Delaware Valley Friends School is a national leader educating bright students (grades 3-12) with reading, writing and other learning differences. Students receive a comprehensive, evidence-based, college prep curriculum, individualized instruction, cutting-edge assistive technologies, successful college placement, with an emphasis on self-advocacy within a community based on Quaker values. DVFS is an Apple Distinguished School and the only school program in PA, DE and NJ accredited by both IMSLEC and IDA - the leaders in multisensory structured language instruction.

Delaware Valley Friends School, established in 1986, is under the care of the Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. The program attracts students from independent and public schools in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. Admission is rolling, and we accept students mid-year.

THE FRIENDS SCHOOL DIFFERENCE
In keeping with Quaker beliefs and values, the School fosters a desire to learn, a spirit of creativity, a strong sense of self-worth, and respect for the worth of others. We believe that each student comes to us with unique personal gifts. The Quaker approach to education celebrates the individual – encouraging students to maximize their potential to learn, build self-esteem, and come to appreciate their unique differences. These values ensure an environment that is simultaneously nurturing, supportive and academically challenging. Delaware Valley Friends School is a member of the Friends Council on Education, which includes 81 member schools, among the most respected group of day, boarding, general and specialized schools in the USA.

STUDENT PROFILE
Delaware Valley Friends School welcomes college-bound students in grades 3 - 12 with learning challenges, particularly in reading (dyslexia), writing (dysgraphia), math (dyscalculia), memory (long-term and working), auditory processing, and processing speed. We also support students with ADHD, executive functioning challenges, and non-verbal learning disabilities.

ADOLESCENT LITERACY PROGRAM
Our proprietary Adolescent Literacy Program is founded upon the principles of Orton-Gillingham instruction and provides a research-based multisensory, structured, systematic, phonics-based curricular approach that is both prescriptive and diagnostic, allowing lessons to be tailored to each unique child. Our program is the only one in the region accredited by both IMSLEC and IDA (the national leaders in multisensory structured language instruction) for teaching excellence, and we are the only school accredited to teach this method to our own teachers as well as those from other public and private schools. Teachers receive training in these methods to insure consistent approaches to language use and instruction across the entire curriculum.

DVFS does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, or on the basis of national or ethnic origin, in admissions and financial programs, in the administration of its educational program or in employment policies.
LOWER SCHOOL (Grades 3-5)

Our Lower School Program emphasizes executive function support, a multisensory approach to math instruction, a flexible and dynamic Orton-Gillingham based reading program, expository writing instruction, and plenty of opportunities throughout the curriculum for creative, hands on problem solving and fun -- all of which develop the foundational skills required for success in our college preparatory curriculum the later grades.

MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 6-8)

The Middle School Program at Delaware Valley Friends combines the highest standards in adolescent education with the best practices in teaching students with language-based learning differences. Middle school emphasizes skills-based learning, executive functioning and study skills. Students learn strategies and skills across the curriculum which they can apply to more rigorous content in high school.

UPPER SCHOOL (Grades 9 - 12)

Delaware Valley Friends Upper School program offers a robust college preparatory curriculum within a learning environment specifically designed for students with language-based learning disabilities. Our small class sizes, innovative teaching techniques grounded in the Orton-Gillingham approach and latest LD research, and use of state-of-the-art technologies to help guide and support students through the challenging academic curriculum. Upper school students become strong self-advocates - able to both understand and articulate the tools and strategies that work best. DVFS graduates attend a variety of colleges, including four-year programs and top art and culinary schools.

CURRICULUM

Students follow a balanced curriculum encompassing English, Social Studies, Science, Mathematics, and the Arts. The inclusion of skills instruction across the curriculum stands out among our school’s defining strengths and makes for a completely different learning experience than students receive when skills-building is addressed only in Language Arts classes or tutoring sessions.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The following courses are required for completion of the Upper School program:

- 4 years of English
- 3 years of language arts
- 4 years of social studies
- 3 years of mathematics
- 3 years of laboratory science
- 4 semesters of fine arts electives
- Health
- Community Service
- Senior Internship
- 1 ABLE (Adventure Based Learning Experience) elective
- Physical Education (via Athletics; students may earn PE credits outside of DVFS)

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Following a Quaker model, students govern the school using an organized committee system and consensus-based decision making. Leadership opportunities in the various committees provide students with an opportunity to set procedures and policies, organize community and social events, and work collaboratively with peers and teachers to oversee student life at DVFS.
ABLE PROGRAM
(ADVENTURE BASED LEARNING EXPERIENCE)

Delaware Valley Friends’ unique ABLE program takes our students out of the classroom and into the world to learn the critical skills of teamwork, self-sufficiency and leadership. ABLE has taken our students to Peru for mountain climbing and hiking adventures, to Florida and the Chesapeake for sailing, to Canada for canoeing, and most recently on a service trip to India. There are opportunities for local activities, such as backpacking, cross-country skiing or bicycling in New York and Maryland, and high ropes and rock climbing courses.

