



Freedom Crossing Academy

November 2021



Dear Falcon Families,

As we roll into November I am reminded of the *Power of Gratefulness*. [The Power of Thankfulness: 5 Essential Tips \(positivityblog.com\)](https://positivityblog.com)

I shared this with my teachers and staff and thought I would share it with you.

1. **Pause and look around yourself.**
2. **Express your thankfulness.**
3. **Look towards yourself too.**
4. **Be thankful for the things you may take for granted.**
5. **Start or end your day with thankfulness.**

As I pause and look around, I am grateful for the opportunity to work at Freedom Crossing and learn what it means to be a Falcon. I am grateful that there are truly so many incredibly dedicated and talented teachers at FCA. I am also grateful to work with such a strong community of parents who work closely with FCA to provide a safe, nurturing and strong academic environment for all our students. I sincerely appreciate your input, collaboration and volunteerism. My hope is that I will get to continue to grow as a leader and work side by side with you during my tenure.

GOOD NEWS:

Congratulations to FCA's **Teachers of the Year!** Kindergarten Teacher **Ashley Anderson** was named Elementary School Teacher of the Year and 6th grade English Language Arts Teacher, **Jill Loughran** was named Middle School Teacher of the Year. **Karina Ringdahl** was named Elementary's Rookie Teacher of the Year and David Zeinert was named Middle School Rookie Teacher of the Year. We are very proud of that these teachers will go on to compete for county recognition and be celebrated at an event in January.

I would also like to recognize custodian, **Sean Eaton** as our School Related Employee of the Year. Mr. Eaton goes above and beyond to keep our school clean and safe. He is committed to FCA and to all our students and staff.

Red Ribbon Week, Rock Your School Day and the Character Parade!

We hope all our students enjoyed participating in Red Ribbon Week-Say No to Drugs Week! The week included Rock Your School Day. Thank you to our teachers and staff for creating a magical day of out of the box teaching for our students. It was amazing! The entire campus was rocking and rolling with highly engaging lessons that were rigorous and also lots of fun! Teachers engaged students with classroom transformations, Olympic themed stations, and so much more! From the moment our students entered the building, there was magic in the air. This would not have been possible without our parents and PTO coming in on the weekend to transform our hallways! Parents, thank you so very much for your dedication to FCA!!

Additionally, our outstanding band, chorus, dancers, and cheerleaders ROCKED it from the flagpole to the portables! The campus came alive with so many wonderful performances. The 2021 FCA theme song and dance was also a huge success! So many students have already learned the song and rocking the dance moves in the hallways. The weeks fun culminated with



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the Elementary Character Parade. Staff members and grade level teams joined with dress-up themes, including the office staff who joined in the fun sporting Toy Story characters. Many teachers and staff shared that “It feels like the FCA we love.” This is what FCA is all about-- Capturing Kids Hearts and creating a positive school culture.

November Character Counts

The November pillar of character is **Citizenship**. A critical component of citizenship is doing what you can to engage with your community. Everyone has the power to use their interests and passions to positively impact their community, the country, and the world.

Middle School Student Voice

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 any student interested in grades 6-8 to participate. The first FCA Student Ambassador Meeting will be held immediately after school on Wednesday 11/10/21 (1:45-2:45) in the outside PE Pavilion. Interested students should complete this Forms Link

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=V9CzsxL8P0-S9HK-boRDUXAt16ztEKdOtN4k8CMCZ_VUMVM3NFhNNE9SOVdBNFo5SzJHT0pHVVFLSC4u

to participate in this exciting opportunity. Transportation will not be provided. Participating students will need to be picked up at parent pick-up at 2:45. Biker/Walkers will also need to be picked up. Questions can be sent to Melissa.Lime@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Safety Update

Safety is a priority for all our students. Please help up with the following concerns. The doors for school open at 7:55. Staff members start duty at 7:50. For safety concerns, students should not arrive on campus prior to this time. The PSA and Crossing Guards are not on duty until 7:45. It has been brought to my attention that students are crossing Shetland and Longleaf prior to this time and drivers may not be as attentive without the presence of the Crossing Guards and PSA.

When dropping off students, we ask that parents use the drop-off location in front of the school where staff members are assigned. Please **do not** drop off students in the lot near the baseball field, as our staff members are on duty only on the school side, near the bicycle racks.

Additionally, students riding bikes should stay on the sidewalk and not cut through the parking lot on the biker/walker side by the baseball field, as staff members utilize this lot to park their vehicles. Also, bikers are required to wear their helmets. We appreciate your support to help keep all our students safe.

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.



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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 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](#)

On the Horizon

November 9th- Volleyball Game, Spelling Bee Elementary
November 10th- Spelling Bee Middle School, Student Ambassadors Meeting
November 11th- Veteran's Day- NO SCHOOL
November 16th- Interims Issued
November 23rd- Middle School Boosterthon Color Run
November 24th-28th- Happy Thanksgiving!!
December 2nd- NJHS Induction Ceremony
December 4th- Charlotte's Web Performance
December 21st- 1st Semester Ends
December 22nd- Jan 4th- Winter Break
January 5th- Teacher Planning Day

Take Flight and Break Barriers!

Respectfully,

Gina R. Fonseca

Interim Principal

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