

Laurel Ridge COMMUNITY COLLEGE FUTURE EDUCATORS ACADEMY

*Happy
Holidays*

The Future Educators Academy (FEA) is a dual-enrollment lab school for rising high school juniors interested in becoming elementary or special education teachers. Students earn an associate degree while completing high school, then transfer to a partner university to finish their bachelor's degree and teacher licensure within two years.

Now Accepting Applications for 2026-2027

We have been busy visiting our local schools and recruiting (with a little help from students) for the upcoming academic year! Tenth-graders who are interested in applying for the Future Educators Academy may find the application and more details on our website at: laurelridge.edu/fea



Contact Info

Email: fea@laurelridge.edu

Phone: (540) 868-7235

Belle Grove – A Journey Back in Time

As part of our US History class, we toured Belle Grove Plantation in Middletown, VA where students learned about the Hite family and enslaved life on the plantation. Students had this to say about their key “takeaways” from the field trip:

“It was nice to get out of the classroom and see the dedication some people have to find and analyze these [slave] records to learn about the past.”

“I really enjoyed this field trip. I think this kind of history is my favorite kind.”

“I was very excited to go to Belle Grove. I knew that the local land was rich with history, so being able to see it in person felt like a great opportunity to expand my knowledge. I was not disappointed. . . . Being at the physical location gave a better idea of what life was like than anything I have read before.”

“I really admire the work they’re doing at Belle Grove.”

“Overall, the field trip helped me see history in a more real and detailed way.

Instead of just learning about plantations, I got to walk the land, see the buildings, and hear stories about the people who lived and worked there. It made me think more deeply about how the enslaved people were treated and how their labor supported everything that happened on plantations like Belle Grove. The experience gave me a clearer understanding of how important slavery was to the economy and daily life in that time period, and it helped me appreciate the importance of learning this history.”



*Photo courtesy of Belle Grove Plantation, taken by the late Rob Simpson, a beloved, former Laurel Ridge faculty member.

Belle Grove – Continued



*Photo courtesy of Belle Grove Plantation.



*Belle Grove Docent, Scott Terndrup, speaking to students in the Manor House kitchen where enslaved cooks worked.

*FEA students in the main hallway of the Manor House.



*FEA students on the front steps of the Manor House.



Important Dates

- 12/8–12/12:** Finals week
- 12/12:** Last day of semester & student holiday party
- 12/15–1/19:** Students to attend practicum placements when their school division is in session
- 1/20:** First day of spring semester

Coming Soon!

Parents: Have you and your student started discussing what's next after Laurel Ridge? It's not too early to start, and if you would like more information about opportunities that are available, don't miss...

Transfer Institution Day 2026

When: March 20, 2026

Where: Laurel Ridge Community College, Middletown Campus

Time: 8 am – 10:30 am

A light breakfast will be provided starting at 7:45 am with presentations from colleges/universities beginning at 8:00 am.

FEA parents and students, please plan to attend.
More information coming in future newsletters!

For Weather &
Emergency
Alerts, text:
laurelalert (one
word) to **226787**

When the Weather Outside is Frightful!

Weather Delays and Closings

If Laurel Ridge is closed, then students should not report to Laurel Ridge.

Students should always check Canvas for updated announcements and assignments.

If a school division is closed or delayed for weather, but Laurel Ridge is open, students **DO NOT REPORT** to Laurel Ridge, or their elementary school for practicum, as their division has found it unsafe to travel. Once we receive notice that a division is closed, we let all professors know not to expect those students in class. It is up to those students to make up any missed work.

If multiple school divisions are closed, a decision may be made to go virtual.
Students should always be checking the Remind app for text messages
and Canvas for announcements and assignments.