

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 will be provided in your 2023-24 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.

Parent partners are not permitted in the halls or classrooms without first checking in with the front office and receiving a sticker badge. This badge is printed after your ID has been scanned. Security badges must be worn at all times while on school property.

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 the Elementary 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. It is very important that the iPad is fully charged at the beginning of school each day.

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 if they are a Middle Schooler they will be required to submit it to an FMCS Staff Member at the front desk of the Middle School daily and returned at the end of the school day.

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 8:15a-2:40 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 8:15 a.m.-11:45 a.m.

Middle School students' school day is 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. 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?

Pink Zone.

Pre K- K

Facing Summerlin Rd

Blue Zone

1st-5th Zone.

Under the Portico

MS Zone

In Front of the Green Awning

Please review our new drop-off/pick-up map included in your school folder at Open House. PK4-K grade students (and older siblings up to 5th grade) will be dropped-off/picked-up in Zone 1, The Pink Zone (front of the Elementary School Children's Center—facing Summerlin Rd.). 1st -5th grade students (with no younger siblings) will be dropped-off/picked-up in Zone 2, The Blue Zone, 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 MS student first and then drop off your Elementary student separately at the Elementary drop off areas. This is due to MS students starting earlier.

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.

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

Yes, all cars are required to have a pick-up sign displayed on their dash. Any vehicle that does not have an FMCS Pick up sign 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 pick-up sign or ID. The signs are colored according to your pick-up location. Please see information above on the exact color for your family.

What if I need a new pick-up sign?

If you need a new or additional pick-up sign please speak with our Front Desk Receptionist, Victoria Thompson, at vthompson@fmcs-fl.com. Also, please make sure that any people that you want to pick up your child must be on the 'Pick Up' List in FACTS/RenWeb and must have a pick-up sign on their dash.

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 checked in the front of our buildings and are wearing a name tag..

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 May 3, 2024. A completed volunteer form for each activity must be completed and turned in to our front desk receptionist at the Elementary or Middle 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; field trips; 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 does 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 8:00 am 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 Teacher 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 lunch for your child. On days we do not have school but do have childcare. \$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. 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, Hunter Purks at hpurks@fmcs-fl.com .

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

Please contact Hunter Purks at hpurks@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 by 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 Schoolbelles Uniform Company. Students must wear uniforms from Schoolbelles only. A link to schoolbelles is found on the FMCS website under the 'Current Families' tab. If you have any questions about your child's 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?

This year we have contracted with Schooleatery, a company that utilizes our local restaurants for delivery of hot lunches to our campus each day. If you choose to order a hot lunch, you can do that via our FMCS website under the 'Current Families' tab. We will also provide opportunities to purchase healthy snacks for our Middle Schoolers, at multiple times each day. No longer will you go to FACTS/RenWeb to order your child's lunches.