



FJA Weekly Newsletter • Week of August 1, 2022

Welcome Back Snow Wolves!

A Message from FJA Director Carissa Morrison (a.k.a. “Dr. Mo”)

It's hard to believe that the first day of school is less than a week away. The start of a new school year always brings many emotions—excitement... nerves... anticipation. You name it, and someone within our FJA community is feeling it. Families, please know that FJA Assistant Director Kristin Patterson and I—along with the entire FJA staff—recognize the varied emotions that children bring with them to the beginning of the school year. We will maintain a mindful approach when working with your child. We pledge to see your child as a whole person, not just a student, these first few days of school and throughout the entire year. We also commit to having a joyful and academically engaging year. We are committed to serving your children to the best of our abilities. I look forward to an amazing year. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly with any questions, concerns, or ideas.

FJA 2022–2023 Safe Return to School Plan

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the state of Arizona requires that each school develop a Safe Return to School Plan and have its school board revisit the plan at least every six months through September 2023. The FJA Governing Board revisited our Safe Return to School Plan at its August 3rd meeting. You can find the plan in its entirety on our website, or just click the link below:

<https://fjacademy.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Flagstaff-Junior-Academy-Safe-Return-to-In-Person-Instruction-Plan-Rev.-8.3.22.pdf>

We ask that all families take the time to read the 2022–2023 FJA Safe Return to School Plan as it outlines logistics and COVID-19 mitigation measures. The plan may be adjusted depending upon community needs.

Meet the Teacher Event

On Tuesday, August 9th from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., families are invited to come to both FJA campuses and meet teachers and staff. We know that a new school year is a transition, especially for students new to FJA. We hope this event will help children feel more at ease when walking through their classroom doors on Wednesday morning.

FJA Cedar Drop-Off and Pick-Up Information

FJA is committed to making pick-up and drop-off as safe and as efficient as possible while being respectful of our neighbors.

Morning Drop-Off: For the first day of school, families are welcome to park and escort children into their classrooms at 8:00 a.m. to help them get settled. Starting on Thursday, August 11th, staff will be in the parking area to help students safely and quickly get out of cars and direct them to the playground for morning playtime from 8:00 to 8:15 a.m. Parents or guardians who need to visit the office or check in with their child's teacher are always welcome to skip the drop-off line, park nearby, and walk their child onto campus. We ask that families do not arrive before 7:55 a.m.

Afternoon Pick-Up: This year, to maintain safety, reduce traffic congestion, and provide time for students to pack up at the end of the day, our parking area will be closed from 2:30 to 2:50 pm. If you arrive early, and there are open parking spaces in the lot, you are welcome to park and wait for your student. We are also encouraging parents to park on the street or at Jay Lively until our pick-up line opens. Please don't block driveways, park illegally/park in parking spaces that don't belong to FJA.

Our office staff has made student name cards to place on your dashboard as you go through the pick-up line. This will help us get your student to your vehicle as quickly as possible to minimize wait time and keep the dismissal line moving. To request additional cards for guardians or family members who often pick up your student, please email Anna Chase at annachase@fjacademy.com.

FJA Bonito Drop-Off and Pick-Up Information

Morning Drop-Off: Students should enter and exit the building through our gymnasium entrance on Thorpe Avenue. School doors open each morning at 7:45 a.m. (staff supervision is not available beforehand), and school starts promptly at 8:00 a.m. Please have your child develop strong attendance habits and arrive on time.

Afternoon Pick-Up: Students are dismissed at 3:15 p.m., and we ask that all students are picked up from our Thorpe Avenue gym entrance by 3:30 p.m.

Sign Your Child Up for Optional Pooled COVID Testing

FJA will participate in the School Pooled Testing Initiative for students in kindergarten and older, administered by Concentric and the Arizona Department of Health Services. Pooled testing will begin on August 24, 2022. This initiative is free to all Arizona schools.

Opting your child in for pooled testing only takes 3–5 minutes. Click the following link to sign up your child: <https://testcenter.concentricbyginkgo.com/minor-consent>.

Enter the following access code: FJA2021

If you signed up your child for pooled testing last year, no action is needed.

Your child already has permission to participate.

How It Works: First, families of students will “opt-in” their child(ren). Then, as part of pooled testing, each participating student does a simple short nose swab each week. All swabs from one classroom are sent out to the lab for screening. The results for each classroom pool of swabs comes back usually within 24–36 hours and provides valuable information about the status of COVID health and wellness in our school.

Screening testing identifies infected people, including those with or without symptoms (or before development of symptoms) who may be contagious, so that measures can be taken to prevent further transmission. Find more information about pooled testing here: <https://www.concentricbyginkgo.com>.

Upcoming Important Dates

Wednesday, July 10th: First Day of School!, Half Day/Early Dismissal

Tuesday, August 23rd: Cedar Campus Family Information Night, 6 p.m.

Thursday, August 25th: Bonito Campus Family Information Night, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, September 7th: Monthly Governing Board Meeting, 5 p.m. at Cedar Campus

Friday, September 9th: Back-to-School BBQ

The Week in Pictures:





We've been busy polishing floors, painting, carpet cleaning, repairing signage, landscaping, planting, and preparing classrooms. Thank you to all of our staff for pitching in before the first contract day even began. And thanks also to John and Lois Neff, Twilight Janitorial, Quality Connections, Bob Bax at Bax Custom Painting, and Brian Rees at Wild Landscape for making our campuses their priority this past month!