SERVICE LEARNING

Students participate in and often design a number of community service projects – from food and clothing drives to volunteering with charitable organizations. These experiences foster empathy, respect for others, and a sense of community – all in keeping with the Quaker values and character of DVFS. Service learning is a required component in the curriculum.

OUR STUDENTS

- 29 students in grade 12
- 180 students, grades 3-12
- 66% male; 34% female
- Student:Faculty ratio 4:1
- 30% Students of color
- 64% Receive some form of tuition assistance
- DVFS serves students from 41 school districts

SCHOOL YEAR
Three trimesters, September to June

CEEB CODE: 390483

GRADING SYSTEM

A  93-100 (4.0)  A-  90-92 (3.67)  
B+ 87-89 (3.33)  B  83-86 (3.0)  B- 80-82 (2.67)  
C+ 77-79 (2.33)  C  73-76 (2.0)  C- 70-72 (1.67)  
D+ 67-69 (1.33)  D  63-66 (1.0)  D- 60-62 (0.67)  
NC = below 60 (no credit)

To confer one unit of credit, a class meets 5 times per week for 2 semesters.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE AND CLASS RANK

GPA is calculated on an unweighted 4.0 scale. DVFS does not rank students.

STANDARDIZED ADMISSIONS TEST SCORES

DVFS does not record the results of SAT/ACT exams on transcripts.

DVFS is a member of NACAC and complies with the NACAC Statement of Principles of Good Practice.
Delaware Valley Friends School students (2014-2017) have been accepted to these colleges and universities.  (Indicates recently matriculated by DVFS graduates.)

Adelphi University
The University of Alabama
Albright College
Alfred University
Allegheny College
American University
Arcadia University
Automotive Training Center
Bard College
Bloomsburg University
Borough of Manhattan Community College
Bryn Athyn College
Cabrini College
California University of PA
Catholic University of America
Champlain College
College of Charleston
Cheyney University
Clark University
Clarkson University
Clemson University
Cleveland Institute of Art
Coastal Carolina University
Colby-Sawyer College
Columbia College Chicago
Columbus College of Art & Design
Community College of Philadelphia
The Culinary Institute of America
Curry College
University of Dallas
Dean College
Delaware College of Art & Design
Delaware County Community College
Delaware Valley University
University of Delaware
University of Denver
DeSales University
Dickinson College
Drexel University
Earlham College
East Stroudsburg University
Eckerd College
Elizabethtown College
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Fairleigh Dickinson University
Fiorello H. LaGuardia Community College
Flagler College
Florida Atlantic University
Florida Southern College
Franklin and Marshall College
Franklin University Switzerland
Gannon University
Goucher College
Hampton University
Harcum College
University of Hartford
High Point University
Holstra University
Immaculata University
Indiana University at Bloomington
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Iona College
Ithaca College
Jean Madeline Aveda Institute
Johnson and Wales University
Juniata College
Kean University
King's College
Kutztown University
La Salle University
Landmark College
Lebanon Valley College
Limestone College
Loyola University Maryland
Loyola University New Orleans
Lycoming College
Lynchburg College
Lynn University
University of Maine
Marist College
University of Maryland
Maryland Institute College of Art
Massachusetts College of Art & Design
McDaniel College
Mercyhurst College
Mount Aloysius College
Mount Ida College
Mount Saint Mary's University
Muhlenberg College
Neumann University
University of New Orleans
Otterbein University
Pace University
Paris Junior College
Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts
Pennsylvania College of Technology
Pennsylvania State University
Philadelphia University
University of Pittsburgh
Purdue University
Randolph College
University of Richmond
Rider University
Ringling College of Art & Design
Roanoke College
Robert Morris University
Rochester Institute of Technology
Roger Williams University
Rollins College
Rosemont College
Rowan University
Saint Joseph's University
Saint Leo University
Santa Fe University of Art & Design
Savannah College of Art & Design
School of Visual Arts
University of the Sciences
The University of Scranton
Seton Hall University
Seton Hill University
Shippensburg University
Southwestern University
Spelman College
Springfield College
St. Mary's College of Maryland
Stevenson University
Stockton University
Susquehanna University
Syracuse University
The University of Tampa
Temple University
The Restaurant School, Walnut Hill College
Towson University
Trinity College
The University of the Arts
Ursinus College
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Tech
Wagner College
Warren Wilson College
Washington and Jefferson College
Washington College
Wentworth Institute of Technology
Wesley College
West Chester University
West Virginia Wesleyan College
Whittier College
Widener University
Wilmington College
Wofford College
Xavier University
York College of Pennsylvania

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UNLOCKING THE POWER TO LEARN®

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