



Dear Falcon Families,

Happy September! FCA is off to a busy start. Hopefully everyone is settling in and getting back into a routine. At times, I will repeat some important items in our newsletter, as we all get busy and may miss important information. We have already held several of our required drills including two fire drills and 1 lockdown drill. The students did a great job listening and following instructions.

This FCA edition has information regarding FCA Media Center resources, curriculum update, progress monitoring and our PTO school wide fundraiser, **Boosterthon**.



Freedom Crossing Academy was highlighted in the **Creek Line!**



FCA Important New

Media Center News

Check out our [Media Center](#) page on our website to review our media and classroom libraries, in addition to instructional curriculum materials used in our classrooms.

<https://www-fca.stjohns.k12.fl.us/media/>

A screenshot of the FCA Media Center website. The header features the text "FCA Media Center" on the left, the Falcons logo in the center, and the slogan "TAKE FLIGHT WITH A GREAT BOOK" on the right. Below the header, there are two main sections: "Library Media" and "Instructional Materials". Under "Library Media", there is a button "Search Our Library Catalog" and a list of links: "How to Search Our School's Library Media Materials", "Books With Objections in St. Johns County", and "Classroom Library Listings". Under "Instructional Materials", there is a button "View Our School's Instructional Materials" and a link "Request to Review Instructional Resources".

FCA Media Center

TAKE FLIGHT WITH A GREAT BOOK

Library Media

Search Our Library Catalog

- How to Search Our School's Library Media Materials
- Books With Objections in St. Johns County
- Classroom Library Listings

Instructional Materials

View Our School's Instructional Materials

- Request to Review Instructional Resources



Curriculum Update:

Interims

Interims are a snapshot of the progress your student is making midway through the nine weeks. Interims should be available to view HAC September 12th for 1st through 8th grade. Parents are always welcome to reach out to your child's teacher to schedule a parent conference if more detailed information is needed regarding your child's progress.

Curriculum Overview

Kindergarten through 5th grade PLCs, Professional Learning Communities, send weekly newsletters to keep parents informed about lessons, class activities and events. This school year, grade levels will be sending out a PowerPoint or video during the week of the September 26th, highlighting the curriculum used for your child's grade level; Middle School will share this information via Schoology.

Algebra I

If you have a student currently enrolled in Algebra I, Ms. Stanfield will be hosting an informational Q & A session this Tuesday, 9/12/23 at 6:00PM in the FCA Cafeteria. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss course content, grading policy and understanding taking a high school credit course.

Progress Monitoring:

The Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) is a progress monitoring system that is administered three times per year to track your student's progress in learning the Benchmarks of Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards throughout this school year. Progress Monitoring will happen 3 times per year. Parents should have received a detailed notice form your child's home room teacher. Please reach out to our Testing Coordinator if you have any questions at Melissa.dillard@stjohns.k12.fl.us

- Grades K-1 will take the Renaissance Star Early Literacy Assessment
- Grade 2 will take the Renaissance Star Reading Assessment
- Grades 3 -8 will take the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST)

September 2023

FCA Parent Newsletter



Progress Monitoring Parent Reports

Throughout the school year, once all grade level students complete Progress Monitoring (**PM**) for both ELA and Math, elementary PLCs will send home a “Parent Report” on your child’s **PM** progress. This will always be different for grade levels, as students test in the same window, but not at the same time.

Third Grade Parents

Parents of 3rd grade students, please stay posted for a FAST Progress Monitoring presentation to understand the requirements for 3rd grade benchmarks and promotion.

PTO Boosterthon

Boosterthon registration is open! This year, the FCA PTO is raising money for additional, in class technology, now that state testing is digitized for all grade levels. In addition, we hope to continue small improvements to our facility. The PTO has set a goal of \$100,000 this year and hope to make it happen! Every student that registers receive a prize! The more a student raises the higher up the prize tiers they go!

Middle School Students that earn a flat donation of \$25 this week will be entered into a drawing for a gift card! There are new prizes for middle schoolers this year! We greatly appreciate your support.

 Click here to log into www.MYBOOSTER.COM to learn more about this prize and to share your donation page!

Thank you for supporting our school! We can’t wait for the Falcon Fun Run and Color Run happening on 09/15/2023!

School Culture and Expectations:

Freedom Crossing Academy is dedicated towards increasing positive student behavioral outcomes and fostering positive relationships. Parents please talk to your student about our **FCA School Culture**. Inquire about **Good News** shared and the **Class Social Contract**. I also implore parents to talk about appropriate behavior including how students treat and talk to each other, especially when in non-structured environments like lunch and recess.



