



The Firebird Screams

"Ask not for whom the Firebird screams, he screams for you!"
-Fred the Firebird

AUGUST 3, 2026

VOLUME #14 NUMBER 1



August Dates to Remember:

Aug. 4 - New Family Night, 1st-5th
3:00pm-3:30pm, MS 3:45pm-4:15pm, HS
4:30pm-5:00pm
Aug. 4 - Board Meeting, 6:30pm
Aug. 5-11 - Teacher Workdays
Aug. 6 - Senior Parking Passes, 9:00am-
12:00pm
Aug. 7 - Junior Parking Passes, 9:00am-
12:00pm
Aug. 7 - Senior Picture Day, HS Gym
Aug. 10 - Open House, Kindergarten,
6th-8th & HS 2:30pm-4:00pm, 1st-5th
4:00pm-5:30pm
Aug. 10 - HS Technology Pick-Up
2:30pm-5:00pm
Aug. 12 - First Day of School for
Students
Aug. 12 - Senior Breakfast, 7:30am-
8:30am
Aug. 15-16 - Senior Paint Your Spot
Aug. 18 - Board Meeting, 6:30pm - (if
called)
Aug. 19 - 2nd-5th Grade Safety
Assembly, 9:00am
Aug. 19 - MS Safety Assembly, 1:30pm
Aug. 22-23 - Senior Paint Your Spot
Aug. 24 - HS Safety Assembly, Firetime
11:15am-12:00pm
Aug. 25 - 3rd Grade BOG
Aug. 26 - Senior Virtual Capstone
Meeting, 6:00pm
Aug. 26 - Junior Virtual Capstone
Meeting, 6:30pm
Aug. 27 - ES Curriculum Night, 5:00pm-
5:30pm & 5:45pm-6:15pm
Aug. 28 - MS Dance (PTA Event),
6:00pm-8:00pm

Message from Mr. Johnson

Welcome Back!

Welcome back Firebird families! We are so excited to kick off another amazing school year and can't wait to welcome our students back on Wednesday, **August 12!**

This year is filled with new opportunities to learn, grow, and achieve. At our school, we strive to inspire growth in both learning and personal development while helping students build increasing independence that prepares them for future success. We believe that growth happens when we embrace challenges, and we are committed to encouraging our students to do hard things, persevere through obstacles, and celebrate every step of their journey.

Our dedicated staff is ready to make this the best year yet! We are excited about the incredible team of educators and support staff who bring passion, care, and commitment to serving our students and partnering with our families. Together, we will create a positive, supportive environment where every child feels valued, challenged, and empowered to succeed.

We know that the strongest schools are built on strong partnerships with families, and we are grateful for the trust you place in us each day. Thank you for being an important part of our school community.

Get ready for a year filled with learning, laughter, growth, and unforgettable memories. We look forward to seeing all of our students on **August 12** and beginning an incredible journey together!

Here's to an outstanding school year! We can't wait to see you soon! As a reminder, Open House for all grades is **Monday, August 10.**

Scheduled Board Meetings



Tuesday, August 4th @ 6:30pm

Tuesday, August 18th (if called) @ 6:30pm

Welcome from the Board Chair

Dear Falls Lake Academy Families, Staff, and Community,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, welcome to a new academic year at Falls Lake Academy and to the inaugural edition of our quarterly Board Newsletter.

Our primary goal this year is simple—to strengthen communication, increase transparency, and help our school community better understand the role of your Board of Directors. While much of the Board’s work happens behind the scenes, every decision we make is guided by one purpose: supporting our school’s mission and ensuring the long-term success of our students, staff, and community.

Serving more than 1,100 students each year through an innovative project-based learning model, Falls Lake Academy continues to grow because of the partnership between our families, educators, staff, administration, and Board of Directors. As the governing body of the school, the Board is responsible for providing strategic oversight, ensuring financial stewardship, maintaining compliance with state charter requirements, and supporting the school’s mission and vision. While the Executive Director and school administration oversee the day-to-day operations of the school, the Board focuses on governance, policy, and long-term planning to help ensure the continued success of Falls Lake Academy.

Meet Your Board

We are honored to serve the Falls Lake Academy community and are committed to supporting the school’s mission through thoughtful governance and responsible leadership.

- Benjamin Averette, Chair
- Will Kapherr, Vice Chair
- Audrey Boone, Secretary
- Rebecca Marion, Treasurer
- Brian Massengill, PTA Liaison
- Garrett Gincley, Member
- Ashley Jacot, Member
- Taylor Potts, Member
- Toretta Snipes, Member

Our Board Committees

Much of the Board’s work is accomplished through committees that focus on specific areas of governance and school improvement.

