



Falls Lake Academy

Parent's Guide to Student Achievement (PGSA)

Based on Parents' Bill of Rights - SB 49; Session Law 2023-106

It is the goal of Falls Lake Academy to offer parents and guardians access to information regarding student achievement via the district's Parent's Guide to Student Achievement (PGSA). Should you wish to obtain paper copies of this document and its contents, you can make a request through your child's respective school.

How can my child be promoted to the next grade level?	Information on Falls Lake Academy's promotion and retention procedures can be found on page 37 of the parent student handbook found here: Parent-Student Handbook. The following are the relevant state and local requirements for a student to be promoted to the next grade level. The relevant part of this link is found in Part 1A (pages 15-28) regarding retention and promotion: State and Local Promotion Requirements.
What is my child learning at school? How can a parent review these materials?	In North Carolina, all schools use the same Standard Course of Study, determined by the State Board of Education. These standards are the knowledge and skills students should understand by the end of each grade/course. The standards can be found on the NCDPI Office of Academic Standards website. There are standards for: ● Arts Education, ● Career Technical Education, ● Computer Science, ● English Language Arts, ● English Language Development, ● Student Success Standards, ● Healthful Living, ● Information and Technology,



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	● Mathematics, ● Science, ● Social Studies, and ● World Language. Local school districts, schools, and teachers have the autonomy to decide the instructional methods for these standards including curriculum, supplementary materials, books, and other resources. Falls Lake Academy's Curriculum The following link provides information about Falls Lake Academy's curriculum on page 17. Instructional Materials Information related to the inspection of instructional materials can be found in the Parents' Bill of Rights Policy. Literacy Intervention Reading Camps are provided as an extension of what occurs during the school year as needed. Intervention staff are assigned to work with students.
How will a parent learn about my child's progress in school or with a class?	Falls Lake Academy communicates students' progress through various channels, including quarterly report cards, progress reports, and feedback on assignments/tests, including conduct evaluations. Information regarding assessments and the evaluation of student progress at Falls Lake Academy is available through the following links: Infinite Campus (Student Information System) State Assessments: Individual Student Reports for end-of-grade/course tests and other state assessments (English



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	language proficiency assessment) are sent home with each student. In NC, all students take end-of-grade assessments for reading and math in grades 3-8. Students take end-of-grade science assessments in grades 5 and 8. North Carolina's Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) selected mCLASS DIBELS® 8th Edition as the state's K-3 Literacy Assessment. mCLASS is an integrated literacy system based on the Science of Reading.
What are the qualifications of my child's teachers?	Parents may look up your child's teacher licensure status on this website: NC Online Licensure Website.
What are the requirements for school enrollment? What are the immunizations needed or recommended for children?	Enrollment Requirements The requirements for enrollment and eligibility to attend Falls Lake Academy can be located here: Enrollment requirements. The following are Falls Lake Academy's enrollment policies: Admission and Enrollment Policy. The following are statutory school entry requirements, this includes required immunizations: • Immunization records: GS 130A-155.pdf (ncleg.gov) • Immunization Requirements: GS 130A-152.pdf (ncleg.gov) (*this law was amended but is not reflected on the current GA page; see SL2023-134.pdf (ncleg.gov), Section 5.8(e) on page 64") Information on required health assessments and immunizations for students is available through the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS). NCDHHS Resource: Immunizations • CDC immunization schedule recommendations • NC DHHS Recommended Immunization Schedules: ○ Kindergarten Entry Vaccine Requirements



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	○ Seventh Grade Entry Vaccine Requirements ○ Twelfth Grade Entry Vaccine Requirements Parents and guardians can enroll students at the following link: Apply Falls Lake Academy. Statutory school entry requirements Admission requirements: GS 115C-364.pdf (ncleg.gov) Immunization records: GS 130A-155.pdf (ncleg.gov)
How can a parent help their child learn and make progress?	Active involvement in your child's education is crucial for their learning journey. Ask your child about their school day regularly to discuss the topics and assignments they are currently working on. Connect with their teachers to gain insights into your child's progress and inquire about ways to support their learning. Attend various school events to stay connected and learn more about how to assist your child. Create a dedicated space at home for homework and studying, if possible, and encourage a reading culture by modeling reading behavior. Discuss your child's progress and efforts, being an engaged participant in their education. Maintain open communication with your child's teacher and keep a diverse range of books at home to encourage reading at different levels. Utilize local resources such as homework assistance and refer to parent guides for academic standards. These guides provide information to help parents understand the North Carolina Standard Course of Study and offer practical strategies for implementation at home. Explore reading and literacy support resources, including the mCLASS® Home Connect - Parent Resources, which offers materials for families to practice crucial literacy skills. Additionally, North Carolina's Digital Children's Reading Initiative (DCRI) provides home activities, printables, and games covering various literacy topics for Pre-K through Grade 5. Access the printables guide here.



