

August 2021

Dear Falcon Families,

Welcome to Freedom Crossing Academy!

I hope you had a wonderful summer! I am excited to welcome all our students and families to the 2021-2022 school year at Freedom Crossing Academy. As the new Interim Principal, I look forward to learning the *FCA Way* with many of our new staff members and new students.

At Freedom Crossing Academy, we align Capturing Kids' Hearts and PBIS best practices to create a positive and safe learning environment for all students. Freedom Crossing Academy has been recognized by the Florida PBIS Project as a 2019-2020 Gold PBIS Model School. Through the effective implementation of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), LiveSchool, and the *FCA Way*, we are committed to positive and equitable outcomes for all students. We also utilize Capturing Kids' Hearts, a process that helps build a positive school culture with a belief that ***to capture a kids' mind, you first have to capture their hearts***. Our staff is committed to building a positive learning environment where students are relationally connected and eager to learn. One our strategies is to always greet our students at the door and begin each class with "Good News." This school year we are applying to become a Capturing Kids' Hearts School National Showcase School.

I am happy to share "Good News" as Freedom Crossing Academy is projected to continue its "A" school rating based on the Florida State Assessment (FSA). Last school year presented us with unprecedented challenges, and FCA persevered. Thank you to the students and staff that worked so hard during such an unpredictable year. I am proud of our students and staff for their grit and determination to break barriers and achieve success!

Freedom Crossing Academy's vision statement is *Breaking Barriers*, and our Mission Statement is, *Falcons Take Flight*. Flight stands for *Focus, Leadership, Imagination, Grit, Heart and Team*. You can feel these attributes in every hallway of this school!

As we begin our fourth year as a full K-8 school we have continued to see growth from new families moving into the area. We will open with approximately 2, 200 and over 200 staff members. School safety is our first priority in St. Johns County and at FCA. We have a St. Johns County Deputy on campus every school day and will continue to monitor for improvements. Please be mindful that anyone that would like to check out their child **MUST** have a picture ID and be identified as the student's legal guardian in our eSchool system.

We will continue to implement COVID safety protocols posted on our district's website at [www.stjohns.k12.fl.us](http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us). We are expected to follow Governor DeSantis Executive Order 21-175 which acknowledges the parental right to make decisions for their own children related to face masks. Face masks are optional and there will be no daily temperature checks. Per our Superintendent, due to the most recent increase in COVID virus spread in our community, it is highly recommended to use face masks as the school year begins. Additionally, we will continue to limit visitors during the school day to support a healthy and safe school environment. Information will be provided to families regarding quarantining as a prevention strategy.

As a parent, I want what we all want for our children, that is to be safe, happy and to reach beyond their potential in all they do! I am looking forward to getting to know our Falcon Families where we can *Break Barriers and Take Flight* together.

Thank you for your continued support!  
Sincerely,

Gina R. Fonseca ~ Go Falcons!