



SEPTEMBER 1, 2021

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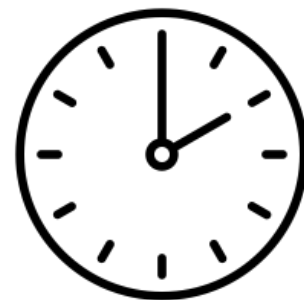


September Dates to Remember:

Sept. 2 - Band Booster Meeting, 6:00pm
 Sept. 3 - Teacher Workday
 Sept. 6 - Holiday, Labor Day
 Sept. 7 - Lockdown Drill
 Sept. 7 - Board Meeting, 6:30pm
 Sept. 13 - PTA Board Meeting, 6:00pm
 Sept. 13 - PTA General Meeting, 7:00pm
 Sept. 13-24 - Annual Food Drive
 Sept. 14 - Elementary RTA and Title I Night (grades K-5), 6:00pm
 Sept. 15 - Fall Pictures (grades K-11)
 Sept. 16 - Curriculum Night, grades 6-8
 Sept. 20 - Athletic Booster Club Meeting, 6:00pm
 Sept. 21 - Board Meeting (if called), 6:30pm
 Sept. 24 - Theatre Improv Coffee House, 7:00pm
 Sept. 28 - NHS Inductions, 7:00pm
 Sept. 28 - PAC Meeting, 6:00pm
 Sept. 29 - Oct. 7 - Book Fair

Late Afternoon Checkouts and Messages

Parents, we need your help: please don't call the school after 2:00pm and leave instructions for us to deliver a message to your child about where they should go after school (Regular carpool, go to FAST after-school, ride home with someone the child doesn't usually ride with, etc.). We realize that folks sometimes have emergencies or unexpected changes in plans, but keep in mind that the last hour of the day prior to student dismissal (Elem 1:45-2:45pm; Middle 2:15-3:15pm, High 2:40-3:40pm) is the most hectic time of day in the FLA offices.



Whenever possible, please call us before lunch, or right after lunch if necessary, but not the last hour of the school day. We simply cannot handle the volume of message and walk-in traffic that typically hits us during that last hour.

On a related note, when checking your student out early please check them out at least 30 minutes before dismissal (Elem 2:15pm, Middle 2:45pm, High 3:10pm). Checking students out five or fifteen minutes early in order to avoid waiting in the carpool line is not an option.

Fall Picture Day (Grades K - 11th)



Wednesday, September 15th,



Tuesday, September 7th @ 6:30pm

Tuesday, September 21st (if called) @ 6:30pm

Falls Lake Academy COVID Education Plan 2021-2022

Updated 8/30/21

Falls Lake Academy is operating at full capacity with face to face instruction for the 2021-2022 school year. We are committed to maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment with the goal of keeping students in school to meet the educational, social, and emotional needs of our students. We have put COVID protocol in place to mitigate the spread of infection. It is critical that families partner with us and follow all COVID protocol to ensure our school can operate safely.

Information about COVID-19:

Symptoms to be aware of that may suggest referral for Covid-19 testing or evaluation:

- Fever (100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher)
- Sore Throat
- Chills
- Cough
- Congestion or runny nose
- Difficulty Breathing or shortness of breath
- Headache
- Muscle or body aches
- New loss of taste/smell
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Fatigue

Those diagnosed with Covid-19 either by presentation of symptoms or positive test must quarantine for 10 days whether vaccinated or not vaccinated.

Exposure: The definition of an exposure for quarantine purposes is being within 6 feet of someone diagnosed with Covid-19 for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more, over a 24-hour period.

Exceptions to this rule:

- *Individuals who are fully vaccinated and do not have symptoms do NOT need to quarantine after a close contact. Individuals should get tested 3-5 days after exposure and wear a mask around others until receiving a negative test result.

- * People who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and recovered and do not have symptoms do NOT have to quarantine.

- * Students who are not fully vaccinated after a close contact in a classroom (or other school setting) - if masks were being worn appropriately and consistently by both the person with and the potentially exposed person - do NOT need to quarantine.