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How can a parent help their child develop citizenship, social skills and respect for others?

Project-Based Learning (PBL) is the chief learning technique used at our school. PBL meets the academic standards while also teaching skills such as: Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Teamwork, Leadership, Self-Initiative and Motivation, Integrity, Perseverance, Courage, and Self-Control. By using PBL students are able to integrate many skills on a daily basis to help them build strong personal character. As additional support for our students, we subscribe to an Honor Code that all students are expected to meet. This helps to hold all students accountable to high standards and expectations.

Falls Lake Academy subscribes to a social and emotional learning program that provides interactive lessons each week for every student. These lessons reinforce building good moral character.

The Falls Lake Academy Honor Code involves:

1. Integrity:

- strive to be honest, truthful, and transparent in all academic endeavors.

2. Open Communication:

- treat all individuals with respect, dignity, and kindness.

3. Responsibility:

- take responsibility for my own learning, actively participating in class discussions, completing assignments diligently, and seeking assistance when needed.

4. Intellectual Growth:

- engage in intellectual pursuits with curiosity, open-mindedness, and a willingness to explore new ideas.

5. Collaboration:

- Collaborate with my peers in a constructive and ethical manner, respecting their contributions and ideas.

6. Confidentiality:

- Respect the privacy and confidentiality of others, refraining from sharing or misusing personal information or academic materials without explicit permission.

7. Digital Citizenship:

- Use technology responsibly, adhering to acceptable use policies and practicing good digital



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	citizenship. 8. Environment: • Respect the school environment, maintaining cleanliness, and taking care of shared resources and facilities. 9. Reporting Violations: • Understand the importance of upholding the Honor Code, and reporting any observed violations to the appropriate authority, without fear or retribution or judgment.
How can I help establish high expectations for my child's success in school?	Falls Lake Academy uses our motto to establish high expectations for our student conduct each day. "Firebirds Take Flight" F: Fairness L: Leadership I: Integrity G: Growth Mindset H: Humility T: Teamwork These expectations are required for all students throughout the school year.
How can a parent strengthen communication with the school/teacher?	Effective communication between the school and home is vital to the successful academic, emotional, and social well-being of students. To keep parents informed of school events and student growth, the school communicates often with parents through email newsletters, telephone calls, and individual and group meetings.



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Falls Lake Academy uses a range of events and communications vehicles to share information with parents and give them opportunities to offer feedback. This includes:

- Newsletters: The school publishes a newsletter monthly for families to provide updates on current events and programmatic developments. K-8 Classrooms provide a newsletter with weekly updates.
- Social Media: The school maintains a strong, user-friendly website to give parents access to information on the school and on their children's experience at the school. The school also takes advantage of Facebook and Instagram, with the goal of further strengthening connections among school leaders, teachers, and family members.
- Classroom Communication: Teachers regularly give students information to take home to their parents. Examples include weekly updates and take-home folders with classroom-specific information. Teachers also give parents regular reports on their students' progress using letters, online communications, phone calls, texts, and/or face-to-face meetings.
- Parent Meetings/ Conferences: The school regularly schedules parent information sessions so parents can learn what their students are doing and learning in school. In addition, the teachers conduct parent teacher conferences to discuss student's academic progress with parents.
- App: In addition to using online access to their child's academic information, families can also use our app as a resource for easier access to needed materials.
- Student Information System: The school utilizes a student information system to provide families with important school information including upcoming events, school closures, messages from staff, real time grading, staff directory, and etc.
- Family Nights: We schedule various social and educational events during the school year to strengthen relationships among students, parents, teachers, and administrators.
- Parent Surveys: Each fall and spring, the school conducts parent surveys to gather feedback from parents.
- PAA: Parent Adult Advocates are assigned to every student and this person serves as the first line of contact between parents and the school.



