



Freedom Crossing Academy

October 2021



Dear Falcon Families,

Happy Fall! As our school year progresses, we have established routines and some normalcy to our days. Although it has not been quite a return to status quo, our teachers, staff and parent community has wholeheartedly responded to the needs of our students both academically and emotionally. We appreciate the support and advocacy that you as parents have offered to Freedom Crossing Academy.

As we approach the end of the first quarter, I want to share my gratitude for our amazing and resilient FCA staff and for the parent community that supports us!

Good News

Boosterthon update- Boosterthon raised \$125K and exceeded our goal of \$70K! These funds will help us greatly with our current technology needs and future shade structures. Our students had fun traveling the world through videos focused on Character Counts. K-5 finished the week with a Dance Fit Challenge. Our K-5 students danced 30-35 minutes in their classrooms to a variety of music, they may have even learned a few new dance steps.

The Middle School Boosterthon Color Party is scheduled on November 23rd. This exciting opportunity is available to all students who have raised a minimum of \$5 for this year's Boosterthon fundraiser. We have extended the Boosterthon window until the end of October for middle schoolers only. It's not too late to make a donation and participate in the Boosterthon Color Party. Visit the Boosterthon website to make a donation today: boosterthon.com.

All participating students and their families will be notified the first week of November and will receive more details about the Boosterthon Color Party.

We are also seeking parent volunteers to help during the Boosterthon Color Party. Please visit the FCA PTO website or email Mrs. LaBare, Boosterthon Chair, at danifcpto@gmail.com for more information.

Thank you all for your generosity and support!

Portable Awnings- The portable awnings are now completed!

FCA Updates

Arrival reminders -

Students may enter the school building at 7:55, staff will begin unloading cars at 7:50.

We will direct parents to drop off their children in the bus loop once all the first run busses have dropped off their students. If for some reason you end up behind a bus in the bus loop, please be patient and do not pull around the bus. This has really helped to move our lines!

- Biker/Walkers (baseball side) – Parents may walk their students up to the end of the covered walkway. Please allow bus riders to exit first.
- Biker/Walkers (parent pick-up side) - Parents may walk their students up to the start of the bike rack.

Please note: We have separated elementary and middle school in the Bike Rack Areas on the Biker/Walkers (baseball side). Middle School bikes are housed in the caged area and elementary bikes are housed in the outside location.



Freedom Crossing Academy

October 2021



Dismissal updates— Our kindergarten students are escorted out at 2:40 by the teams' designated teachers. We have been tweaking the process of dismissal to exit all our students safely and efficiently from the building.

Order of dismissal:

- Biker/Walkers grades 1-3
- Biker/Walkers grades 4-8
- Parent pick -up grades 1-3
- Parent pick -up grades 4-8
- Busses
- Extended Day
- Second Run Busses

Reminder - Similar to arrival procedures, we will direct parents to pick -up their children in the bus loop once all the first run busses have exited. We have a team of staff members that will collect your child(ren) from the parent pick-up location and escort them to your vehicle. Again, if for some reason you end up behind a bus in the bus loop, please be patient and do not pull around the bus.

Thank you to our patrols, staff members and Deputy Fornash who diligently assist with both arrival and dismissal every day!

Safety Drills

Please be aware that various Safety Drills are conducted monthly throughout the school year. At these times, vehicles may not be permitted to drive into campus and/or parents checking students out may be asked to wait. We appreciate your understanding.

Transportation Changes

Please be mindful that we receive numerous requests for transportation changes each day. If it is possible to maintain your traditional method for afterschool pick up this would be helpful.

COVID Updates

We continue to follow district health and safety protocols to help mitigate the spread. To report a positive case of COVID-19, please first call the DISTRICT COVID TEAM AT **904-547-8230** for guidance on next steps. This number can be found on our school and district websites.

Please refer to our district website for any covid-related information and updates at <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/covid-19/>

October Character Counts Activities

The October pillar of character is **Responsibility** which ties nicely with the FCA Way school-wide behavior expectations. "Character Feathers" will be used school-wide to recognize our students demonstrating the pillars of character each month. This is another way we recognize our students for adhering to the FCA Way and demonstrating outstanding character.



