

# Freedom Crossing Academy



## February Parent Newsletter 2024

Character Counts & Capturing Kids Heart Focus: CARING

This is an extra edition with surveys, action items & scences from FCA!



### **Happy February!** **Kindness and Caring Month**

To celebrate February's CKH Kindness Month, FCA created the "28 Days of Kindness" challenge to empower our students to be kind every day. We are challenging our teachers to engage in fun activities aligned with the CKH EXCEL model to inspire our students to be kind and caring.

- Explore: Share Good Things!
  - Start each day with Good Things as a class. Celebrate students who are participating in the daily challenges.
- Engage: Affirmation Bags
  - Students can make and decorate their own "Affirmation Brown Bag". Once a week, students can write affirmations to their classmates and place them in their bag. On the last day of the month, ask everyone to read their affirmations and feel the love!
- Empower: Social Contract
  - Empower your students to recognize peers who are being kind and caring towards others.
- The FCA Way: Model Kindness
  - Be mindful of body language, tone, and mindset. Kindness is learned by example

The CKH parent newsletter also has fun family-friendly activities to promote kindness at home.

[See attached](#)

Also, see the 28 Days of Kindness calendar on the next page!

### February/March Dates What's Up?

2/9 PTO Daddy - Daughter Dance

2/12 - 2/15 Spring Book Fair

2/12 Mandatory Washington DC Parent/Student Night

2/13 Beginning Band/Jazz Ensemble in Cafeteria

2/19 Presidents Day - Student/Teacher Holiday

2/20 Home Basketball Game vs. PVA

2/22 Home Basketball Game vs MCA  
Student directed Night of One Acts

2/25 - 3/18 Grade Trip to Washington DC

3/4 BTHS Registration for rising 9th graders

3/6 Field Day K-2; Character Cup

3/7 CHS Registration for rising 9th graders








3/8 Middle School Battle of The Books



## 28 Days of Kindness Challenge



# February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Do an extra chore at home without being asked.	2 Write your school counselors a thank you note.	3 Pick up litter.	4 Chalk your sidewalk with positive messages.
5 Compliment a friend.	6 Fight hunger with games at <a href="http://www.FreeRice.com">www.FreeRice.com</a>	7 Write a thank you note to your mail carrier and other delivery drivers.	8 Bake a treat and deliver it to your neighbors.	9 Talk to someone new.	10 Smile at everyone you see.	11 Do not complain all day.
12 Cook or help cook dinner tonight.	13 Read a book to someone.	14 Write your teacher a thank you note.	15 Tell a joke.	16 Teach someone something new.	17 Write your parents or family members a thank you letter.	18 Decorate kindness rocks. Leave them at a nearby park.
19 Play a game with someone. Let them choose the game.	20 Do something kind for a neighbor or family member and do not tell them that you did it.	21 Call your grandparents or other relatives just to say "I love you."	22 Hold the door for someone.	23 Write kind messages or quotes and leave them for people to find at home or school.	24 Say "thank you" often	25 Tell three people something you like about them.
26 Let someone else choose what to watch on TV or what game to play after school.	27 Be nice to animals today. Play fetch with your dog or feed the birds.	28 Be kind to yourself! Tell yourself three things that you like about YOU!				

## Parent SAC Survey

Falcon families, **PLEASE** take a moment to fill out the FCA School Advisor Committee (SAC) Survey. SAC is comprised of teachers, administrators, community members and parents. We value your opinions and strive for continued growth and improvement with your input, transparency and collaboration. [Click here for the Parent SAC Survey.](#)

# Be Smart with Your Kid's Smartphone

The Federal Bureau of Investigation Jacksonville Division (FBI), St. Johns County Sheriff's Office (SJSO), and St. Johns County School District (SJCSD) will again partner to host the "Be Smart with your Kid's Smartphone" program on Thursday, February 15 at Creekside High School. Since 2018, over 2,500 parents and educators across North Florida have attended "Be Smart" events to learn how to help protect their kids from online predators.

"Be Smart with Your Kid's Smartphone" is free and open to the public, including parents and educators from neighboring school districts. Registration is not required. Content may not be appropriate for youth, and parental discretion is advised.

