



The Firebird Screams

“Ask not for whom the Firebird screams, he screams for you!” - Frank the Firebird

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2013

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Welcome to the **SCREAMER!**



Fred the Firebird here, bringing you all the stuff that's fit to SCREAM about at Falls Lake Academy! I hope you like getting the SCREAMER every week or so – we want you to know what's going on here in the Firebird's nest! Here are some things to SCREAM about this week.....

Attendance Accounting

There's been some confusion lately about how we keep up with absences and tardies. So here's the SCREAM about attendance accounting:

a) School starts at 8:00am. Students who arrive after 8:00 are **tardy**. Those tardies are always counted as **unexcused** unless parents send a note verifying that the tardy is for one of the excused reasons for absences and tardies:

- Sickness or injury to the point that the student can't be at school
- Doctor's or dentist's appointment (we need a note from the doctor or dentist, too)
- Death in the family or health department quarantine
- Religious observance (requires Dr. D's approval in advance)
- Participation in a school-sponsored event or activity that takes the student out of class (no parent note required for this one)
- Court or legal/administrative proceedings requiring the child's participation

- Dr. D can authorize other reasons as excused, but the parents must request it in advance and he must agree that the reason is valid.

All other absences and tardies are **unexcused**. [Note: NC state law and State Board of Education policy determine which tardies and absences



are excused and which are unexcused, not us.]

b) Students who arrive tardy before 8:10 are admitted to class, but marked tardy: excused tardy if they have a parent note verifying that they are tardy for one of the reasons above, or unexcused tardy for any other reason. But if they arrive after 8:10, parents must come in and check the student in at the office and get an admit pass or they won't be admitted to

class. [Note: PARENTS must come in with the student if the student is later than 8:10 getting to class.]

c) When a student is absent, parents PLEASE call or e-mail the office AND the student's PAA and let us know that he or she is going to be absent, and why! Please do this every day the student is absent.

d) When a student returns to school after being absent, he or she needs a note from his/her parents verifying that the absence should be excused for one of the state-approved reasons listed in part a) above. Without a note, or if the absence is for some other reason, the absence is **unexcused**.

e) Excessive unexcused absences and/or tardies become disciplinary issues for the student. If a pattern of unexcused absences and/or tardies develops, students can eventually be suspended, even expelled from FLA altogether. So parents, please make sure your kids are here every day on time, in plenty of time to get to class!

Afternoon Parking

We're SCREAMING about how well the afternoon pick-up procedure is working! We're down to around fifteen minutes in getting all our students picked up and everybody out of here except those who are sticking around deliberately. But we still have a few issues we need to iron out, so here's what we're SCREAMING about concerning afternoon parking:

1. Sorry, but we must insist that those of you who arrive before the 3:00 dismissal time DO NOT park on the grass along the drive leading to the parking lot! Also, if you plan to walk up the walk and wait for your child so you can escort him or her to your vehicle, you must park in the parking lot, not along the drive or in the pickup lanes.
2. Those of you who pick up your kids in the "park and walk" group, please do not get in a hurry to get out of here! Lately, we've been very blessed in avoiding a couple of potentially serious situations where parents were hurrying out of the parking lot or the pick-up lanes and narrowly missed causing accidents. PLEASE wait until the pick-up lanes are cleared out; it's only fifteen minutes!



Now having said that, please SCREAM for joy with us about how well our drop-off and pick-up lines are going in the mornings and afternoons! We not only have the best kids in the world, we also have the best parents! Keep up the great work!

Afternoon Rain Plan

It hasn't happened yet, but we all know that the day is coming when we will be obliged to dismiss school in the rain. We have a plan, but all parents should be prepared for pretty serious delays when the bottom falls out and we're trying to get all our kids out of the buildings and into the cars in the down-pour.

If you haven't already done so, we strongly recommend that you outfit your Firebird sparklet with some kind of rain gear. We recommend a poncho, many of which are made to fit both the student and the big hump created by the student's bookbag, covering them both, yet still lightweight enough to be folded into a small pouch that the student can keep in his or her bookbag until it's needed.





Falls Lake Academy

Address

1701 East Lyon Station Road
Creedmoor, NC 27522

Phone: 919-964-9003

Fax: 919-964-9008

A place where community and education combine to celebrate each child's ambitions so that their full potential can **TAKE FLIGHT**.

Falls Lake Academy strives to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of our 21st century learners to prepare them for citizenship, leadership, and success in a rapidly changing world.

Core Values:

- We believe students with 21st century skills will become leaders in their own community and globally.
- We believe students will excel academically and socially through community outreach.
- We believe students benefit from challenging experiential and traditional learning experiences.
- We believe our school to be a community of eager students, dedicated staff, and committed families.



This Week At FLA

Monday	9-30	Volleyball away at Chatham
Tuesday	10-1	Board of Directors meeting 6:30
Wednesday	10-2	PBL "practice" projects presentations begin
Thursday	10-3	PBL presentations continue; 4 th grade field trip leaves for the mountains; Volleyball away at RCS
Friday	10-4	SCHOOL PICTURE DAY!!; PBL presentations continue; 4 th -grade field trip returns; Cross-country at Neuse Charter
Saturday	10-5	Flight Crew (athletics boosters) meet in Coach Vincent's room at 2:30.
Monday FLA	10-7	Parent Advisory Council (PAC) at 6:00, Parents (FLAP) meets at 7:00

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE FIRST ANNUAL FLA FALL FESTIVAL ON SATURDAY NOVEMBER 2nd!! AND A GOOD TIME WILL BE HAD BY ALL, GUARANTEED!!

Volunteering

We are still in constant need of volunteers to keep us running smoothly! Contact FLAP, talk to your PAC grade-level rep, or call your PAA to get some ideas of what you can do to help out. And remember that every family needs 10 hours' service credit to the school each semester, and everything you do to volunteer counts towards those hours.

Don't forget: if you substitute teach or volunteer in any capacity that comes in contact with the kids, you need a criminal background check! Pick up a background check form from Ms. Ford or Ms. Slaughter in the office and send it in with a check for \$10.75 to cover the cost of the check. If you sub for us, your background check fee is refunded to you.