

What FCA Has To Say – The Construction Editions

Falcon Families,

Having a school that is welcoming and inviting is very important to us. Over the past several months a lot of thought has gone into creating that type of environment for our community. Even though we want to create this, safety is always our first concern. We feel it is important for you, our Falcon Family, to be aware of the safety steps that are being taken.

This past week our staff attended a half day safety training. We have more training scheduled for this coming week as well. Thanks to recent legislation Freedom Crossing Academy (FCA) will have a trained Armed Guard at our school during the school day. We also will be sharing a deputy with four other schools in our area. All classroom doors will remain locked at all times. We know this will be an inconvenience, but to comply with fire and safety guidelines, they will remain locked and latched at all times. To access the school you will need to be 'buzzed' into the front office, then 'buzzed' into the school. We only allow approved volunteers into the building that have their driver's license with them, NO EXCEPTIONS.

We have a lot of new families to our area. If you would like to come into our school during normal hours, to have lunch with your child, to volunteer in the classroom, etc. you must be an approved volunteer. If you have not done so, please fill out the form at [this link](#). I would encourage you to invite your relatives (Grandparents) to fill out this application as well. If you have already completed your volunteer application for your previous St. Johns County school, FCA should have already been added for you, you do NOT need to fill out a new application. For more information please see the district [School Access Website](#).

The St. Johns County Sheriff's office has created videos that will be shown to our students, giving instructions to our students in the event of a school lock down. At FCA we will be showing three different videos that were developed to meet the needs of different grade levels. We have viewed the videos and commend the Sheriff's office in addressing the needs of our students in a kid-friendly manner.

As a school we will be always looking for ways we can improve safety on our campus. As we live and grow in this new campus we will always have an eye on the next thing we can do or improve in regards to campus security.

I believe in 'praying for the best, but preparing for the worst'. In preparing, you can help. There are several reasons to have multiple emergency vehicles at our school. If you happen to see them, publishing it on social media or calling the school compounds the situation and takes people away from the work they need to be doing. If anything were to happen in or around our school, coming to the school is a very bad idea. Please know that our first priority is always the safety of your children, then we will communicate to our families.

During the school year we will have regular safety drills. We have monthly fire drills, and each semester we conduct: Evacuation, High Winds and Lock Down drills. If you arrive at school during one of these drills you will not be allowed to enter the school and may be stopped outside school grounds. We do apologize for any inconvenience as Murphy's Law will probably be in effect and your child may be late for an appointment.

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In closing, it saddens me that we have to have a letter like this. We want FCA and all schools to be a place where children can have fun and we adults can all focus on them and their educational needs. Please know that we will do all we can to create that environment for our students. We adults may be inconvenienced a little during this, but we will model best practices and focus on the children.

Allen Anderson

Freedom Crossing Academy