**Date/Time: Thursday, February 15, 2024**

**6:00 PM – 7:30 PM**

**Location: Creekside High School Auditorium**



**BE SMART WITH YOUR KID'S  
SMARTPHONE**

Presented by FBI Jacksonville and the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office

FBI agents and SJSO deputies who investigate crimes against children will reveal the latest technology and social media apps that offenders are using to target and manipulate youth. Learn from local investigations and discover ways to protect your loved ones and students.

**FREE for parents, caregivers, and educators from all schools.  
No registration required.**

**Thursday, February 15, 2024**  
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

**Creekside High School Auditorium**  
100 Knights Lane, St. Johns, FL 32259

\*This presentation includes mature content and may not be appropriate for children. Parental discretion advised.





## FCA Testing Proctors 2024

WE NEED YOU! It's that time of year we need proctors for testing season! THINGS TO KNOW A proctor is a person who helps monitor students...

 [signupgenius.com](https://signupgenius.com)

[Click here to sign up.](#)

## Progress Monitoring

The Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST), which includes VPK through grade 10 Reading and VPK through grade 8 Mathematics assessments, will be administered as a progress monitoring assessment, which students will participate in three times per year. B.E.S.T. assessments that are not part of the FAST Progress Monitoring (PM) program include grades 4–10 Writing and end-of-course (EOC) assessments in Algebra 1 and Geometry.

FCA students have completed PM1 and PM2, taking either Early Literacy, STAR or FAST. Our teachers and administration work collaboratively to ensure we review student data to help drive instruction. Parents may view students' scores on HAC (Home Access Center). PM2 has not been loaded yet. We will keep you posted once these scores are available.

PM3 testing and EOCs will be held in April and May. These dates can be [viewed on our website under the testing tab.](#)



## YEARBOOK PICTURES

The FCA Yearbook needs your help! Please submit pictures from all sports teams. We are looking for the following:

- FCA Volleyball and FCA Basketball
- SJMSAA Sports including Football, Cheer, Dance, Baseball, Soccer, Tennis, Softball and Baseball

Please submit your pictures on the Leonard's website. Use school code #717818 to find our school, and then click the "Share Pictures" block. It will prompt you to sign in or create a free account.

Thank you so much for your help!





# FCA Celebrating Literacy & 100 days of School



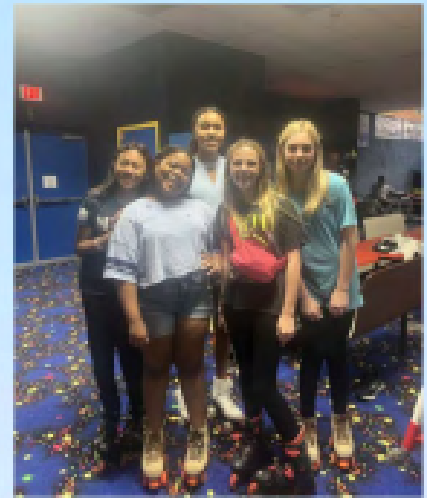
The **ADVENTURES**  
of **SAMMY**  
*the Wonder Dachshund*

# AUTHOR VISIT



Sponsored by the FCA PTO

# MS SKATE NIGHT





# We rocked Spirit week



# Last week at FCA





6<sup>th</sup> grade at Kennedy Space Center



FCA FAMILY



WE ARE



WORLD CHANGERS



# PTO Sponsored Daddy Daughter Dance





## **School Culture and Expectations**

Freedom Crossing Academy is dedicated to 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 D 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, and stored in the student's backpack, purse, or 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 D Student Code of Conduct 23-24

## Arrival and Dismissal

We appreciate your help in getting your students to school on time. Please be mindful that students who arrive after 8:00 AM 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 7:40 AM.

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 the 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 the Afternoon

- School Crossing Guards will be posted at Longleaf and Shetland Dr. from 7:25 AM to 8:00 AM and in the afternoon from 2:23 PM to 2:53 PM. It has been brought to our attention that students are crossing to the school before the PSAs/Crossing Guards take their posts and are not making use of the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon.
- Kindergarten and 1st-grade Bikers/Walkers must be picked up by a parent, guardian or sibling and should have a red lanyard to show staff members.
- Bikers 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. 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 within 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](http://getfortifyfl.com).

## Transportation Changes

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





# Freedom Crossing Academy



Thank you for taking the time to read this edition and collaborate with us!

Gina R. Fonseca, Principal  
Take Flight and Break Barrier

**Freedom  
Crossing  
Academy**

## *Vision*

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

## *Mission*

- Break Barriers

