

FMCS New Student FAQ's

General Questions

Where can I find the most up to date information about our school?

All parents and family members are encouraged to read Eagle's Landing, our new Monthly Parent Newsletter. Eagle's Landing is sent out from our Head of School, Mrs. Winningham, monthly via email. It can also be accessed through our school website. This document is a "live" document which means it is frequently updated to provide our families with the most up-to-date information. If you have not received this electronic newsletter, please contact Mrs. Winningham at dwinningham@fmcs-fl.com to request a link to be sent to you.

What are the most important things to read to get to know our school policies and procedures?

All families are encouraged to read through our Student Handbook. A hard copy of the handbook was provided in your 2022-23 Folder, given out at Open House. Electronic copies can also be provided upon request.

Additionally, please review any class information or school syllabi provided by your student's teacher(s). We recommend creating a quick-reference FMCS "Binder" to keep in your family's personal documents. This binder may include our handbook, daily classroom procedures, Seesaw codes, and any other school information that is provided at Open House in your new school year folder, or information that is sent home from your student's teacher(s) on the first week of school.

What apps do I need to download?

All families are encouraged to download our Fort Myers Christian School, "FMCS Eagles" app which can be accessed from your personal mobile device app store. This app connects to our FACTS family portal, the main student information system we use for student records and financials. Please have your FACTS login credentials available for first-time use. (District Code is FM-FL)

Seesaw is another app we utilize for classroom interaction between our students, families and teachers. Your student's teacher will provide you with a Seesaw Account Code to add the app to your personal mobile device, tablet, or computer. There is a Seesaw Student app and a Seesaw Parent App. Please add the student app to your student's personal device (if used for school purposes) or to your home computer. The parent app can also be added to your device of choice and be shared with grandparents or other immediate family members who are regularly involved in your child's schooling.

Is my child required to have an iPad or personal device?

No—students in grades VPK-5th grade are not required to have a iPad or personal device, however, some teachers will encourage use of these devices for additional educational enrichment during or after-school hours when using school-approved programs like IXL or Accelerated Reader. Please speak with your student's teacher about their desire for recommended use of these devices.

Students in grade 6-8 are assigned a personal iPad for daily school use. Middle School students are required to bring their iPads to school daily.

Cell phones and smart watches are not permitted for use at school by any student. If your student has a personal cell phone we encourage them to leave it at home, or they will be required to submit it to an FMCS Staff Member at the front desk of the Middle School daily to avoid confiscation.

How do I contact my child's teacher?

Your child's teacher will provide their preferred means of communication at Open House. This may include contact via the Seesaw app or through a teacher's school email. All FMCS Faculty and Staff have an email account that they are required to regularly check. If there is an urgent need to reach a teacher during school hours, please contact our Front

Office at 239-939-4642 for immediate assistance. If you feel the need to discuss any in-depth matters related to your child, please contact your child's teacher directly to schedule an appointment to meet in-person or talk over the phone.

What if I need more help than my child's teacher can provide?

If you need assistance for any of the following matters, please contact these FMCS Staff Members:

Financial Questions or Step Up Scholarships- Please contact our Registrar, Michelle Maestas at mmaestas@fmcs-fl.com. Our Business Manager, Marilyn O'Brien, may also be available for finance-related questions at mobrien@fmcs-fl.com. Please be aware, questions related to your Step Up for Students award may also be directed to a Step Up for Students representative through the Step Up website, at www.stepupforstudents.org.

School-related concerns (academic or behavioral) – Please contact our Assistant Principal, Miss Angel Schreiber, at aschreiber@fmcs-fl.com or our Head of School, Mrs. Diane Winningham, at dwinningham@fmcs-fl.com

Arrival/Dismissal

What time is the school day?

For elementary students (Full Day K4-5th grades), our school day is 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Drop off begins at 8:00 a.m. and all students must be in their seats by 8:15 a.m. to start the school day. Any student that arrives after 8:15 a.m. will need to check-in at our front desk to receive a tardy slip. Dismissal begins at 2:40 p.m. and ends at 3:00 p.m. Any student that is not picked-up by 3:00 p.m. will be dismissed to after-care and families will be charged \$3 per hour for after-care services. Half-day VPK students are in school 8:00 a.m.-11:45 a.m.

Middle School students' school day is 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., however, dismissal begins at 3:00 p.m. for Middle School and ends by 3:15 p.m.

Where do I drop-off/pick-up my child?

Please review our new drop-off/pick-up map included in your school folder at Open House. PK4-1st grade students (and older siblings up to 5th grade) will be dropped-off/picked-up in Zone 1 (front of the Elementary School Children's Center—facing Summerlin Rd.) 2nd-5th grade students (with no younger siblings) will be dropped-off/picked-up in Zone 2 at the back of the Children's Center (under the portico across from the First Assembly Sanctuary.) Middle School students in grades 6-8 will be dropped-off/picked-up on the side of the Middle School buildings where the green sun shades are located. If you have both a younger student (VPK-5th grade) and a Middle School student (6-8), you will need to use the designated area for your younger student(s) FIRST and then drop off your Middle School student separately at the Middle School drop off area.

What if I have more than one student in different grades?

If you have multiple students (VPK-5th grade) please use the drop-off/pick-up zone of your YOUNGEST student. All students will depart from that location to their designated classes. If you have both a younger student (VPK-5th grade) and a Middle School student (6-8), you will need to use the designated area for your younger student(s) FIRST and then drop off your Middle School student separately at the Middle School drop off area.

Do I need a parking drop-off/pick-up hang tag?

Yes, all cars are required to have their hang tag displayed on their rearview mirror. Any vehicle that does not have a hang tag will be required to park and check-in at the front office and provide a government-issued ID for pick-up authorization. If you choose to walk-up to our building to pick-up your child, please be aware your child will NOT be released to your care without showing proof of your school-issued hang tag.