This is based on updated CDC guidance and studies that have shown extremely low risk of COVID-19 transmission in classroom settings when face masks were being used appropriately by both the person with COVID-19 and the potentially exposed person, as well as multiple layers of prevention measures in place to prevent transmission in school settings. This applies to exposures in classrooms, other in school settings, and school transportation but does not apply to exposures during extracurricular or athletic activities. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

If a student is determined to be exposed then the parent will initially be contacted by phone by the school nurse. If the nurse cannot reach parents by phone they will send an email directing them to call as soon as possible so that we can determine a safe return date.

Quarantine: This is the time spent away from other people by an individual who has been in close contact with someone who is positive with Covid-19. Quarantine guidance for Falls Lake Academy comes from our local health department.

They must complete 14 days of quarantine beginning the day after their last day of contact with the positive individual.

Isolation: When someone tests positive for Covid-19 or is presumed positive based on symptoms, they must isolate themselves from others for a minimum of 10 days.

When diagnosed with Covid-19 via test or symptoms, one must isolate for 10 days regardless of vaccination status.

Testing: If you have a member of your family that has any Covid-19 like symptoms no household member should be at school until it is ruled out. It is very important during these times to keep your student at home when they are sick or not feeling well.

We do not accept any type of at home Covid-19 testing results; the gold standard is a PCR test and this is the most accurate.

Clusters: The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) defines clusters of COVID-19 in non congregate living settings as:

A minimum of 5 cases with illness onsets or initial positive results within a 14-day period AND
Plausible epidemiologic linkage between cases* *

**Cases should be present in the same general setting during the same time period (e.g., same shift, same classroom, same physical area) and there should not be a more likely source of exposure for identified cases (e.g., household or close contact to a confirmed case in another setting).

Guidance is determined by using the Strong Schools NC: Public Health Toolkit (K-12) and the final decision for guidance is directed by our local health department and Board of Directors.

StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit (K-12): <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/media/164/open>

COVID Protocol for Falls Lake Academy:

Face Coverings: All children and staff K-12 are required to wear face coverings while indoors. Students will be given masks breaks in one minute increments throughout the day while stationary and when socially distanced. Outdoors distance should be maintained as much as possible and face coverings are not required. Students and staff in need of a face mask will be provided one.

Vaccination Status: Falls Lake Academy encourages individuals that are eligible to be vaccinated to do so to protect themselves and others. Local vaccination events will be shared as appropriate.

Frequent Hand Washing /Sanitizing: Frequent hand washing will be scheduled in the elementary students' school day. Middle and high school teachers will encourage frequent hand washing / sanitizing to prevent the spread of germs. Hand sanitizer is available in all classrooms and at the main entrance of each building.

Lunch: Students will have their full lunch period to eat their lunch. However, students that need more than 15 minutes to finish eating will be asked to socially distance (6 feet) from other students. Our goal is to protect students from exposure. The duration of the lunch period will not change. Classes should eat outdoors as often as possible.

Morning routines: Elementary students will report directly to their classrooms upon arrival. Elementary students will not be held in the gym until 7:45. Middle school students will be held in the gym and will be socially distanced from 7:15 until 7:35am. High school students will be held in the high school gym socially distanced from 7:45- 8:00am.

Dismissal: Students will be asked to socially distance or wear masks even when outside.

Visitors: No visitors will be permitted indoors during instructional hours during the month of September. Volunteers will be permitted on campus after the instructional day. If you need to check out a student, please call 919-964-9003 and someone will assist you.

Athletics: All sporting events will follow the NCHSAA guidelines. These guidelines can be found at www.nchsaa.org/news/2021-8-3/2021-2022-nchsaa-sports-guidelines-best-practices.

Cleaning/Air Quality: Our classrooms will continue to be sanitized daily using a disinfecting machine along with a wide area ULV atomizing machine for floor to ceiling sanitizing. Hard surfaces are sanitized between groups of students. Air purifiers are placed in all classroom spaces. Larger air purifiers will be placed in gathering spaces. Our school also installed specially designed units (Needlepoint Bipolar Ionization Units) on our air handlers that minimizes the spread of germs and maximizes fresh air flow.

Shared Materials: Students will be asked to wash or sanitize their hands before and after using shared materials in the classroom.

Remote instruction option: At this time, Falls Lake Academy is not offering a remote option. The Academics and Governance Committee of the Board of Directors will be meeting to discuss the current legislation that outlines options Charter Schools have at this time.