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	Additional Resources are available here: Building Strong Relationships with Your Child's Teacher (NC Rethink Education Program) How You Can Use Questions to Support Your Child's Learning (NC Rethink Education Program)
What services are available for parents and their children?	The school provides the following services that are available to parents and their children: ● Clubs ● Teacher Office Hours ● Tutoring ● After School Program ● Social Worker on campus (Individual/ Small Group Meetings) ● Curriculum Nights ● Field Trips A successful learning experience would not be possible without the partnership and dedication of our students' parents. Parental participation at our school is a requirement for all families. Our parents are involved on committees (ie: PTA and others), in the classroom, and in the details that make a school function effectively. Falls Lake Academy parents know they are always welcome and that they are a key to the success of every student. Falls Lake Academy provides opportunities for parental engagement in their child's education. This involvement is outlined in the Student and Parent Handbook. Please contact Falls Lake Academy for more information on parent and family engagement opportunities. Parents are encouraged to utilize the following resources to help individual students:



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	<u>Family Literacy Services</u> Literacy at Home: The Digital Children's Reading Initiative, developed by NCDPI, presents literacy activities tailored to each grade level, spanning from pre-kindergarten through fifth grade. <u>Mentoring</u> Mentoring services are accessible at specific schools. Parents can get in touch with their child's school to learn more about these services. <u>Tutoring</u> NCVPS EdVantage Tutoring provides virtual statewide comprehensive support for middle and high school students in NC public schools. Tutoring covers Math, Science, and ELA and is delivered through a personalized partnership with district/school leadership to effectively address the needs of selected students each semester. Tutoring services are offered at certain schools. Parents can contact their child's school to obtain information about these services.
What are opportunities for parents to participate with school?	Falls Lake Academy offers avenues for parents to actively participate in their child's education. All families are expected to obtain 10 hours of parental involvement within the school each year. Possible involvement activities are: ● Participate in a Parent Organization (Parent Teacher Association, Athletic Booster Club, Unsanctioned Approved Activity within the school, Art Booster Club, Band Booster Club) ● Chaperone for Field Trips ● Lunch Volunteer ● Athletic Volunteer (Concession, Gate Duty, Assistant Coach, Assistant Coordinator) ● Participate in School Community Service Events ● Participate in Capstone Project and other projects at the school



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**What are the rigorous academic programs available to my child?
How can I learn more about them?**

Falls Lake Academy offers a variety of options for students to pursue their interests, skills at their academic level.

Career and Technical Education (CTE)

Falls Lake Academy has made a significant investment in developing students and programs to meet the needs of the future workforce. Through Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, our school offers opportunities for students to develop career realization through Engineering and Computer Science pathways in the CTE program.

At Falls Lake Academy, there are programs available that are more rigorous and challenging than the standard content for students. They include:

Academically and/or Intellectually Gifted (AIG)

In NC, school districts must identify and serve academically or intellectually gifted (AIG) K-12 students. These are students who are performing, or have the potential of performing, at high levels of accomplishment in intellectual and/or specific academic areas, such as reading and/or math when compared with other students of their age, or in their grade level, experience, or environment. The Falls Lake Academy AIG Plan outlines specific opportunities for differentiated, rigorous instruction and accelerated programs.

Other Student Services Available

- Differentiated curriculum and instruction with flexible student groups;
- Accelerated opportunities (subject and/or grade acceleration, credit by demonstrated mastery (CDM), AP/IB/CIE courses, dual enrollment courses;
- Enrichment experiences, which may be during the school day or beyond, and may be within the regular calendar year or may include summer opportunities; and
- Other opportunities for extension of content standard.



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Services for AIG students may be provided by AIG personnel or within the regular classroom by teachers trained to meet the needs of gifted students or by accredited online education programs.

Honors Level Courses

At Falls Lake Academy, students have access to a variety of honors level courses in high school. These courses are available in the [High School Course Guide](#). Honors level courses typically have a faster pace than standard level courses. They offer additional rigor, complexity and creativity than standard level courses.

Career and College Promise (CCP)

Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools offers dual enrollment opportunities through the CCP program. If your high school student qualifies, students may earn high school credit by completing community college coursework.