It is expected that students understand that any conduct or behavior that demeans, degrades, antagonizes, humiliates or embarrasses a person or group of persons, including racial slurs or derogatory comments is unacceptable and our outlined in our student code of conduct as a Level II and Level III offense. FCA does not take this lightly and will follow the [SJCS Student Code of Conduct 23-24](#)

Cell Phone/Technology Policy

Students may possess cellular telephones and other wireless communication devices at school, on and at school functions. However, they must be turned off, **stored in student's backpack, purse, locker.** The device shall not be used during the school day without administrative approval or on school buses. to and from school. Students may not use a wireless communication device during instructional time except when expressly directed by a teacher solely for educational purposes. Failure to comply may result in the device being confiscated. Repeated failure to comply will be considered defiance of school. Please see the student code of conduct for more detailed information. For medical conditions, you can reach out to Nurse Lauri Frost at lauri.frost@stjohns.k12.fl.us

[SJCS Student Code of Conduct 23-24](#)

Safety -Arrival and Dismissal

School start time is 8:00AM.

We appreciate your help in getting your students to school on time. Please be mindful that students that arrive after 8:00AM are tardy and missing valuable class time. Additionally, we are so thankful to have our amazing **Patrols** on duty each morning and afternoon. Please know that patrols and staff members will begin unloading students at **7:40AM.**

A few things that can help us move the car lines and keep everyone safe.

In the morning:

- For safety, always exist on the right passenger side of the vehicle.
- Remind students to walk on the right side of the sidewalk.
- Students backpacks and items should be ready to grab upon exit.
- Staff and patrols will assist with younger students exiting the vehicles.
- Please pull all the way up and follow the directions of staff directing cars.
- Please be mindful of cell phone use during this time.
- No cars should pull into the bus loop for any reason. Drop Off and Pickup should be in the Parent/Pickup and Drop Off location in the front of the school.



In afternoon: **PLEASE NOTE THE SAFETY CONCERN BELOW**

- School Crossing Guards will be posted at Longleaf and Shetland Dr. from **7:25AM to 8:00AM** and in the afternoon **2:23PM to 2:53PM**. It has been brought to our attention that students are crossing to the school before the PSAs/Crossing Guards take their posts and not making use of the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon.
- Kindergarten and 1st grade Biker/Walkers must be picked up by a parents, guardian or sibling and should have a red lanyard to show staff members.
- Biker and Walkers should **ONLY** cross where there is a Crossing Guard. Please talk to your older children about this safety concern.
- Bikers should always wear a helmet for safety.
- When in the Parent Pickup line, please pull all the way up even if the cone number called does not match up. This is improving the efficiency of our lines.

Safety – Required Drills

Below is a list of required drills to be held throughout the school year for the safety of our students, we do not advertise the dates and times of the drills. Teachers are notified to help prepare students. I generally walk students through the 1st set of drills. If you happen to get caught in a drill when arriving or picking up, we will be sure to include you in the safety protocols and ask for your patience during this time.

Required Drills:

- 1 fire drill with in the 1st 10 days of school**
- 1 fire drill per month w/ 2 occurring within the first 30 days of school**
- 1 active assailant drill per month**
- 1 bomb/evacuation drill per semester**
- 1 tornado/weather drill per semester**
- 2 bus evacuation drills**

Fortify Florida:

FortifyFL is a website and app developed at the direction of the Florida Legislature. Any student, educator, parent or member of the public can report school safety concerns directly to law enforcement and school administrators anonymously and easily through the FortifyFL app or getfortifyfl.com.

Transportation Changes

Please email transportation changes to FCATransportationChanges@stjohns.k12.fl.us



Capturing Kids Heart's Launch



This weekend I went to see my grandkids skate at Skate Station. To my surprise, there was a birthday party for one of our FCA students! How much fun it was to see our students celebrating each other and enjoy the day! I think they were equally surprised to see their principal as a grandmother (Nani Gina). It just made me reflect on how much I appreciate our school community! Happy 8th Birthday to Mallory Clark, pictured with FCA friend, Emma Speed 😊



Vision

- F- Focus
- L- Leadership
- I-Imagination
- G-Grit
- H-Heart
- T-Team

Mission

- Break Barriers



*Gina R. Fonseca, Principal
Take Flight and Break Barriers*