Instruction during Quarantine: All instruction will be asynchronous (no face to face time); there will be NO Direct Instruction. All assignments will be found on Google classroom, Jupiter, or Seesaw. Teachers will be available to students on quarantine one day per week via zoom. During the zoom session students will have a chance to ask questions or get assistance as needed. The quarantine zoom schedule will be available on our website. (Different instructional protocols will be enacted during Cluster Quarantines)

Frequently Asked Questions:

What should I do if my child has been exposed to someone with COVID outside the school setting? *Notify your child's teacher AND email Tracey Ruffin, our school nurse. Her email address is traceyruffin@fallslakeacademy.com. Keep your student at home and await instructions from Ms. Ruffin.*

My child is showing symptoms of COVID but his/her siblings are not. Can I still send the others to school? *NO, please keep all students in the same household home even if only one is symptomatic. Once a negative test result is acquired, then all siblings may return to school if symptoms have subsided.*

How will I know if a child in my child's class has been diagnosed with COVID? *All positive cases of COVID are communicated to families through email daily. If a student in your child's classroom has been diagnosed with COVID and your child is considered to be exposed, you will be notified individually with directions for next steps. If your child is not considered exposed, you will not know which classes the cases are located to ensure confidentiality. School level reports are now included in our COVID emails.*

How do I know how many positive cases of COVID are at Falls Lake Academy? *Falls Lake Academy has a COVID dashboard that is updated daily on our website. This information can be found at www.fallslakeacademy.com.*

What happens if a child does not wear a mask appropriately? *The staff at Falls Lake Academy will follow the steps below:*

1. *Remind the student to pull up the mask and explain the importance of mask-wearing.*
2. *If a student is still having difficulty wearing the mask appropriately, the student will be sent to the office to obtain a different type of mask to wear.*
3. *If a student still is unable to keep the mask up, the school administrator will make a joint phone call with the student and parent to ensure a safe plan to keep the student and others safe with appropriate mask-wearing technique.*
4. *Continued issues with mask wearing will be considered a disciplinary issue and will be handled as such.*

What happens if a staff member refuses to wear a mask? *Staff members do not have an option. Any staff member that refuses to wear a mask will be subject to disciplinary action and will not be permitted on campus.*

Are quarantine days considered excused absences? *Yes, quarantine days are considered excused absences. Make sure to follow the daily protocol from your child's teachers while out for quarantine.*

How many students have to get sick before the school will close down? *Falls Lake Academy works closely with Granville Vance Public Health. Any and all decisions to quarantine large groups of students would be advised by the health department.*

National Suicide Prevention Week

National Suicide Prevention Week is Monday, September 6th through Sunday, September 11th. As always, the Counseling Department is available to support our Falls Lake families throughout the year. For more information visit [#BeThe1To](#), a resource created by the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

How Can You Help Someone?

Ask

Research shows people who are having thoughts of suicide feel relief when someone asks after them in a caring way. Findings suggest acknowledging and talking about suicide may reduce rather than increase suicidal ideation.

Be There

Individuals are more likely to feel less depressed, less suicidal, less overwhelmed, and more hopeful by after speaking to someone who listens without judgment.

Keep Them Safe

A number of studies have indicated that when lethal means are made less available or less deadly, suicide rates by that method decline, and frequently suicide rates overall decline.

Help Them Stay Connected

Studies indicate that helping someone at risk create a network of resources and individuals for support and safety can help them take positive action and reduce feelings of hopelessness.

Follow Up

Studies have also shown that brief, low cost intervention and supportive, ongoing contact may be an important part of suicide prevention, especially for individuals after they have been discharged from hospitals or care services.



Intake/Open House Forms

Parents who are getting email reminders from Adobe Sign, please complete your intake/open house forms ASAP. They were due on **August 20th.**

Parents must complete for the forms for each of their students.

Please make sure to fill out every form regardless if no changes are being made.

