

**GINA FONSECA**  
*INTERIM PRINCIPAL*

**MELISSA LIME**  
*VICE PRINCIPAL – MIDDLE SCHOOL*

**DONNY HOESSLER**  
*VICE PRINCIPAL - ELEMENTARY*



**MATTHEW DUGGAN**  
*ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL – MIDDLE SCHOOL*

**JESSICA HAMELIN**  
**AMY RUGEN**  
*ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS - ELEMENTARY*

September 2021

Dear Falcon Families,

I hope you and your family enjoyed the 3-day weekend! Freedom Crossing Academy has had a very busy start to the 2021-2022 school year. Our amazing teachers and staff have been working hard to help your children acclimate to the new school year. I have many items to share with you and would like to first start with some FCA “good news”.

### **Good News**

Freedom Crossing Academy, K-8 has been recognized by the FLPBIS Project as a PBIS Model School for their resilience in implementing a school-wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) framework during the 2020- 2021 school year. PBIS is a set of strategies based in behavioral and biomedical science that enhances student quality of life and reduces problem behaviors.

Freedom Crossing Academy creates a safe, supportive, and positive school culture by aligning their PBIS school-wide behavior expectations, known as the FCA Way, with Capturing Kids Hearts best practices and the Character Counts education program. Capturing Kids Hearts is a school-wide relationship building approach for students to feel connected, supported, and valued every day. Every morning, teachers greet students when they enter the classroom. Students share “good news” during their morning meetings and begin each day with a launch of the school’s vision and mission statement. In every classroom, teachers and students create social contracts to promote a self-managing, highly effective learning environment of productive relationships, teamwork, and leadership. Freedom Crossing Academy also implements the Six Pillars of Character Counts, a county wide character education program that instills positive character traits.

Congratulations to Principal Allen Anderson, the administrative team and teachers of the 2020-2021 school year for demonstrating resilience in an unprecedented school year. Freedom Crossing will continue to build off these traditions and uphold the FCA way.

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**Curriculum Chats** will be held virtually for all grade levels on **September 9<sup>th</sup>**.

- K-5 Students and Families- Please look for communication from your child’s teacher regarding the virtual presentations.
- Middle School Students & Families- Please visit the link below to view the curriculum chat presentations from your child’ teachers. All videos be uploaded on September 9<sup>th</sup>.  
<https://www-fca.stjohns.k12.fl.us/middle-school/expectations/>

### **FCA Updates**

As you are aware, FCA is experiencing growth, which can impact a number of items including class size, traffic and more. I would like to express my appreciation to the many of you that have reached out with recommendations and support. Your advocacy is respected and appreciated.

### **Traffic**

We are grateful to announce that in addition to the crossing guards, two PSA (Public Service Assistance) will be present on the corner of Longleaf Pkwy. and Shetland Dr. at both arrival and dismissal. In addition, we had made some adjustment to help with our traffic patterns:

**Arrival** - 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.

- 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.

**Dismissal** – 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. 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

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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!

### **Rainy Day Dismissal (HOLD)**

We have had a number of days that inclement weather as rolled in very close to dismissal. We monitor the weather daily and will call a **Rainy-Day HOLD** if inclement weather is in the area but looks to be quickly passing. If this is called, all BIKER/WALKERS will be held within the building. Once the weather lightens and it is safe for student travel, the hold will be lifted, and students will be able to dismiss as normal. In a **HOLD**, students will go home as planned, they will just be **delayed**. A school messenger will be communicated to parents when the Rainy-Day HOLD is placed **and** when it is lifted. **No** check-outs will occur at this time.

### **Rainy Day Dismissal (Parent Release)**

A **Rainy-Day RELEASE** will be called when **SEVERE** inclement weather is in the area and looks to be long lasting. If this is announced, all BIKER/WALKER students will be held within the building and **EVERYONE** will become a car rider. We have made adjustments to the location our students will wait in the event we do. No walk-up check-outs will be allowed. A school messenger will be communicated to parents when a Rainy-Day **RELEASE** is announced so arrangements can be made for student pick-up. **THERE WILL BE NO WALK-UP CHECK-OUTS WHEN A RAINY-DAY RELEASE IS CALLED AND ALL STUDENTS WILL BE CAR RIDERS.** If you do not have a car tag, please request one from the front office in the event you have to pick up your child. Please make sure you have your students name and grade level on your dashboard, along with your ID. As you know the weather can fluctuate quickly, we will make every attempt to communicate in a timely manner.

### **COVID Updates**

FCA's current COVID numbers and quarantining has been a challenge. We are following district health and safety protocols to help mitigate the spread. Please be patient and please be kind to our nurses. Every day, our nurses work tirelessly to help with contract tracing, helping parents understand quarantining, in addition to assuring all students health needs are attended to.

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**Cleaning and Sanitation** – Our evening maintenance crew, cleans, disinfects and sanitizes **all** rooms every night. This includes cleaning desk, fixtures, light switches and door handles.

**REMINDER:** Review the Health Questionnaire daily with your student. Students **MUST** stay home from school when they are ill, awaiting COVID-19 test results, or if anyone in the household is COVID-19 positive. Thank you for partnering with us to help protect the safety of all students and staff.

**PARENTS:** To report a positive case of COVID-19, please **first** call the Department of Health at (904) 506-6081.

**Next** - To report to our clinic either a student's positive test result or that your student needs to quarantine since they are a close contact, please click on the appropriate link below to complete a short online reporting questionnaire. Quarantined students who receive a negative test (rapid or PCR, NO home test) on day 5 will need to be brought into the nurses' office by their parent with the negative test to be admitted back to class. Our nursing staff will contact you if they need additional information:

**[Report Positive Test Result](#)**

**[Report a Close Contact to be Quarantined](#)**

***Please avoid reaching out to teachers with COVID related questions. If you need more information than the links provide, feel free to call or email me directly at 904-547-4230 or [gina.fonseca@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:gina.fonseca@stjohns.k12.fl.us)***

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

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip**

At this time, St. Johns County School District is suspending the 8<sup>th</sup> grade school trip to Washington DC for the 2021-2022 school year.

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FCA thanks you for your trust and support as we serve to help grow your children's hearts and minds.

*Take Flight and Break Barriers!*

*Respectfully,*  
*Gina R. Fonseca*  
*Interim Principal*  
*Freedom Crossing Academy*