

#WeekendSpotlight

Child Development Associate

The Child Development Associate (CDA) is a nationally recognized program that prepares high school students for further education and careers in early childhood education and care. The program covers child growth and development, emphasizing preschool, preschool learning environment best practices, and establishing a purposeful preschool childcare program. Students who are interested in full accreditation also create a portfolio and complete 480 hours of paid internship.



Lynne Fowlkes (left) and the incredible group of CDA students

CDA teacher Mrs. Fowlkes and her students were the first in AACPS to implement the revamped and highly rigorous program at Crofton HS. The program will be available to all 13 comprehensive high schools. It consists of 3 classes and is open to any student as elective classes. No matter their future career choices, students can benefit from these classes by getting AACC credits and becoming CPR certified.

Senior Samantha Odom, the very first AACPS student to become CDA certified, intends to enter the medical field and become a pediatrician.



Senior Samantha Odom, the first AACPS student to earn the CDA Credential

Regardless of their future goals, all students had one common thought: "We could not have accomplished what we did without the help and support of Mrs. Fowlkes." Mrs. Fowlkes spent countless hours, even in the summer, observing childcare centers to see what she could incorporate into the program. These Crofton Cardinals are very thankful for Mrs. Fowlkes's efforts to provide them with the best experience possible.