

Freedom Crossing Academy



January Parent Newsletter 2024

Character Counts & Capturing Kids Heart Focus: Respect



Happy New Year Falcon Families!

I hope you and your family had a wonderful winter break! We have had a great start to the new year. Our teachers began a few days ahead of the students to plan and participate in professional learning. The impact of committed educators can be profound in shaping the future of the children they teach. I see this impact every day at FCA and am so proud to serve with such a dedicated team of educators.

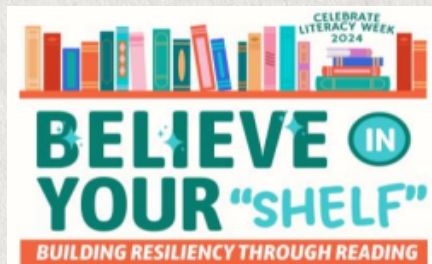
January/February Dates

- 1/8 Classes resume
- 1/6 Progress Monitoring (PM2) starts
- 1/15 Martin Luther King Day - Student/Teacher Holiday
- 1/17 Report Cards live in HAC
- 1/22 Class Pictures (K-5)
- 1/22-1/26 Celebrate Literacy Week
- 1/23 100th Day of School
- 2/2 6th grade to Kennedy Space Center
- 2/5 General PTO Meeting
- 2/12-2/15 Spring Book Fair
- 2/19 Presidents Day - Student/Teacher Holiday

Progress Monitoring PM(2)

Please see our testing calendar for specific grade levels PM2 testing dates. Link below:

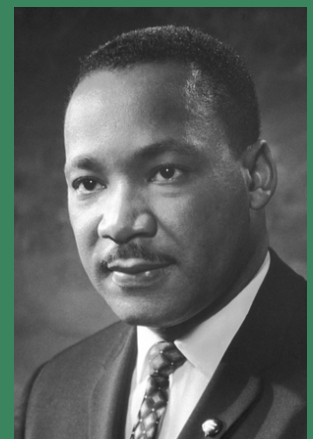
[January-Schedule-PM2-website](#)



January 22-26 is "Celebrate Literacy Week" in Florida. The theme this year is "Believe in your SHELF" See the weeks events happening in our classrooms on the next page.

Martin Luther King Jr. (born Michael King Jr.; January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968) was an American Baptist minister, activist, and political philosopher who was one of the most prominent leaders in the civil rights movement from 1955 until his assassination in 1968. A Black church leader and a son of early civil rights activist and minister Martin Luther King Sr., King advanced civil rights for people of color in the United States through the use of nonviolent resistance and nonviolent civil disobedience against Jim Crow laws and other forms of discrimination in the United States.

-From Wikipedia





CELEBRATE LITERACY WEEK, FLORIDA!

BELIEVE IN YOUR "SHELF"

BUILDING RESILIENCY THROUGH READING

JANUARY 22-26, 2024

DISTRICT: ST. JOHNS

MONDAY,
JANUARY 22ND

Today's Theme: "Selfies with Shelfies"

Mentor text Ideas: [The Day You Begin](#) by Jaqueline Woodson, [A Bad Case of Stripes](#) by David Shannon, [After the Fall](#) by Dan Santat

Dress up day: None. Smile For Spring Pictures 📷

Engagement Ideas: Take a selfie of each student with their favorite book or your class in front of your classroom library. *Be sure to send a copy of the picture to Mrs. Schroeder for display!* 😊

TUESDAY,
JANUARY 23RD

Today's Theme: "Hot Dog...Let' Read!"

Mentor Text Ideas: [Spaghetti in a Hot Dog Bun](#), [Rosie Revere Engineer](#) (also available on [Vooks](#))

Dress up day: Crazy Hair Day

Engagement Ideas: STEM Day, [spaghetti tower challenge](#), [Rosie Revere Flying Machine Challenge](#)

Author visit - Jonathan Miller ([Sammy the Wonder Dachshund](#))

WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 24TH

Today's Theme: "Bounce Back"

Mentor Text Ideas: [Stephen Curry The Boy Who Never Gave Up](#), [Tabari Jumps](#), [She's Got This](#)

Dress up day: Favorite Sports Team

Engagement Ideas: [Play Pass the Ball](#), [Tabari Jumps reflection](#)

THURSDAY,
JANUARY 25TH

Today's Theme: "Be Brave Like a Superhero"

Mentor Text Ideas: [Even Superheroes Have Bad Days](#), [Ladybug Girl](#), [10 Rules of Being a Superhero](#)

Dress up day: Superhero Day

Engagement Ideas: [Draw Superman](#), [set superhero reading goals](#)

"Heros for our Heroes" - Today a delicious lunch from Jersey Mikes will be provided for our everyday heroes. Enjoy! 😊

FRIDAY,
JANUARY 26TH

Today's Theme: "Wear Your Words to Inspire Others"

Mentor Text Ideas: [Say Something](#), [What the Road Said](#)

Dress up day: Wear Your Words

Engagement Ideas: Find fun & exciting ways to read (flashlight reading, read outside, buddy reading with a partner class, mystery readers, etc.) [make friendship bracelets to trade](#), [color a new bookmark](#)

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Families of current SJCS D 5th graders,

All rising 6th grade students are eligible to apply for admission to the award-winning “**St. Johns County Center for the Arts (SJCCA) at R.J. Murray Middle School**”. For over 20 years, SJCCA has been a county and state leader in arts instruction. SJCCA students consistently receive the highest ratings and awards at regional and state competitions. Students who attend SJCCA programs have the opportunity to learn from professional arts instructors and perform at prestigious locations including Broadway, Carnegie Hall, Lewis Auditorium, and the St. Augustine Amphitheatre. Many students in SJCCA also participate in the “Cambridge Advanced Academic” classes offered at RJMMS and continue to future arts and academic success at prestigious post-secondary institutions. To learn more about SJCCA, there will be 2 informational sessions available for all rising 6th grade students.

