

Parents,

In only 12 days we get to begin the 2018-19 school year. This past week we were able to allow teachers access to their classrooms to begin preparation. They have been very busy preparing and planning. As we have been planning for all the new things that are going to take place we realized that we need to slow down to do things well. Some of the initiatives that I have written about or that are still to come will be rolled out slowly. One example is the Live School program that we will use. We will not start this until after Curriculum Chats so our families have an understanding as well. Please be patient as we intentionally pace ourselves.

Meet the Teacher / Orientation – We have scheduled the following Meet the Teacher events. All students in grades K – 5 will receive a call from their teacher the day before their orientation. Students in sixth grade will pick up their schedules and books on the evening of the 9th. Students may bring their supplies to class during orientation.

- Kindergarten – Wednesday, Aug. 8th. 5:30pm – 7:30pm
- Grades 1-5 – Thursday, Aug. 9th. 8:00 - 11:00 am.
- Grade 6 – Thursday, Aug. 9th. 5:30 – 7:30pm. More information to come.

Curriculum Chats- Curriculum Chats are an opportunity for our teachers to share goals, expectations, policies and procedures for the year. I highly recommend attending these very informative evenings. The information shared these evenings are for you as the parent. We do request that children are not in attendance these evenings. The Curriculum Chats are scheduled for:

- Kindergarten, First and Second Grades – Tuesday, Aug. 28th. 6:00pm – 7:30pm
- Third, Fourth and Fifth Grades – Thursday, Aug.30th. 6:00pm – 7:30pm
- Sixth Grade – Tuesday, Sept. 4th. 6:00pm – 7:30pm

Playground update – The primary playground equipment is installed and we are on track for it to be completed before school starts. The Intermediate playground is experiencing some drainage issues. We need a few dry days to get this job complete. We do not anticipate this area to be completed for the opening of school. Our intermediate students will have access to the outside basketball courts. I will also be talking to our teachers about other fun alternatives. I anticipate that we will have full access to the fields and the playground by the time the weather cools and we all want to be outside longer.

Meet and Greet – WOW!!!! It was so great to meet so many of our families at Maple Street Biscuit Company last week. Our staff has been talking and sharing stories of the wonderful families they met. We hope you were able to meet new friends as well. Thank you to everyone that was able to make it out that evening.

Enrollment – Our enrollment continues to climb since the last update. We are currently over 975 – additional 25 students in a week!!! You have been doing a great job of telling all the new families to give us a call. With the increased enrollment, we continue to add staff. This week we hope to add 5 additional staff members.

Tours – We will be able to give tours of the school before we open. This coming Sunday, August 5th we will open the school for tours. We will begin giving tours at 3pm. The last tour will leave at 5:30pm. Visitors must stay with the tour group. We will walk the entire school, but will only see a couple of empty classrooms.

Media Center Black Out – The initial book order is shelved and the media center is almost done. Once we talk to our students and get to know their interest we will be adding to our collection. To keep an element of mystery and to keep our students excited about coming to school and the media center, we are keeping the media ‘blacked out’ during the tours and meet the teacher. The media center will be open for our students to see on the second day of school.

Transportation – We recently had new aerial photos of the school taken. Once we have those we will send out a diagram of how we suggest traffic will flow in and out of the school. If we all follow the same patterns it will help all of us. At the writing of this article we will have some buses making double runs to get our children to and from school. As these buses serve a relatively small area the bus times are less than many other bus rides I have experienced. I would like to encourage you to utilize the provided bus service. Also, please know that the first couple of weeks of traffic in and around the school will be very slow. This is common with Kindergarten staggered start and getting the flow of things down. Give us a couple weeks and it should improve.

For Sixth Graders – Due to recent legislation, we have changed the course code for our digital tools class. The content will contain the same digital tools content that we discussed at our meetings. We are confident that this change is a positive for our students for many reasons. If the name of the course seems different, this is why.

Something to Expect – The first couple weeks of school will be dedicated to building relationships and procedures. I have asked teachers to focus on these over instruction for the first 2 weeks of school. When these are in place, the time spent will be more than regained throughout the year.

The rest of the Newsletter is full of reminders. Please take special note of the first two. I am hopeful that we will have a donated copy of the book listed below for each class prior to school starting.

******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 are almost there!!! We just need a little help with this. Read previous editions for further explanation. I thought I would share why each of these books were selected.

Simple Truths of Service – This book sets the standard of how the office staff would like to treat those that enter the building.

How to Behave and Why – We would like our classes to rewrite this book the FCA Way!!!

The remaining Books are all currently popular books on teaching, and going above and beyond for our students. These would be used for book studies amongst our staff.

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>

Transportation (reminder)– 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.
- 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 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.

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 the day before their Orientation Day. 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.

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.

Have a Great Day and GO FALCONS!!!!