- Academic & Governance
- Finance & Personnel
- Growth & Development
- Culture & Belonging

Stay Connected

Falls Lake Academy is successful because of the partnership between our students, families, faculty, staff, and community. We encourage you to:

- Attend Board and committee meetings when possible.
- Stay informed by reading future Board newsletters.

- Share ideas and constructive feedback.
- Familiarize yourself with school policies and communication procedures to help ensure questions and concerns are directed to the appropriate teacher, administrator, or staff member.
- Consider applying for future Board service when opportunities become available.
- Reach out to the Board with questions or feedback related to governance, strategic priorities, or matters within the Board's responsibilities.

Your engagement helps us make informed decisions that support the continued success of Falls Lake Academy and the students we serve.

Thank you for your continued trust, partnership, and support. We look forward to serving alongside you throughout the coming year as we continue building an exceptional educational experience for every Firebird.

With appreciation,

Benjamin Averette
Chair, Falls Lake Academy Board of Directors

TIME FOR SCHOOL

Welcome back Firebird family!

First Day of School for students is **Wednesday, August 12th!**

School Hours:

Elementary Hours: 7:45am – 2:45pm

Middle School Hours: 8:00am – 3:15pm

High School Hours: 8:15am – 3:35pm

Reminder! Elementary students are considered TARDY if they are not IN CLASS by 7:45. Students in Middle School are considered TARDY if they are not IN CLASS by 8:00. High School students are considered TARDY if they are not IN CLASS by 8:15.

Students may not be dropped off before 7:15am. **High school students may not be dropped off before 7:30. HS students will not be allowed into the ES/MS building, they must report to the HS building.** Please arrive with plenty of time for your student to get to class before school starts.

First Day:

Attendance on the first day of school is mandatory!



REVISED SCHOOL CALENDAR

Special Note: Graduation Date Change in 2027

2026 - 2027 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR



Infinite Campus Annual Update/Intake Forms

The Annual Update/Intake paperwork is best done from a computer (not a smart phone). Log into Campus Parent at <https://39a.ncsis.gov/campus/portal/parents/psu39afalls.jsp>

Once logged in, you will be asked to complete the beginning of the year update forms for your Existing Students. For these forms, you can save your progress and complete over multiple sittings. However, before you can access the actual portal, you will need to complete the intake forms. Please complete your annual update no later than August 31st.

If you need assistance with your username or password for Campus Parent, please contact Elizabeth Doerfler at elizabethdoerfler@fallslakeacademy.com.

HOT Lunch

Ordering window opens August 19th and closes on August 26th at 12noon. Serving dates are September 1st - 30th.

All lunch orders must be placed online using the website order form. To place a lunch order, go to www.orgsoline.com and enter code 313FLANC.

All students must bring a packed lunch from August 12th through August 31st!!!



Supply lists have been updated and can be found on the website at www.fallslakeacademy.com

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION

FLA HS Computer Needs

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD): FLA High School students are permitted and highly encouraged to bring their own computers to school. If students choose to bring their device, it must be an operational laptop or chromebook. No iPads will be permitted for the 2026-2027 school year. The only specifications needed for the computer is it has to be able to access the internet and have a minimum screen size of 9 inches. Students will be required to have Chrome on their computers and must use Chrome at all times while at school. Only one device per student (their computer-laptop or chromebook) will be added to the school network for Wi-Fi access.

Students must register their computer with the school for Wi-Fi access. If you wish to do that before the first day of school, the form can be completed here: forms.gle/82FV4hUP88G4c1EA8

If students do not have access to a computer that they can bring to school, students will be able to check out a Chromebook for the year. Students and parents will need to read, sign, and agree to the [Student Technology Acceptable Use Policy](#) in order to check out a computer. It is expected that this computer be brought to school each day. Day-user computers will NOT be available for checkout in the high school.

The checkout times are:

New to FLA students: Tuesday, August 4th - 4:00 - 5:00 pm (during new student night)

Monday, August 10th - 2:30-4:00 pm (during open house)

Monday, August 10th - 4:00-5:00 (after open house)

Tuesday, August 11th - 8:00-9:30 am

If you think you might wish to utilize the Chromebook checkout, please complete this brief interest survey: <https://forms.gle/6TTHcERMSbFuD2d39>

Senior Picture Day

August 7th

Times: 9:00am - 1:00pm (by appointment)

Location: HS Gym

Lifetouch will be photographing seniors in tux and drape and 1 casual outfit.

