

Parents,

Things are happening very quickly at Freedom Crossing Academy (FCA). We have a lot of information to share in this newsletter, so you may want to get a cup of coffee before you begin. There are still many things that we would like to share and we know you would like to know, but several things are still pending and things continue to change. We will be sending out more information in the coming days as things are finalized. Thank you for your patience. We will do our best to get this, as well as new information on our website as soon as possible.

Enrollment – The past weeks have been busy with new students and hiring new staff. The original projection for the opening of FCA was around 750 students. As for this newsletter we are going over 910. We also just hired 32 additional staff members and will be hiring more as enrollment continues to increase.

Building Update – Things are moving along in the building and it will be ready for the start of the school year. The Administrative area will be the first to open, hopefully in about a week. Administration is still working out of Creekside High School. Once we move to the building we will notify all our families. We will be scheduling tours of the school, prior to the beginning of the school year.

Transportation – As we get closer to the first day of school, I will send out pictures with directions as to the recommended way to access the school. Until then, there are a few things you will need to know:

- We will not have any PSA's or Crossing Guards on Long Leaf Pine Parkway or Shetland Drive. If this changes we will let you know.
- There will not be anyone directing traffic on Shetland Drive
- Most of our students will be provided bus transportation.
- Bus information will be sent the week before school starts by the transportation department.
- We will most likely have some buses doing double runs.
- A student riding home on a bus may get home earlier than if they were a car rider.
- Patience and kindness will be helpful for everyone.
- The first few weeks will be slow (as they are at all schools).
- We will get into a rhythm, and things will flow smoothly eventually.
- It will rain and things will go very slow.
- We will always do our best to keep our children safe.

Information Soon to come your way:

- School tour dates and times.
- Orientation dates and times. We hope to have separate times for each Kindergarten and 6th Grade students. All other grades will be on Thursday, Aug. 9 from 8am until 11am.
- Curriculum Chat dates and times.

Kindergarten – For those new to St. Johns County, our kindergarten students will do a staggered start. The class will be split into small groups the first three days to have a small group of students start together. Then they will all begin as a whole class on Wednesday, Aug. 15th. Dates for your child’s staggered start dates will be announced from your classroom teacher.

Teacher Announcements – Classes change as enrollment changes. Due to this, we are building classes up until the last minute before school starts. Teachers will be making personal phone calls to the student in their classes on Wednesday, August 8th. We recommend letting this message go to your voice mail, so you can replay the message with your child. Please know, we do not take teacher requests.

Supplies – Supplies can be ordered until July 15th for home delivery. Please use the link <https://www.schooltoolbox.com/stbDirect/index.php?r=site/index#search> and search for Freedom Crossing.

School Mission and Vision Statements – A large group gathered and worked for several hours discussing and developing the school Mission and Vision Statements. We are very proud of the work that was done and we feel it captures well who we want to be as a school.

School Mission Statement: “Falcons take FLIGHT”. The letters in FLIGHT encompass qualities what we want for our students and staff = ‘Focused, Leaders, Imagination, Grit, Heart, and Team’.

School Vision Statement: “Breaking Barriers”. It is our goal for our students, staff and as a school to ‘break the barriers’ that are holding us from the next step in our dreams and achievements. These could include such things as the fear to fail, misconceptions, a fixed mindset, self-esteem, etc.

Some Teacher Highlights: We have some amazing teachers coming to FCA. Here are some highlights of what some of them have been doing this summer:

Mr. Stephen Kirsche (Middle School Science) has been selected to participate in the Teacher Innovator Institute at the Smithsonian’s National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Laurie Zentz (Elementary Music and Band Teacher) is spending this week teaching classes at FSU.

Megan Ahrnsbrak (Middle School Digital Tools Teacher), recently presented a training to teachers in Chicago on a program she developed.

Julie Haden (First Grade Teacher) recently interviewed Jesse LeBeau the “Celebrity Teen Coach” on her podcast ‘Level up with J and AJ’ which can be heard on iHeart Radio.

Melissa Lime (AP), presented at the National ASCD Conference last week. She hob-knobbed with the leaders of the conference and has been asked to return to talk about FCA.

One of our staff (who shall remain a mystery) was recently selected to be on a game show and won. The show will air later in the year – more info to come.

We would like to thank the following organizations for their support in the start of our school:

- CSX Transportation
- Fruit Cove Baptist Church
- Switzerland Community Church

- Adventure Landing
- Maple Street Biscuit Company
- Faith Community Church
- Creekside High School
- Creative Me
- Olde City Tours
- St. Augustine Ghost Tours

Bikers and Walkers – We use a one way text message system to alert parents of Bikers and Walkers of dismissal Changes. During severe weather conditions we will move all bikers and walkers to parent pick-up. If they are not picked up, we will hold them until the weather clears and it is safe for them to travel home. To enroll:

Send a text message to the number – 81010

In the area where you would type your message type - @fcabike

You will receive a name request. We only ask for the first name of the child and their grade.

The message will go to the phone that sent the message. The students should not be subscribing to this message.

Help Life Long Learning – We would like your assistance in providing a book for each class and in developing a Professional Development Library for our staff. We would like to provide each class with a copy of “How to Behave and Why”. This is an older book that can be found on Amazon for under a dollar. Our classes may literally tear pages from this book, so any condition is useful. There are some teacher books that some of our staff has been talking about as we develop culture in our school. We would like to provide a selection of these for teacher to do book studies with. We recently provided each teacher a copy of “Culturize” and are currently doing a book study together via twitter. If you are willing to help us with providing any of these books, please use the Sign Up Genius link. Feel free to write ‘Donated by:’ in the book and drop it off once we are in the school.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0449a5ab29a4fc1-class>

“Family Knight” – We will be joining Creekside High School and other local schools in a night free from any school related activities or responsibilities. Teachers are asked not to assign any homework, assignments, projects or studying for assessments. There are no home or away athletic contests and practices will be completed by 5:30pm. Afterschool clubs and activities can meet as scheduled as long as they are completed by 5:30pm. Our goal is to encourage the faculty, staff and students to take advantage of this time with family.

Fall Date: Monday 10/1

Spring Date: Monday 2/11

Middle School News – The rest of the newsletter is information for the Middle School Students and their families.

Middle School Supplies lists will be sent in a separate newsletter just to you to avoid confusion.

If you requested Media Production as your first choice as an elective the application that you were sent is due back this Wednesday, July 11.

Schedules will be available at orientation. We will have a station for any change requests.

You can pre-order your P.E. uniforms from the following website. A flyer with more information will be sent with the Supply List.

www.schoolpay.com/pay/for/FCA-PE-Uniforms/McCF

Have a Great Day and GO FALCONS!!!!