Freedom Crossing Academy

October 2021



Red Ribbon Week 2021

This year's Red Ribbon Week starts on October 20th (Unity Day) and ends on October 29th (Character Day). It's going to be an amazing week of unity, costumes, and of course lots of fun. **See the attached flyer for the details.**

National Unity Day will be held on Wednesday, October 20th. FCA will be wearing **ORANGE** on this day in support of Unity.

Rock Your School Day

On October 21st, educators from around the world are participating in "Rock Your School" by planning an out of the box learning experience for their students that is both engaging and rigorous. At FCA, we like to get a little WILD and "Set the Stage to Engage." The theme this year is the Olympics, and our theme song is "It's a Great Day at FCA." The song and choreography, created by our amazing teachers, will be released on "Rock Your School" day. Our students will enjoy singing and learning the dance moves in their resource classes. Classroom doors and hallways will be decorated. Be sure to wear **RED, WHITE, AND BLUE**

Spelling Bee

Students in grades 5-8 can participate in their class spelling bee on October 19th and October 20th. The school spelling bee is scheduled the week of October 25th.

Character Day

Oct. 29 is Character Day for grade K-4. Students may dress as their favorite character. We are happy to announce that a Character Parade will be held! More details to come from your child's classroom teacher.

Liveschool Update

There has been some issue with parents not being able to log into LiveSchool. Parents if you cannot log in, delete their app, reload it, and request a new parent code from your child's teacher

Starting in October, the LiveSchool store will be open for Middle School students every other Friday during their lunch. Kindergarten will have access to the Liveschool store when needed throughout the week. Grades 1-5- The store is coming to students throughout the week on a cart! House Competitions will also begin in October where the house with the highest points earned will earn a special prize, treats, and rewards.

State Math Textbook Adoption

The St. Johns County School District curriculum department is in the process of reviewing Middle School Instructional Materials for Mathematics to be adopted for use beginning in the 2021-2022 school year. The core resources that have been submitted for evaluation have come from the state adoption bid list and other submitted resources from publishers.

We are asking parents at FCA to be involved in this process, as it directly impacts your children. We encourage parent and community participation in our adoption process. If you would like to serve on the FCA school committee and formally review the resources as a part of the school review team at FCA



Freedom Crossing Academy

October 2021



or would like more information on how to review and become a part of this process, please contact Stephanie.davenport@stjohns.k12.fl.us or our office at 904.547.3947.

Any parent is able to view the materials that are up for adoption by clicking [instructional materials website](#). If you would like access to any available printed materials or require assistance reviewing the online resources, you may contact Stephanie Davenport at the above email, or call the office at 904.547.3947. We appreciate your consideration in this process. To learn more about the policies and procedures for textbook adoption, visit the [Florida Department of Education Instructional Materials Website](#)

Character Counts and Required Instruction

All student in grades K-8 will participate monthly in Character Counts lessons and Required Instruction with a focus on Social and Emotional Learning. Please see the attached flyer with the monthly lessons and Character Counts theme. For more information on Character Counts please go to <https://ccstjohns.com/>

Social Media Challenge Concerns

Parents please, please talk to your children about viewing and participating in recent **Tik Tok Challenges**. Please remind them of the FCA WAY Behavior Expectations including respect for others and respect for school property. There are monthly Tik Tok challenges where students across the country are stealing and vandalizing school property, in addition there are some challenges that can be demoralizing to other students. These types of infractions will result in suspension. We want to encourage students to be kind, take care of each other and take care of their school.

We are developing a student leadership organization to provide students with an opportunity to be a voice for students and provide feedback to our administration. We encourage your student in grades 6-8 to participate. More information will be sent out soon to middle school parents and students. We are a Capturing Kids Heart School and look forward to developing student leadership.

Important Dates

Friday, 10/15- 1st Quarter Ends

Tuesday 10/26 – Report Cards will go live in HAC after 2pm

Take Flight and Break Barriers!

Respectfully,

Gina R. Fonseca

Interim Principal

Freedom Crossing Academy