

Friendship Christian School

Back to School Guide

2023-2024



Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and
keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

Ecclesiastes 12:13



FRIENDSHIP

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

TO LEARN | TO LOVE | TO SERVE

FCS Family,

Thank you for choosing to partner with FCS for the education of your child. This Back-to-School Guide is meant to give an overview of the key items to note as we prepare for a new year. Please read through it, let us know if you have any unanswered questions, and keep this document as a resource for the school year.

The theme for our staff and faculty this year is "**Be Thou my Vision**" from the classic hymn which came into being around 1919 when the world was full of hurt and heartache. It was not an easy time to be alive. This hymn, built on an old Irish tune, brought a depth of doctrinal truth embodied in the line, "...*whatever befall, still be Thou my vision, O Ruler of all.*" and helped many keep a Christ-centered worldview.

This year, we will be focusing on building and having a Biblical worldview. As Christians, we are called to see this life through the eyes of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ. We must think like Him and see everything through His eyes. This alone allows us, too, to say ~ whatever befall.

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." ~ Ecclesiastes 12:13

This verse is the cornerstone of the Christian life. If we fear God and keep His commandments, everything else will be in line with living a life like Christ. We must rededicate ourselves to this simple focus.

As the physical manifestation of God, Jesus made it clear that he came to do the will of His Father and became a servant. This is the example we will seek to live out and teach our students. Our highest purpose is **to learn** about Christ, **to love** like Christ, and **to serve** like Christ. All that we do, we do **For Christ!**

After a quiet summer of preparing for a new school year, we are excited to welcome our students and families. As we get back into the routine of school, please don't hesitate to reach out and let us know if you have suggestions or ideas that would help us better accomplish our mission of training servants For Christ. Together, we will plant seeds that God can grow and use to bring His light into this dark and hurting world.

David McClain
Head of School

Vision

To do everything **For Christ**.

Mission

To assist and support parents in building a foundation that points each child toward their need of a personal savior in Jesus Christ, teaches them to see everything through the lens of a Biblical worldview, and develops their God-given potential to build a life of service to the Lord.

Expected Student Outcomes

1. Academically, students will. . .

- receive a thorough instruction in the arts and sciences that they might develop to the glory of God spiritually, socially, mentally, and physically.
- develop a keen understanding of the fundamentals of a Biblical worldview.
- work effectively with perseverance to reach his full potential.
- be challenged to think independently and to skillfully apply knowledge with wisdom.
- be shown how to develop in themselves the proper character traits which are necessary preparations for living a life of service to God.
- choose activities that make them more like Christ and lend themselves toward a life of service to others.
- learn the importance of self-respect, self discipline, and responsibility.

2. Spiritually, students will. . .

- understand their need of a personal savior in Jesus Christ.
- see the importance of a personal commitment to Jesus Christ in their walk of Bible reading, prayer, church attendance, witness, and active Christian service.
- recognize the Bible as the infallible Word of God; a practical guide to life and living; and the basis of all morals, values, and standards of a Christian's life.
- know the centrality of Jesus Christ in all areas of life and the purpose of life being to follow His example of servanthood.
- be challenged to stand alone, if necessary, to protect their Christian convictions.
- know how to apply the principles of faith which lead to yielding to God in submission and obedience to His will as revealed in the Bible on a daily basis.
- respect all things pertaining to God ~ His name and His word.

3. Socially, students will. . .

- acknowledge God's will for them to live a life of service to others.
- experience the fulfillment that comes from serving others selflessly.
- desire to use their education and talents to better serve others.
- see the value of others as God's creation valued by Him through the death of Jesus Christ.
- seek to include others in a world that excludes.



Administration

President	Bob Vradenburgh	
Head of School	David McClain	dmcclain@friendshipchristian.net
Elementary Principal	Joy Raley	jralley@friendshipchristian.net
Academic Principal	Ellen Olson	eolson@friendshipchristian.net

Key Contacts

Admissions / Office	Sherry Bovard	fcsmail@friendshipchristian.net
Specialized Learning Center	Renee Hemric	rhemric@friendshipchristian.net
Athletics	Evan Brondyke	ebrondyke@friendshipchristian.net
Student Life	Rebekah Boehme	rboehme@friendshipchristian.net
Dean of Women	Carmen Frazier	cfrazier@friendshipchristian.net
Dean of Men	Corey Tahtinen	ctahtinen@friendshipchristian.net
Cafeteria	Cara Harrison	charrison@friendshipchristian.net
Fine Arts	Barbara Walston	bwalston@friendshipchristian.net
International Students / College	Grace Meng	gmeng@friendshipchristian.net
Technology		itadmins@friendshipchristian.net

FACTS Family Portal and App

FACTS enables parents and students to effectively monitor educational progress and to access important school information and announcements. Parents may also update family information via the [FACTS Family Portal](#).

New families will need to set up their account first (see the link below). Students may also set up their own log-in for the account. Returning families should just use their previous log in information. Contact the office if you need help.

[Directions for setting up FACTS Family Portal account and downloading the FACTS Family App.](#)

For questions and information regarding access to FACTS, email: fcsmail@friendshipchristian.net

Contacting Your Child's Teacher

- The best way to reach your child's teacher during the day with non-urgent information is through email.
- Teachers will communicate assignments and announcements through FACTS or on Google Classroom.
- Elementary parents will receive weekly newsletters with class specific information.



Key Upcoming Dates and Events

July

Athletic Parent Meeting	24th	7:00 p.m.
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(highly recommended for parents/guardians of FCS Athletes).

