

August 20, 2019

Falcon Families,

I hope your children are coming home telling you that they are enjoying school. Typically the Falcon Focus is very nice and well done. I have given the editor the week off as we are still trying to catch up on the high enrollment we experienced this year and with everything that needs to be done as we open the school year. Each section is labeled to help you if you should need to refer back to any information.

SAC Meeting – We will have our first School Advisory Council today at 4:00pm. All are welcome to attend.

Good News – One of the hardest things we have to do when opening a school is tell a group of families that we are starting school with a sub in the class. Thankfully, we were able to start this year with all classroom lead teachers in place. We are still in the hiring process of a few positions, but none are lead classroom teachers.

Transportation – I would like to begin by thanking everyone for your patience and understanding as we work through this process. It typically takes a couple weeks to get things running smoothly in regards to arrival and dismissal. The weather has not been our friend as was clear yesterday. Things will improve, some changes will take place sooner than later.

Buses – Transportation has been making changes to address the needs of our communities, they added a route today. We are working on reassigning the affected buses today and the transportation department should have notified the impacted buses today. One of the causes for the bussing problems is a lack of drivers. If you know of anyone interested in driving a bus, please have them contact the transportation department.

Parent Drop Off and Pick Up - I know this is a long line. In an early communication I compared this to L.A. traffic. This is typical for a start of the school year. It does improve as we work through the many issues that arise on a daily basis. If you are in line for a while and would like to shorten your wait time, I would suggest arriving about 3:20. The line should be almost done by then and you can get through quicker. If it is a rainy day, add another 15- 20 minutes

Rainy Day for Bikers and Walkers – Please know I wait as long as possible before making this decision. I know it disrupts families and people's work. And like yesterday, with Florida weather, we can make the call, then the weather clears up and we have all those students under a blue sky. The decisions are made for the safety of our students. If your child is a biker or walker, once we call a rainy day dismissal, they are moved to the parent pick up line. They will remain there until they are picked up or the car line ends. If they are still with us and the car line ends, we will have them call home for permission to bike or walk home dependent on the weather conditions at the time. Please do not call during dismissal to grant this permission. Our office staff is very busy during dismissal and this is a distraction that could lead a student not going home the right way. Thank you for your patience. Reminder – All bike riders must wear a helmet. If you have not done so already please sign up for the Biker and Walker announcement service. I will be using only that service next week.

To enroll send a text to the number- 81010

In the body of the text write one of the following:

@fcabwk-2 (for families with a child in grades Kinder, First or Second)

@fcabw3-5 (for families with a child in grades 3, 4 and 5)

@fcabw6-8 (for families with a child in grades 6 and 7)

What about a crosswalk across Longleaf Pine Pkwy? I have been asked why there is not a crosswalk for our students while there is one down the road for Patriot Oaks Academy (POA). This has been a topic of discussion that began long before FCA opened. This discussion continues between the School District and the County. The difference is the crosswalk at POA only impacts Longleaf Pine Pkwy. If one was to be added for FCA it would impact Longleaf Pine Pkwy, Shetland and Mahogany Bay Dr. This is a big change from 2 traffic patterns to 14. Talks continue and I hope to be able to report some good news at some point. We are thankful that the district is transporting these students for their safety.

FCA Athletics – Tryouts for FCA Volleyball began yesterday for middle school students. Please be sure to check out the [SJMSAA website](#) for further information for other sports. Please remember that the only sports that FCA is directly involved with are Boys and Girls Volleyball and Basketball.

Attached you will find a two .pdf documents. These contain letter from Superintendent and the Sheriff. Thank you for taking the time to review these documents.

Finally, please mark your calendars for our **Curriculum Chat** evenings. Kindergarten through 2nd grade will be Tuesday, August 27th at 6:00 pm. Third through 5th grades will be Thursday, August 29th also at 6:00 pm. Finally, Sixth and Seventh grades will take place Tuesday, Sept. 3rd at 6:00 pm. These are evenings for teachers to share important class information with parents.

For all our new families, we will have **Voter Registration** available on the 27th and 29th. I look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you for your time in reading this information. It is an honor to serve this community.

Allen Anderson,

Principal