Senior Picture Day Appointment Sign Up was sent via ParentSquare

Senior Paint Your Parking Spot



August 15 - 16 &
August 22 - 23

Student Parking Passes



Seniors: Thursday, August 6th

from 9:00am - 12:00pm

Juniors: Friday, August 7th

from 9:00am - 12:00pm

Fee: \$50

Payment options for parking passes is check or cash.
Makes checks payable to Falls Lake Academy

Capstone Meetings



Wednesday, August 26th

Virtual Meetings

Senior Capstone Project Info Session, 6:00pm

Junior Capstone Project Info Session, 6:30pm

A graphic with a lined paper background. It features colorful text "BACK TO SCHOOL" in large, multi-colored letters. Surrounding the text are various school-related icons: pencils, a ruler, a protractor, a lightbulb, a paper airplane, a backpack, and an alarm clock.

New to the Flock Night!

New to FLA families in 1st through 8th grades join us for a night to learn about FLA and ask questions.

August 4th
1st-5th Grade 3:00-3:30
6th-8th Grade 3:30-4:00

A graphic for "New Student Night" at Falls Lake Academy. It features a large eagle head logo on the left. The text is bold and colorful, announcing the event for 9th-12th grade on August 4, 2026, from 4:00-5:00 PM in the HS Gym. It includes a list of items to bring and a list of activities.

FALLS LAKE ACADEMY

New Student Night

FOR 9TH-12TH GRADE

AUGUST 4, 2026

4:00-5:00 PM

📍 HS GYM

Welcome to FLA!

Join us for an evening designed for new high school students and their families.

PLEASE COME WITH:

- ✓ Your last report card or transcript (if not already submitted)
- ✓ A computer if you plan to use your own computer for school
- ✓ Need a device? You can check out a Chromebook from FLA on this night.

- 👤 Learn more about FLA HS
- 📍 Take a tour of the building
- 👤 Meet the HS principal
- 💻 Check out a Chromebook from FLA (if needed)
- 📅 Get important information for the 26-27 school year

Ignite. Inspire. Soar.
FALLS LAKE ACADEMY



FALLS LAKE
— A C A D E M Y —

OPEN HOUSE

Welcome Back, Firebirds!

MONDAY,
AUGUST 10TH



KINDERGARTEN &
GRADES 6-12

2:30 PM – 4:00 PM



GRADES 1-5

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

WHAT TO EXPECT



MEET
TEACHERS
& STAFF



VISIT
CLASSROOMS



ASK
QUESTIONS



CONNECT WITH
OTHER
FAMILIES

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS THROUGH
EXCELLENCE, CHARACTER, AND COMMUNITY.



We look forward to seeing all of our students and families!



LOCATION: Falls Lake Academy Campus

For additional information,
please contact the school office.



F

FALLS LAKE ACADEMY

Athletic **FALL** Gear

CLOSES AUGUST 7TH



UNDER ARMOUR

VISIT OUR ATHLETIC WEBSITE FOR LINKS TO VOLLEYBALL,
SOCCER, GOLF + XC GEAR

FLAATHLETICS.COM

F SPONSORSHIPS 26-27



FIREBIRD SPONSOR - \$1500

(3) 4ft. x 8ft. Banners hung in the HS & MS gyms, and the softball/soccer field

Sponsorship Thank You announcement at each home game

2 All-Sports Passes (entrance to all home games)

Athletic T-shirt with your logo on the back; up to 10 shirts max

GOLD SPONSOR - \$1000

(2) 4ft. x 8ft. Banners hung in your choice of 2 locations

Sponsorship Thank You announcement at each home game

1 All-Sports Passes (entrance to all home games)

SILVER SPONSOR - \$500

(2) 2ft. x 4ft. Banner hung in your choice of 2 locations

Sponsorship Thank You announcement at each home game

BRONZE SPONSOR - \$250

(1) 2ft. x 4ft. Banner hung in one location of your choice

Sponsorship Thank You announcement at each home game

CONTACT:
WESTONPEARSON@FALLSLAKEACADEMY.COM
KARENTEAGUE@FALLSLAKEACADEMY.COM



Immunizations Reminder

North Carolina law requires that all children entering in grades Kindergarten, 7th and 12th grade in the state to receive certain immunizations. Records are checked when children begin/return to school. A copy of your student's immunization records must be turned into their PAA during open house or before the 30th day of school.

Kindergarten:

State law requires that every child entering kindergarten in an N.C. public school receive a health assessment. The assessment must occur within 12 months prior to entering school. The medical provider, parent or guardian must provide a completed health assessment form to the school on or before the child's 30th day of attendance. Kindergarten students are also required to have completed immunization. If you have not turned in these forms at the time of registration, please provide a copy of their completed immunizations and health assessment to Mrs. Seccia at the front office.

7th Graders:

Adolescents should be up to date on all the vaccines required for kindergarten entry. In addition, adolescents rising to the 7th grade need one dose of Tdap vaccine and one dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine.

12th Graders:

All Rising 12th graders should be up to date on all of their vaccines and receive their second dose of the Meningococcal Vaccine in order to graduate from high school.

That's it for now, until next time...

-Fred the Firebird