1/16 link: <https://tinyurl.com/SJCCA-Information-Night>



SJCCA JANUARY INFORMATION NIGHTS

Date	Location	Time
January 16 th	Virtual Meeting: https://tinyurl.com/SJCCA-Information-Night	6:00pm
January 17 th	Arts Info Night at R.J. Murray Middle School	6:00pm

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Programs of Choice Attention Rising 9th graders

Eligible students may apply to a Program of Interest (High School Academy) during the application window which opens January 4, 2024, and closes January 31, 2024, at 5pm. Applications are now open to apply for Programs of Interest for the 2024-2025 school year. Applications will be accepted through January 31 at 5:00 PM.

Programs of Interest include High School Career Academies, JROTC, AICE/IB programs, Early College Program, Early Career Program, the St. Johns County Center for the Arts at St. Augustine High School, and the St. Johns County Center for the Arts at Murray Middle School. See the following link for more information: [Program of Choice - High School Academies](#)

Creekside High School will host their Academy Night, where parents and students can visit academy classrooms and talk with teachers and current students, on **Thursday, January 18, starting at 6:00 pm in the CHS Auditorium**. All rising 9th grade and rising 10th grade students and parents are invited to attend. For questions contact Lynda Kelly, Career Academy Program Specialist Email: lynda.kelly@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Creekside has the following programs:

- 1.Cybersecurity
- 2.Digital Media
- 3.Engineering
- 4.Environmental Sciences
- 5.Financial Technology
- 6.Future Teachers
- 7.TV Production

Step 1: Log into STUDENT'S HAC account

Step 2: Click on "Classes"

Step 3: Click on "Requests" tab

Step 4: Select "Edit" for Academy/Program of Interest Application

Step 5: Select/check 1, 2, or 3 choices (only one 1st choice, one 2nd choice, and one 3rd choice and only one selection for an individual academy) –

NOTE: be sure that your #1 choice is your first option.

Step 6: Click "Save"



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School Culture and Expectations - Please read

Expectations meetings for second semester have been held with **6th grade** and **7th grade** students. The **8th grade** expectation meeting will be held on Wednesday, of this week and we will also be visiting our elementary students to review the FCA Way. I have **attached** the Powerpoint shared with our middle school students.

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 and the recent Expectations Meetings. 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 these behaviors lightly and will follow the SJCS Student Code of Conduct 23-24.

Taking care of our school community- HOW CAN PARENTS HELP?

We are very proud of our PBIS Gold status, and our teachers do an exemplary job implementing PBIS practices in the classroom. We are working on teaching our students to self-regulate behaviors in non-structured environments like lunch, recess and on the bus, but we need your help.

We encourage parents to talk to their children about the words they use with peers and keeping their hands to themselves. With these behaviors we do give age- appropriate consequences, per the St. Johns County School District Student Code of Conduct. Thank you for your support of this request.

Cell Phone/Technology Policy

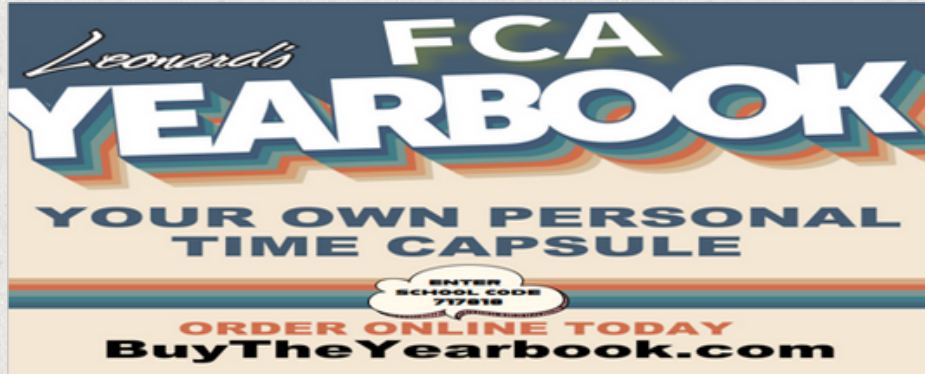
Students may possess cellular telephones and other wireless communication devices at school, on and at school functions. However, they must be turned off, stored in student's backpack, purse, locker. The device shall not be used during the school day without administrative approval or on school buses 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

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Arrival and Dismissal

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:

- 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.

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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. 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



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Happy New Year!

Gina R. Fonseca, Principal

Take Flight and Break Barrier

*Wishing you a year
where every
challenge is an
opportunity, every
setback is a set-up
for a comeback, and
every moment is a
chance to create
lasting memories.*



**Freedom
Crossing
Academy**

Vision

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



Mission

- **Break Barriers**