CCP courses may be taken in the College Transfer or Career and Technical Education pathway. These courses count for both high school and college credit. Tuition is free for families but families may be required to pay for books used in the class. For additional information please visit:

- College Credit Overview
- Additional information is available on the [NCDPI CCP website](#).

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses

Advanced Placement (AP) is a program developed by the College Board to offer college-level curricula and examinations to high school students. These courses are available in the [High School Course Guide](#)

Colleges and universities may likely offer college credit for these courses if your child scores a 3 or above on the exam. All of the colleges in the UNC System offer credit. More information is available on the [NCDPI AP website](#).



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	<u>NCVPS</u> North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS) is NC's state supplemental program and leader in online education, providing inclusive learning opportunities for students across the state. Founded in 2007, with a strong commitment to ensuring quality education for all students, regardless of location, NCVPS has over 16 years of experience serving diverse Learners. Students may enroll in NCVPS courses for a variety of reasons. Work with your school counselor if you are interested in taking NCVPS courses. Governor's School: Each summer, NC Governor's School offers a unique opportunity for high-achieving rising juniors and seniors to learn with their peers from across the state in an 4-week residential program at two college campus sites. For more information on eligibility and the application process, contact your school counselor or visit the Governor's School website, www.ncgovschool.org.
What school choices are available for my child?	Falls Lake Academy is a charter school. Charter schools are public schools of choice that are authorized by the State Board of Education and operated by independent non-profit boards of directors. State and local tax dollars are the primary funding sources for charter schools, which have open enrollment and cannot discriminate in admissions, associate with any religion or religious group, or charge-tuition. Additional information on charter schools can be found here: NC charter school. <u>Local District School</u> Students in public school districts are assigned to certain schools based on a local assignment plan approved by the Local Board of Education.



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	<u>Nonpublic Education and Scholarship Grants</u> Nonpublic education is overseen by the NC Department of Administration. For a list of private schools, visit this NC Private Schools. For information on how to start a homeschool visit: Homeschool Information Scholarship grant programs/voucher information is available via the NC State Education Assistance Authority
What rights do students with disabilities have based on the law?	For students suspected of or identified with a disability by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the following links provide important information regarding the procedural safeguards available to ensure a free, appropriate, public education. <u>IDEA Procedural Safeguards</u> Parent Rights Handbook Parent Rights Handbook (Spanish) IDEA Dispute Resolution Special Education Surrogate Parents



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	<u>Special Education Resources</u> NCDPI Exceptional Children Website NC Special Education Policy Manual Project Child Find Parents of students who may be in need of special educational services should contact the school office.
What is the contact information for the schools and district office?	Parents and guardians can contact Falls Lake Academy at (919) 964-9003 or by using the form on the FLA website. Falls Lake Academy School Website Falls Lake Academy Staff Directory
What are some resources to support my child's health and wellbeing? What immunizations are required and when should they be scheduled?	Falls Lake Academy provides the following information and resources to support your child's health and wellbeing: Student Health and Safety Policy Student Health Requirements Health Assessment Annual Health Assessment and Immunization Compliance Reporting Additional ways Falls Lake Academy supports students' health and wellbeing include: ● Promoting healthy snacks in the classroom. ● Providing food for students on campus ● Social Worker on campus ● Health curriculums focused on healthy snacks and meals



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Information on required health assessments and immunizations for students are available through the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS)

- [Immunizations](#)
- [Health Assessment](#)
- [CDC immunization schedule](#) recommendations
- Expected Immunization Schedules
 - [Kindergarten Entry Vaccine Requirements](#)
 - [Seventh Grade Entry Vaccine Requirements](#)
 - [Twelfth Grade Entry Vaccine Requirements](#)

Additional information can be found in the Falls Lake Academy Parent and Student Handbook.

Influenza is a virus spread from infected persons to the nose or throat of another. Influenza can cause fever, sore throat, chills, coughs, headache, and muscle aches. A yearly vaccination is available.

Meningococcal disease is a serious illness caused by bacteria. It is an infection of the brain and spinal cord coverings and can cause blood infections. The vaccine for this is required for individuals entering 7th grade or by the age of 12.

For more information on these and other vaccines go to:
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/vaccinesdiseases.html>

Short-Term Counseling Services

Every FLA student has access to small group or individual counseling services to address issues impacting students in the school environment. Contact your school's counselor or social worker to inquire about short-term services provided by one of these specialized instruction support staff members.