



# Freedom Crossing Academy

## January 2022



### Dear Falcon Families,

Happy New Year! I hope that you and your families enjoyed the winter break and are getting back into a routine. This semester we will be focusing on professional development for our teachers, sharpening our skills to provide best practices in the classroom. I am excited to begin the second semester as the principal of Freedom Crossing Academy and am eager to see all the learning and growing happening in our school every day!

District 1 School Board Member Beverly Slough and Freedom Crossing Academy will be hosting a Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Parents are invited to attend to provide input and suggestions for the continued growth of our school. If you cannot attend, please feel free to ask questions or offer input through the following link:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=V9Czsl8P0-S9HK-boRDUXAt16ztEKdOtN4k8CMCZ\\_VUO1ozTkVHNTFMTDlxU0JRT1U4WUNHMkIzSi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=V9Czsl8P0-S9HK-boRDUXAt16ztEKdOtN4k8CMCZ_VUO1ozTkVHNTFMTDlxU0JRT1U4WUNHMkIzSi4u)

### Good News!

#### Jaguar Honor Row

Last Sunday, over 90 FCA 4<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> graders and staff attended the Jaguar home game and the Jags won! It was a magical experience for our students. This is a huge LiveSchool incentive, and it is wonderful that the Jags partner with us for this exciting once in lifetime experience for many of our students. Since we opened, we have received over 350 tickets from the Jags on behalf of the Honor Rows grant.

#### Science Fair Nominees

Congratulations to all our FCA Science Fair Nominees. The following students were recognized today at lunch for their participation:

**6<sup>th</sup> grade** - E. Ketireddy, A. Dahiya, R. Patrey, J. Rivera, A. Mathereson, K. Kasprzyk, D. Argott

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade** - E. Farah, A. Chen, J. Clair, A. Wolf, J. Carpio, L. Gunther, C. Suter, N. Mize, E. York

Thank you to teachers Rafael Arribas, Ann Couch and Beverly Slopey for supporting these students with their Science Fair projects.

Congratulations to Emma York as she will be representing Freedom Crossing Academy at the St Johns County Regional STEM Science Fair.

#### Spring Arbor University Teacher Intern Visit

Several schools in St. Johns County including Freedom Crossing Academy hosted teacher interns from Spring Arbor University Michigan today. Sixteen elementary teacher candidates and eight secondary teacher candidates toured Freedom Crossing Academy and visited classrooms. It is exciting to meet these potential teacher candidates and share our enthusiasm for education.

#### Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!

Literacy week will be held at Freedom Crossing January 24<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup>. More information to come on our website!



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### School News:

#### Second Semester Expectations Meetings

Throughout the next two weeks our administration will be meeting with all students in grades K-8 to review academic and safety expectations.

#### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Expectations Meeting

We are very excited about all the events planned for our 8<sup>th</sup> grade Falcons before they migrate to high school! Information has been sent to parents via School Messenger. Please contact Vice Principal Melissa Lime if you should have additional questions.

Calendar of events:

- May 13<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Gradventure Orlando Trip 1:30pm-2:30am
- May 27<sup>th</sup> Promotion Ceremony Rehearsal 8:30am-10am
- May 31<sup>st</sup> Promotion Ceremony Rehearsal 8:30am-10am 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Yearbook Signing/Video in the Cafeteria 1:45pm-2:45pm - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance in Cafeteria-7pm-9pm
- June 1<sup>st</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion Ceremony 8:45am in the Gym June 2 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students are permitted to miss school

#### Teaching Academy

Students from Creekside Teaching Academy will begin internships at Freedom Crossing Academy visiting two times per month beginning January 24<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to collaborating with Creekside High School and growing future educators.

#### Basketball

Boys and Girls Basketball games begin next week. Ticket sales will begin next week through *School Pay*. The first home game is January 20<sup>th</sup> FCA v. POA.

#### FCA Kids Cheer Camp

Cheer Camp will be held next week 1/18-1/19 for grades K-5. Thank you to our teacher sponsors Neeti Gregg and Jamie Odom.

#### Aviation Design Challenge

The 7-week club sponsored by Ms. Lawson included 6<sup>th</sup> graders participated in an Aviation Design Challenge using Minecraft and modules prepared by the FAA. Thank you to Ms. Lawson for inspiring young minds and congratulations to all our students who participated.

#### January Character Counts

In January, we focus the on the **Pillar of Respect**- Treat others with respect; follow the Golden Rule • Be tolerant and accepting of differences • Use good manners, not bad language • Be considerate of the feelings of others • Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone • Deal peacefully with anger, insults, and disagreements. See our district website for more information on the Pillars of Character at <https://ccstjohns.com/>

#### Character Counts Walk-Run

Families can register now for the 2022 CC! 6K/3K Run/ Walk on Saturday, February 5, 9am at Palencia Elementary School!



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## January 2022



Registration forms and more information are available online at

<https://runsignup.com/Race/FL/StAugustine/CHARACTERCOUNTSinStJohnsCountySixPillars6K3KRunWalk>

### COVID Update

Students are bound by the Florida Department of Health Rule 64DER21-15 that only allow for one of three options for a student to return to school after they test positive:

1. The student receives a negative diagnostic COVID-19 test and is asymptomatic; or
2. Ten (10) days have passed since the onset of symptoms or positive test result, the student has had no fever for 24 hours and the student's other symptoms are improving; or
3. The student receives written permission to return to school from a medical doctor, osteopathic physician, or advanced registered nurse practitioner.

If the Florida Department of Health changes their rule, we will communicate with you the appropriate changes. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Please see our district website for more information at <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/covid-19/>

### Safety Update

Safety is paramount at Freedom Crossing Academy. This past week our team has met with the district safety supervisor to review procedures and campus security. Additionally, we have implemented additional safety protocols that has been reviewed with all elementary faculty and staff. Safety is and will be our first priority.

### Safety Drills

This week we conducted "situational" fire drills and "situational" lock down drills. These are discussion-based conversations in the classrooms with teachers and students.

### 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.

This information is being presented by Deputy Fornash at our Middle School Expectations Meetings.

### Arrival

Just a gentle reminder when dropping off students in the morning in the car line, please pull all the way up to keep the lines moving.

### Transportation Changes

Please email transportation changes to [FCATransportationChanges@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:FCATransportationChanges@stjohns.k12.fl.us) 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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## January 2022



### **On the Horizon**

January 5<sup>th</sup>- Teacher Planning Day

January 6<sup>th</sup> - School resumes for students- Second Semester begins

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

***Take Flight and Break Barriers!***

*Respectfully,*

*Gina R. Fonseca*

*Principal*

*Freedom Crossing Academy*