2021-2022 PAC Members

| Grade | Name | Email |
|----------------|--------------------|--|
| Kindergarten | Sharita Seibles | Sharitaallen7@gmail.com |
| First Grade | Patty Smoak | PattySmoak@fallslakeacademy.com |
| Second Grade | Mandy Harris | Blakec1606@gmail.com |
| Third Grade | Amanda Esposito | Amanda.renee65@yahoo.com |
| Fourth Grade | Laurie Frederick | Lauriecfrederick@gmail.com |
| Fifth Grade | Kristin Zimmerman | krissyz0908@gmail.com |
| Sixth Grade | Alissa Buffaloe | ncsunshine97@yahoo.com |
| Seventh Grade | Ashley James | loveabi44@yahoo.com |
| Eighth Grade | Catherine Kendrick | Catherinekendrick44@gmail.com |
| Ninth Grade | Lindsey Shedd | LShedd418@yahoo.com |
| Tenth Grade | Liz Karan | timothykaran@live.com |
| Eleventh Grade | Kandi Bender | KandiBender@fallslakeacademy.com |
| Twelfth Grade | Lisa Watkins | watkinslisa2@gmail.com |

Music Kids - Violin, Guitar or Piano

Ages 3 and up!

Music Kids partners with Falls Lake Academy to provide weekly Piano, Violin and Guitar classes at the school.

- Take-home instrument is included
- Step-by-step support from your teacher with video resources and explainers
- Designed as a full school year program Oct-June
- Classes begin the first week of October

www.MusicKidsProgram.com

*Flexible enrollment and payment options available

MUSIC MATTERS!





FALLS LAKE ACADEMY

VENDOR FAIR

FALLS LAKE ACADEMY MIDDLE SCHOOL GYM
1701 EAST LYON STATION RD
CREEDMOOR, NC 27522

There will be many different vendors

Space is limited to the first 40 vendors/crafters that submit their application with payment and there will be only one vendor per category

Also ask that you donate an item to be raffled with a value of \$20 - \$30.

If interested email
flaathleticboosters@gmail.com for application



*
CONCESSIONS +
RAFFLE +
FREE ADMISSION

*
OPEN TO ALL FAMILY
MEMBERS OF FLA STUDENTS,
SURROUNDING COMMUNITY
MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF
FLA.

NOVEMBER 20TH 10AM - 3PM

T-Shirt Sale

Last day to order is September 15th.
See Order form attached to email.

Next Booster Club Meeting

September 20th @ 6:00pm
Location: HS Lobby

Library Corner:

We'll be holding a Mega-marathon Library Processing day on Sunday, Sept. 12th. This is a time that we input library books into our card catalog system so that students can check them out.

It's easy. It's fun. And any adult, middle school, or high school student can earn volunteering hours by coming to help out.

September 12, 1 pm to 5 pm.

We need about 40 volunteers, so please use this link to sign up! Hope to see you there!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0F48A9A62CA4F49-mega14>

Bookfair coming soon! YAY! So exciting!

Please check your shelves and see if you happen to have any of these library books or any others at home. We'd love to get them back.

We are also excited to let you know that parent/student access to our library system is now working. You can log in and see what books are checked out, renew books, search for books in our catalog, and place books on hold.

In order to log in: Go to [fallslakeacademy.follettdestiny.com/common/welcome.jsp?](https://fallslakeacademy.follettdestiny.com/common/welcome.jsp?site=100&context=saas74_3203974)

[site=100&context=saas74_3203974](https://fallslakeacademy.follettdestiny.com/common/welcome.jsp?site=100&context=saas74_3203974) (You can also get there by going to www.fallslakeacademy.com and click on Students and then click on Library).

Click on **Log-in** at the top right-hand corner of your screen.

Username: student's first name and last name together. Ex: elizabethdoerfler (please use your student's full first legal name - Ex. Elizabeth not Beth)

Password is the same as their school assigned Google password. Ex: FLAd1234 (FLA in all caps + first letter of last name lower case + last four digits of student ID number)

Middle and high school students are encouraged to search the catalog for books you may want to read. If you find one you like, put in a hold request, and we'll deliver it to your class. (Elementary aged students can also use this service).

Academic Competitions starting back up

We have several academic competitions that we would love to compete in this year.

Please fill out the attached survey if you are in grades 6-12 and are interested in possibly competing in any of the following competitions: www.surveymonkey.com/r/Y2ZSKY5

Twelve: Twelve is a knowledge-based academic competition that challenges teams of students to answer questions covering a variety of subject areas. The competition is based primarily on the core curriculum. Topics include math, science, history, literature, sports, art, and NC facts.

Twelve teams of twelve students each will tackle twelve topics with twelve questions each. Will your school be one of twelve to compete for the state championship of Twelve?

