



Freedom Crossing Academy

December 2021



Dear Falcon Families,

As we come to the close of the first semester of the 2021- 22 school year, many of us would agree that Freedom Crossing Academy has experienced an extraordinary number of changes, including a change in leadership. I am honored to share that the *Interim* title has been removed and I am beyond proud to serve in the capacity as the Principal of Freedom Crossing Academy. As my commitment to you and your children, I promise to continue to work hard, listen, build trust and grow as a leader. This is not something I can do alone. I value our administrative team, our teachers, our non-instructional staff and I value the commitment of our families and students to work together as a community for our children.

Good News:

FCA Staff Recognition- Congratulations to Sean Eaton, FCA's 2021-22 School Related Employee of the Year! Thank you, Sean, for your commitment to excellence in all you do!

Spelling Bee - Congratulations to all our FCA Spelling Bee Finalist. Our two spelling bee representatives at the SJCS District Wide Bee included **Katelyn Kapp, 5th grade**, who made it to the top 13 spellers and **Krish Naillikkal, 6th grade**, made it to the top 7 spellers! There were 47 student spellers in the competition! We are so proud of our FCA students! WAY TO GO!

Color Run -The Middle School Boosterthon Color Run was AWESOME! The students had a blast, and everyone had so much fun! We definitely got messy, but it was worth every moment! Thank you to our amazing parent volunteers, middle school teachers, and students for an amazing event. We are so appreciative of your support! Thank you so much!

PTO Sponsored Winter Family Event- It has been a while since we have been able to host a family event. Thank you to the PTO parents, students and teachers who volunteered to accommodate more than 1200 students and parents for the Winter Family Event.

School News:

A Wedding at FCA – Coming out of Secondary Curriculum, I was a bit confused about the ceremony of the letters “Q” and “U”! The marriage was held in the gym with our Kindergarten students joining as our guest. The event reinforces how Q and U work together to make “qu” sounding words. Breaking barriers everyday!

Circus Visit - A special thanks to the Venardos Circus for joining us at Freedom Crossing and putting on a wonderful performance for our K-5 Falcons. What a spectacular event!

Cheer Camp - Join the SJMSAA FCA Cheerleaders for a cheer camp on January 18th-19th. Interested K-5th graders can sign up at the link below:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdn8IccixVT-N6-CTkTWnIKmhiUSdwjPhNllv1auJzVgAk6A/viewform?fbclid=IwAR2aqdJ_wGFNlePLqzDs05R_xnsS2wNOWdU3F8IrEaGYNLNMbdu05hHBnuTk



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December Character Counts

In December, we focus on all the Pillars of Character including Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship. See our district website for more information on the Pillars of Character at <https://ccstjohns.com/>

COVID Update

The Department of Education changed the statute. Students will now be allowed a maximum of 10 quarantine attendance days. After that, any 'quarantine' absences will be marked as excused absences. This change is retro back to the 1st day of school.

Safety Update

Fortify Florida - FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows students or parents to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials. By accessing FortifyFL at <https://getfortifyfl.com/> or <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/blog/fortifyfl-app/>, individuals can provide a description of the threat, share pics and videos and optionally submit their contact information. FortifyFL was created and funded by the 2018 Florida Legislature as part of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act. The Office of Attorney General, Department of Education and Florida Department of Law Enforcement coordinated its development and rollout.

Social Media –On Friday, I sent a message to all parents due to students misrepresenting facts in a text message causing undue stress. The information in the text was not credible. Again, we encourage parents to please talk with your children about the use and misuse of social media and using cell phones for non-emergencies at school.

To be very transparent, there have been a number of things shared about Freedom Crossing Academy on various social media platforms, that are actually not factual. I encourage parents to please reach out to me or any of our administrative team if you have concerns with safety or student behavior. Freedom Crossing Academy is our school, serving our children; our goal is to keep them safe and nurtured. I appreciate your support!

Arrival and Dismissal- Once again, 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



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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.

On the Horizon

December 21st- 1st Semester Ends

December 22nd- Jan 4th- Winter Break

January 5th- Teacher Planning Day

January 6th - School resumes for students- Second Semester begins

January 17th – Martin Luther King Day – Student/Teacher Holiday

I sincerely hope that you and your family enjoy the holiday break, focusing on family and togetherness, laughter and joy!

Take Flight and Break Barriers!

Respectfully,

Gina R. Fonseca

Principal 😊

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