

From Our Administration

Dear FA Parents,

As I reflect on this past year, I find myself overwhelmed with a myriad of thoughts. While this last year was one that will always be known for its pandemic, I am reminded of the positive events that found its way into a world of chaos. Yes! There are several positive events that have occurred in the past months! See--I believe that in order to overcome chaos, we need to always find ways to turn unpleasant events into opportunities of hope. This is called having a mindset of intentional and positive growth. In other words, in every situation we should ALWAYS name something to be thankful for! I have to admit, this was a challenge for me for this past school year on several occasions, but one that I was committed to live out daily. I experienced that even in the midst of losing a young family member in February, finding my voice of gratitude was healing. Without gratitude, my mind constantly had negative thoughts that swirled around for days, causing my daily actions to be negative. As a model to those around me, I had to purposefully find ways to be positive. Showing a grateful heart did just that! My prayer for each and every FA family member is that you have found ways to be grateful, even among a pandemic. Let us challenge one another to foster a daily mindset of gratitude that will bring us all to a deeper level of growth and positive outlook for the coming school year. *Name Your Gratitude!*

As we navigate this upcoming school year, each of us will need to exhibit a positive and grateful mindset daily. There will be several changes to the way we normally do school that will inevitably cause frustration and stress. These changes are necessary, in order to maintain the safety of our faculty/staff, students, and families. These are not suggestions, but requirements, and must be followed. I wanted to be as transparent as possible now to provide everyone ample time to work through these challenges and find opportunities to begin re-framing our mindsets. In the end, the adult actions to frustrating and stressful events will shape the minds and future actions of our younger generation.

In accordance with the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Department of Human Health Service (DHHS), and National Heritage Academies (NHA), the following guidelines will be put in place and enforced for the 2020-2021 school year:

- Social Distancing Guidelines:
 - Visitors are no longer allowed in the school building. This includes walking students to class, utilizing restroom facilities, visiting classrooms, visiting the school office, etc. Visitors needing to drop items off at school will need to ring the doorbell and inform the front secretary, then place items outside the front door.
 - The building has been marked with social distancing reminders throughout main waiting areas; Teachers will reconfigure classrooms to ensure spacing in between student desks; Lunch will be brought to the classrooms; Recess will ensure that students are placed in smaller groups daily.
 - Fall athletics (Volleyball and Soccer) are cancelled. We will revisit our sporting seasons after Winter Break to determine if Spring sports can occur.
- Minimizing Exposure Guidelines:
 - Forsyth Academy will be enforcing the 'Stay at Home' order, as recommended by the CDC. This means that if any person presents ANY symptom of COVID sickness, the faculty and staff have the right to send you home, require you to stay home for 10-14 days, and provide a negative test result.
 - All faculty/staff will be required to wear face masks during times where 6 feet distancing is not possible.



- *Face mask covering for students will be reviewed prior to school and remain in compliance with state orders.*
- To avoid the use of water fountains as much as possible, students are allowed to bring their own water bottles to school on a daily basis.
- **Daily Screenings:**
 - Due to daily screenings, there can be NO early drop offs in the morning (*continue reading to next bullet*).
 - Each child is required to be screened DAILY. This is probably the biggest challenge for next school year! A list of questions will be printed on the back of driveline cards for parents to access easily. When arriving to school, parents will need to form two lanes in the driveline and WAIT for a staff member to approach your car prior to allowing children to exit the car. Parents will be asked to answer the questions on the back of the driveline card, then a staff member will conduct a temperature check of your child(ren). *Prepare yourself with these questions now, to save time when asked by Faculty/staff.* To limit the possible exposure of sickness, NO ONE is allowed out of the car until cleared by the staff member. This means that driveline will be a little longer in the morning, and tardies will not be taken until later. Please be patient as the school is trying to ensure the safety of everyone on a daily basis. Please note, any child who presents *any* COVID symptom and/or shows a fever of 100.4 or higher is not allowed to attend school.
 - All Faculty/staff will be screened daily using the above method and guidelines.
- **Cleaning & Hygiene**
 - Hand sanitizer stations will be placed at all entrance/exit doors for daily use.
 - Teachers will be identifying times throughout the day for intentional 'sanitation checks and lessons'.
 - Sharing of student personal items and supplies will be greatly limited and/or sanitized throughout the day.
 - The school facility crew will wipe down shared 'touch-points' frequently throughout the day with a deep cleaning of the building at the end of each school day.
- **Coping & Resilience**
 - Our Faculty/Staff have been properly trained to support our families in the upcoming school year. Extensive training on the above procedures have been put in place, and our social workers are prepared to provide extra emotional support.
 - If you feel you need more support during this difficult time, please reach out to access resources for mental health and wellness (dialing 211 and Hope4NC Helpline at 1-855-3463)

It is my hope that providing these guidelines to you will provide a sense of calmness. Forsyth Academy is prepared to safely receive children and look forward to the day we can welcome our students back into the building! Over the past months, we have been preparing for the various ways school can reopen in the fall and feel confident that we are ready for whatever the Governor decides! However, as we wait to hear more from our Governor regarding school for next year, let me remind you to begin looking for those 'gratitude moments'. Let me help you begin by reminding you that if you are reading this....then you are alive! Being alive allows me to rejoice in all that I have, spend time with family, and see the newness in every opportunity. *Name your gratitude!*

Respectfully,

Mrs. Wendy Barajas, Principal

The mobile app for the NHA Parent Portal is available for free!

