and emotional development, physical health and wellness, and positive family and community involvement.

Our after-school program will officially begin in mid-September and will operate daily from 2:15–4:30 p.m. Students who remain after school will have late bus transportation available on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Late buses typically arrive around 4:30 p.m and depart RCMS by 4:50. Please note that **there are no late buses on Fridays**, so students staying after school on Friday will need to arrange transportation home or walk if appropriate.

The FCPS Transportation Office will publish the late bus schedule in early September. Once it is available, it will be shared through Schoology, posted in teachers' classrooms, and announced on the school's news show. Please note that late bus routes and bus numbers are different from your child's regular school-day bus assignment. You can find your child's late bus number in SIS under “Other Info” where it says **RCLR (Rachel Carson Late Run)** followed by the bus number.

This year, we are excited to offer a wide variety of clubs, intramural sports, and enrichment opportunities, including Debate, Rocketry, MathCounts, Battle of the Books, Model United Nations, Flag Football, Soccer, Volleyball, and many more. Some academically competitive clubs, such as Model United Nations, MathCounts, Science Olympiad, and Debate, require tryouts or placement assessments. Information about the selection process and expectations will be shared during each club's first interest meeting in September.

We encourage every student to get involved and explore new interests, build friendships, and make the most of their middle school experience. Participation in after-school activities is a wonderful way to connect with the Carson community while developing new skills and talents.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact me at **rtbarrows1@fcps.edu**. I look forward to partnering with your family and providing your child with an outstanding after-school experience.

Have a fantastic school year, and...

Go Panthers!

Sincerely,
Riley Barrows