What if I need a new hang-tag?

If you need a new or additional hang-tag please speak with our Front Desk Receptionist, Victoria Thompson, at vthompson@fmcs-fl.com

Can I walk my child into school the first day? What about after the first day?

All parents and families are welcome to walk their child to class on the first day of school. After the first day of school, VPK students may be walked to class by a parent or guardian until the end of the first week of school. Kindergarten students may be walked to class for the first two days of school only.

After the first day of school, all other students will be required to use the car line or be walked to our front doors by a parent or guardian. We understand that walking your child to class may have been a prior routine in your family's morning, but for security reasons, we do request that all students utilize our car line or practice saying good bye to parents at our front doors. Additionally, while we encourage families to utilize our car line, if you choose to walk your child up to our school doors, please park in a designated parking space away from the car line and be very cautious of oncoming traffic, as we do not utilize traffic guards.

Please remember we have an "Open Door" policy to our parents and families. If you would like to spend more time at school with your child beyond drop-off and pick-up, we would LOVE for you to volunteer or join your child for Wednesday morning chapel services. Please ensure you have completed a background check in advance to volunteering.

Volunteering at School

All non-staff parents are required to complete 10-hours of volunteer service per student (with a maximum of 20 hours) by April 29, 2023. A completed volunteer form for each activity must be completed and turned in to our front desk receptionist at the Elementary School in order to log your completed volunteer hours. There are many ways to acquire volunteer hours! Parents and immediate family (with an authorized background check) can coordinate with their child's teacher for regular volunteer opportunities in-classroom as well as opportunities for take-home projects. Volunteers are also requested for in-school events; fieldtrips; extracurricular activities; and whole-school productions and/or special events. We welcome family involvement and would love to share with you the many ways your family can partner with FMCS through volunteering this school year.

After-Care

Do you provide before and after-care and what is the cost?

Yes! FMCS provides before and after-care for \$3 per hour. Care on normal operating school days do not require pre-registration and can be utilized on a drop-in basis. Families can set up a debit system for care-related charges in their family FACTS accounts OR charges will be billed monthly to the student account.

Before-School Program (for Elementary and Middle school students): 7:00 am to 8:00am or any portion thereof = \$3.00 per day *Located in the Elementary School Cafeteria (drop-off behind the Children's Center)

Elementary After School Program: 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm = \$3.00 per hour or any portion thereof *Located in the Elementary School Cafeteria (pick-up behind the Children's Center)

Middle School Aftercare: 3:15 pm to 6:00 pm = \$3.00 per hour or any portion thereof *Located in the Elementary School Cafeteria (pick-up behind the Children's Center)

On Half-days of school and in-service days (when classes are not held but staff are required to be at school), childcare is provided but MUST be pre-registered for in advance.

Half-day childcare for PK4 – 8th grade: 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm or any portion thereof = \$20.00 No cafeteria service available on half-days. You must provide a lunch for your child. On days we do not have school but do have childcare; charges are paid at time of service. \$20.00 half-day (8:00 - 12:00) or any portion thereof \$35.00 full day (8:00 – 6:00) or any portion thereof.

A registration form is required prior to half day or full day Aftercare; deadlines will be given by the Aftercare Director. Please note: Aftercare closes at 6:00 p.m. and additional charges of \$1.00 per minute will begin at 6:01 p.m. Before and After-school program charges will be charged monthly to your account, separately from tuition costs. Half-day and full-

day care program charges will be paid and collected at time of service. Monthly aftercare charges that are more than 15 days overdue are subject to a \$25.00 late fee each month. For more information please contact Aftercare Director, Key Patterson, at kpatterson@fmcs-fl.com .

How do I register my child for aftercare for the FIRST day of school (which is a half-day)?

Please contact Miss Key Patterson at kpatterson@fmcs-fl.com in advance to the first day of school to pre-register your child.

Being Prepared for the First Day of School

Do I need to provide any school supplies?

Full-day VPK students (half-day VPK is exempt) are required to purchase a supply kit from the school. Kits can be purchased in-person at our Elementary School Front Desk at Open House or during school hours. Students in grades K5-5th grade will be provided with a school supply kit that was included in the cost of tuition. All student supplies will be provided to your child's teacher. Additionally, families will be required to provide their student with a wearable backpack, reusable water bottle, and a lunch box. For additional supply items or wish-lists for each class, please check with your child's teacher.

Middle School students were also provided with a Middle School Supply List. Please check the Eagle's Landing Parent Newsletter for this information, or request a copy to be emailed to you from Mrs. Winningham at dwinningham@fmcs-fl.com .

What uniform does my child wear?

FMCS Students can purchase their uniforms through Zevada's Renegades in Fort Myers, or through our second-hand uniform shop located at the Middle School. Many families are experiencing back-order delays through Renegades. If you are waiting for your child's uniform to be delivered, please provide your child with a temporary uniform. Please have your child wear a generic uniform which can be purchased through most local department stores or online. Please have your child wear a generic red, hunter green, or navy blue polo shirt and generic khaki or navy bottoms (shorts, pants, skirts, or capris.) Skirts must be knee length. At the time your child's ordered uniform from Renegades is available, please discontinue wearing the generic clothing pieces. If you have any questions about your child's temporary uniform, please contact our administration for clarification. Please also refer to our official dress code policy as outlined in Eagle's Landing Parent Newsletter, and our Student Handbook.

How do I order hot lunch for my child?

Lunch must be ordered the night-before on your parent FACTS account from a desktop or on your FMCS Parent App for \$5. Parents are also welcome to pack a lunch for their child. Please include a healthy-snack in your child's lunch bag or backpack for grades VPK-2nd grades.