- Stay up to date on your child's grades and progress
- Fill out forms
- Manage lunch \$ balance
- Check the school calendar
- Email your child's teacher
- Find helpful resources
- Get notifications on updates
.....and more

Download the app today to get started! Available to download in the App Store for Apple & Google Play for Android.

Dismissal Procedure for 2020-2021

We will continue using our current Driveline procedure for dismissal. New numbers are issued every year for security. Please make sure to pick up your child's new number & cards during open house.

School dismisses at 3:15pm. In the interest of students' safety and teachers' preparation time, parents are asked to pick up their children immediately after dismissal and no later than 3:45pm. Any students remaining after 3:45pm will make an attempt to reach a parent for details regarding transportation. A \$20 dismissal fee will be charged to a parent whose child(ren) remains after school past 4:00 p.m. Parents will be required to sign out his/her child upon late dismissal, indicating the time the student left the school building (not when the parent arrived to campus or arrived in the late day line). The time the student leaves the building will indicate if payment should be rendered.



Parents will receive two verbal warnings for late pick-up. The school will contact Child Protective Services and/or the local authorities, without notice to the student's parents. Until any delinquent fee is paid in full, the following may apply:

- Parents will be required to pick up their student's class assignment, including middle school elective schedule
 - Progress Reports/Report Cards, including graduation documents, will be held
 - A student's participation in graduation or promotion ceremony/event will be denied
 - A student's participation in non-required field trips and/or field day will be denied
 - A student will be denied the option to purchase a school yearbook
 - A student will be denied the option to participate in school athletics
 - Only information necessary for grade or course registration will be sent for students who withdraw and enroll in another school
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Rising 7th Graders

We wanted to take the opportunity to remind you about immunization requirements that affect all students entering 7th grade. The requirement is for one dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) and one dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine, for all children entering the 7th grade who have not already received it. Please remember to ask your health care provider for a copy of your child's immunization (shot) record once it has been administered. Your child will need to bring a copy of the shot record to the school on the first day of 7th grade. Do not delay! Make sure your child is up-to-date on his/her immunizations prior to the start of the 7th grade school year.

Teacher Assignments Students in grades K-8 will receive their teacher assignments at Open House in August. We ask that you not call the office asking about teacher assignments prior to Open House. Our office staff will not have that information to share.

Open House We will be doing our open house different for this coming school year. All existing enrolled students and families are invited to a drive-thru open house on Tuesday, August 11th. Visitors to school campus must remain in their car and pull forward in the driveline, making a double line (all visitors must remain in their car at all times). A staff member will meet you at your car to pick up completed household forms and provide you with your child's teacher assignment and elective schedule (Prior to open house, you will be mailed a packet of forms that must be completed and dropped off during open house). The schedule is as follows:

Grades 1-2 Drive Thru from 3:00-4:30 p.m.

Grades 3-5 Drive Thru from 4:30-6:00 p.m.

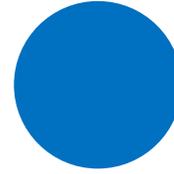
Grades 6-8 Drive Thru from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

A second open house is scheduled for all **NEW families** enrolling at Forsyth Academy. Visitors entering the parking lot will be asked to park in a designated space and tune to a specific radio station to hear a presentation. All visitors must remain in their car for the entire duration of the presentation. The schedule is as follows:

Thursday, August 6th (**English-Speaking Families Session**) :

Kindergarten 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Grades 1-8 6:00-7:30 p.m.



Friday, August 7th (**Spanish-Speaking Families Session**):

Kindergarten 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Grades 1-8 6:00-7:30 p.m.

School Session Hours School is in session from 8:15-3:15. Students may be dropped off no earlier than 7:45 and must be picked up no later than 3:45. A student is considered tardy if they are not in their classroom seat by 8:15 and/or if they are checked out earlier than the 3:15 dismissal time. In order to protect the integrity of your child's education and to utilize every minute of instructional time possible, it is our request that students remain in school the entire school day. We take the education of our students very seriously at Forsyth Academy, and we strive to accomplish our vision: to better educate more children.

School Security and COVID-19 Safety For the continued safety and security of all of our students and faculty, there are several procedures that will be put in place for the 2020-2021 school year. It is important to read through each item and make the necessary arrangements moving forward:

- No visitors are allowed into the school building for ANY reason (this includes walking children to classrooms, dropping off items, using the restroom facilities, checking out children, etc.) When visitors arrive to the front door, we will be using the video monitoring system to conduct all business. In addition, Forsyth Academy will no longer have a parent room. This is now needed for more classroom space for intervention and SPED students to meet their service needs.
- All conferences must be done via phone or email. There is no exception to this rule. Visitors are not allowed to 'drop by' the school in hopes of meeting any faculty/staff member, Dean or Principal.
- Students are no longer allowed to be checked out for early dismissal after 1:30 p.m. on a regular day and 10:30 a.m. for any other early dismissal days. A doctor's note or appointment card will now be required for **check-out.** This is to ensure that we meet the social distancing guidelines set by the CDC.