WE MUST have 12 members to compete - no more, no fewer.

* All practices will be virtual; competitions are on 11/20/21 and possibly 12/11/21.

* Practice will be held once a week, with some "study"-time required in between.

* Competition is scheduled in-person, but may change. If so, competitions will be on a weekday prior to the scheduled competition Saturday.

Library Corner -continued

Quiz Bowl: Quiz Bowl is an academic competition in which two teams of four students compete head to head using a buzzer system to be the first to answer questions read by a moderator. The fast-paced format tests the combined prowess of the teams to determine the ultimate winner. (This is trivia of all types - if you know lots of sports or pop culture trivia or if you watch the news every night, you can be super successful here!)

We may have between 4-8 members to compete. If we have enough members, we can form a second team.

- * All practices will be virtual; competitions will also be virtual. Meets will begin in October. Practices will begin in September.
- * Practice will be held once a week, with some "study"-time required in between.
- * Competitions are planned to be virtual.

Quill: Teams of four students must create written products given a prompt from a specific text type. Each student will be assigned a writing prompt within a type of writing (such as Narrative or Problem-Solution). Students have approximately 90 minutes to write an essay in response to the assigned prompt. We may have between 4-8 members to compete. If we have enough, we can form a second team.

- * There will be two practice writing days with feedback given from a team of teachers.
- * Competition dates are 11/3/21 and 12/4/21.
- * Competition is scheduled in person, but that may change.

Battle of the Books: Read books and answer questions as a team! You can see the list of books in the Jupiter message sent to all families.

Competition is scheduled for the spring semester so you have time to read.

Team members are asked to write questions to prepare for competition.

- * Practices will begin in the spring semester, but you would need to start reading now.

We must have between 4-6 students to compete.

(This one is also open to 4th and 5th graders – don't use the survey monkey link to tell me you are interested - just email elizabethdoerfler@fallslakeacademy.com)

Art Showcase: This is a spring semester competition, but we usually get the prompt in January. If you are an artist - anything from painting to sculpture to computer graphics - be on the lookout for the prompt I will send out!

"Words Like Wildfire" FLA Poetry contest: Coming in November, there will be an FLA Poetry contest for original poems of all types. Plan to submit up to three poems!

Looking forward to a fun and brainy year!

Meet our SRO



Hello Falls Lake Academy students, faculty and families. I am Deputy Sledge and I am excited to be your new school resource officer! I look forward to a great school year. A little background on me: I graduated from Elizabeth City State University in 2007, earning my BA in English with a concentration in News Media. I taught high school and middle school for 4 years before making the transition to law enforcement in 2011. I was a SWAT Team operator at my previous agency. That being said, I am very security minded and the safety of the staff, students, and visitors on this campus is paramount. Please feel free to wave, speak, and ask me questions. Let's have a great school year.



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The [15th Annual NC Hot Sauce Contest & Festival](#) is nearly here and we need your help! If you're looking for new ways to get involved with City events, have a student who needs volunteer hours, or are just looking to get out of the house for the day then sign up today. Volunteer responsibilities include:

GREEN TEAM: RECYCLE AND TRASH - Responsibilities will include collecting trash and recycling and taking it to the back of ACE Hardware. Gloves will be provided.

STREET AMBASSADOR: Will help by answering questions on the street during the event. Maps and signs will be available for help.

SPONSOR ATTENDANT: Checking with Sponsors to see if they need a break, have any questions and/or concerns. If so, please find Rebekah, Alyssa, or Cyndi.

HOSPITALITY ATTENDANT: Keeping the tables wiped down and cleared during the event.

INFORMATION BOOTH ATTENDANT: Answer questions, sign volunteers in and give assignments, help with volunteer hour tracking sheets.

SET-UP/UNLOAD ASSISTANT: Help vendors unload vehicles prior to the event.

SURVEY TAKER: Ask a set of questions to the public and record answers.

BREAK DOWN ASSISTANT: Help with the breakdown at the conclusion of the event.

If you love FREE t-shirts and are interested in volunteering then use the link below to sign up! If you have any questions and/or concerns, please reach out to Alyssa Blair at 919-603-1102 or alyssa.blair@oxfordnc.org.

Bye for now.....until next time.....-Fred the Firebird