First Day of School Our first day of school for the 2020-2021 school year will be Monday, August 17th. Our normal school hours are 8:15-3:15. However, on the first two days of school (Monday, August 17th and Tuesday, August 18th), our kindergarten classes will attend 1/2 days. On those two days, our kindergarten classes will dismiss at 11:45. This only applies to the first two days of school and to our kindergarten classes only. We realize that such a transition into a full day school setting may be hard on our younger ones, so we hope that the transition may be made more smoothly with this schedule.

Absent on the First Day of School If your student cannot be in attendance on the first day of school, a call MUST be placed to the school office detailing the reason for the absence no later than 8:30 am on Monday, August 17th. If a call is not received and your student is not in attendance, then you will forfeit your student's seat at Forsyth Academy, and the seat will be given to the next person on the Waiting List. It is imperative that you make the school office aware if your child will not be present, for any reason, on the first day of school.

Free/Reduced Application and Breakfast/Lunch Information

- * Forsyth Academy participates in the National Federal Lunch program yearly. This program has strict guidelines regarding required nutrition for each student. Due to this, Forsyth Academy can no longer allow fast food to be delivered and/or dropped off for students to consume, and reserves the right to deny these items (or any items that look like fast food) into the building.
- * The online portal to complete Free and Reduced lunch applications are now available for 2020-2021. To submit a Free or Reduced Lunch application, please go to <http://mealapps.nhaschools.com>. Please make sure that you apply for this program prior to the first day of school. A new form MUST be completed each new school year; these forms do NOT carry over from year to year and do not transfer from other schools. Each completed meal form helps YOUR school receive vital funding!!
- * Lunch money must be received in the office no later than 9:00 a.m. in order for lunch money to be applied to that day. Money received after 9:00 a.m. will be applied on the next school day. Payments can be made to your child's lunch account by going to www.mypaymentplus.com. However, please note, the online system takes 24 hours for the lunch money to process into the child's account. You will not be able to pay online and have the money applied on the same day.
- * Monthly breakfast & lunch menus can be found on our website, www.forsythacademy.org.
- * The full price for lunch for the 2020-2021 school year is \$3.05, and the reduced price for lunch will remain at \$0.40. The price for milk only will be \$0.40. The full price for breakfast for the 2020-2021 school year will remain \$1.60, and reduced price for breakfast will remain free.
- * Breakfast will be served daily from 7:45 - 8:00 am.
- * Students must be in school by 10:30 am in order to sign up for a school lunch. Students arriving after 10:30 am must have a home lunch with them.

Contact Information

Forsyth Academy
5426 Shattalon Drive
Winston-Salem, NC 27106
Phone: 336-922-1121
Fax: 336-922-1033
www.forsythacademy.org

Principal: Mrs. Barajas
Dean of Grades K-2: Mrs. Harnsberger
Dean of Grades 3-5: Ms. Cannon
Dean of Grades 6-8: Mrs. Watson
Dean of Intervention & EC: Mrs. Blevins
Registrar: Ms. Rivera
Office Administrator: Mrs. Yambó

Information Tools

We send home monthly newsletters from the office, post information on our website (www.forsythacademy.org), post updates on our facebook page (make sure you "like" Forsyth Academy), and SchoolMessenger messages. The "SchoolMessenger" messaging system makes phone calls and sends text messages to make parents aware of upcoming activities, schedule changes, school closings, etc. One of our administrative team members will place a "Sunday Night SchoolMessenger" phone call and/or text to your phone number every Sunday night detailing the announcements for the upcoming week. Please make sure that your correct phone number is on file in the school office. It is our goal to help parents stay informed!!!

Medication Forms

A 2020-2021 medication form must be completed by a physician in order for any type of medication to administered at school. *Students are not permitted to have any type of medication on their person unless the appropriate documentation is on file in the office. This includes, but is not limited, to pain relievers, cough drops, inhalers.* Please see one of our office team members for a 2020-2021 medication form.

Walk Home Release Form

We have several students who walk home from school each afternoon. A 2020-2021 Walk Home Release Form must be completed by a parent/guardian BEFORE a student will be allowed to walk home. Student has to walk off campus otherwise he or she must follow the driveline procedures. These forms are in the main school office.

Important Dates...

- 08/06** New Family Open House (English)
- 08/07** New Family Open House (Spanish)
- 08/11** Open House
- 08/17** First Day of School
1/2 day for Kindergarten
- 08/18** 1/2 day for Kindergarten
- 09/07** No School (Labor Day)
- 09/25** Jean Day for \$1

Jean Days...

We use "Jean Days" as a fundraiser for our various grade levels and departments. Students are allowed to wear any color jeans (without any holes or tears) to school on those designated days if they bring in \$1.00. All scholars are still required to wear a uniform shirt, school spirit shirt or a college-themed shirt. Designated Jean Days will be listed on the monthly calendars.