August

6th-12th Grades Orientation*	14th	6:30 p.m.
Elementary Orientation*	15th	6:00 p.m.
First Day of School 9th-12th	16th	7:40 a.m. - 2:55 p.m.
First Day of School TK4-8th	17th	Regular hours
Back to School Event	25th	after school - 9 p.m.

September

Middle School Field Trips	8th
9th and 12th Grade Retreat	11th - 12th
10th and 11th Grade Field Trips	13th - 16th
Individual and Class Pictures	19th

*Orientations

- All parents and students are invited to attend an evening Orientation to receive important information for the school year, but this is most important for new students, rising 6th graders, and rising 9th graders.
- This is in place of the Open House structure from previous years.
 - A presentation by the Head of School to address important updates
 - Specific information from teachers about their class procedures and expectations
 - Dropping off of school supplies
 - Reception in the Welcome Center with an opportunity to fellowship with other Falcon Families
 - Q&A time with the Administration
 - Front office will be open for questions or for parents to drop off medication or any paperwork that is still needed

Spirit Store & FCS Wear

- The Spirit Store will be open online at various times throughout the school year.
- Parents will be notified of open store dates via email.
- PE uniforms are available for sale via the Spirit Store in addition to FCS wear.
- Elementary students will also need to purchase an activity shirt at the start of the year.
- For questions and information regarding the spirit store or athletic wear, please contact Evan Brondyke, Athletic Director, at: ebrondyke@friendshipchristian.net

School Supply Lists

[2023-2024 School Supply Lists by Grade](#)



First Days of School

- The first day of school for 9th - 12th grades is August 16, 2023.
- The first day of school for TK4 - 8th grades is August 17, 2023.
- All school events can be found on the [event calendar](#) on our [website](#).

Schedules*

Elementary School

TK4-5th grades begin school at 7:55 a.m.

TK4-5th grades dismiss school at 2:35 p.m.

***Times subject to adjustment**

6th-12th

7:40 - 8:35	1st Period
8:40 - 9:30	2nd Period
9:35 - 10:25	3rd Period
10:30 - 11:20	4th Period
11:25 - 12:15	5th Period
12:15 - 12:40	Lunch
12:45 - 1:25	6th Period
1:30 - 2:10	7th Period
2:15 - 2:55	8th Period

Chapel Information

- Chapel Day is Thursdays for 6th-12th Grades.
- No [chapel dress](#) required (6th-12th) on August 17th.
- [Chapel dress](#) will be required (6th-12th) on the 24th.
- Elementary chapel schedules are still to be determined.
- Elementary students are not required to wear chapel dress.

Handbook and Forms

For a list of most forms necessary for each student during the school year, please refer to our [website](#).





Standard of Dress

- All students are expected to dress in adherence to FCS's guidelines.
- For a breakdown of the standard of dress by elementary, middle, and high school, please review the requirements listed in the [Standard of Dress Guide](#).
- Students will enjoy periodic Dress Down Days where they will be allowed to purchase a wristband and dress down according to the guidelines in the [Standard of Dress Guide](#).
- For new 9th-12th grade students, all rising 9th graders, and anyone who needs/wants one, house t-shirts will be available for purchase from the office.
- Contact rboehme@friendshipchristian.net for more information about high school houses and house shirts.

Health Record Updates

Please make sure your health records are up to date. These are specific state requirements in the following grade levels:

TK4 [Immunization Requirements](#) and [physical](#) within the last year

TK4 [NC State required paperwork](#) (Required by the state to be turned in the first day of school)

K5 [Immunization requirements](#) and [physical](#) within the last year

7th [Immunization requirements](#) Typically, a 1st dose of Meningococcal and TDAP is needed.

12th [Immunization requirements](#) Typically, the 2nd dose of Meningococcal is needed.

Contact fcsmail@friendshipchristian.net with any questions.

Emergency Communication

FCS will use the FACTS Parent Alert to notify parents of delays, closings, and emergencies. Notifications will be delivered via email and text message. Upon acceptance of admission, new families are added to the FACTS system using the contact information provided in the admissions process.

If your email account(s) and mobile phone number(s) are correct but you do not receive a FACTS emergency message, please check your spam folder, mark the message appropriately and update your email address book. School closures and schedule changes will also be noted on our website and WRAL (usually).

It is crucial that you ensure that all household and personal information is correct in FACTS Parent Portal and keep it updated regularly.



Student Parking

- Students parking on campus are required to complete a [Student Driving Form](#) for the current school year.
- Students who drive to campus will be required to park in the assigned student parking lot.

General Parking Lot Safety

- Do not be distracted by a cell phone.
- Drive slowly and carefully with full awareness.
- Watch for pedestrians crossing the parking lot.
- Comply with all directions of staff and faculty.
- Be courteous of cars behind you and **pull forward as far as possible when space is available.**
- Drivers should never exit your vehicle in the drop off circle.
- Pull as close to the curb as possible in the drop off circle to allow vehicles to exit to the left.
- Students should only exit vehicles from the passenger side to avoid being hit by passing vehicles.

Late Arrivals:

TK4 - K5 Students

- Parent must park, walk them in to the front office, and sign them in to class.
- An office member will walk them to class. Please do your best to avoid being late.

1st-12th Students

- May sign themselves in at the front office (C building).

6th-12th Students

- Will earn detention after 5 tardies to school per quarter.
- Intentionally avoiding signing in at the office will be treated as lying and receive further discipline.

Early Departures:

- If it is necessary for your child to leave school early please let the teacher and office know ahead of time (email is the preferred method of communicating this).
- Students will be released to parents/guardians or others noted as approved for pickup in the FACTS Parent Portal (personal identification will be needed (e.g. valid driver's license/photo ID)).

After Care Students:

- Students registered for After School Care will go directly to the MPR (cafeteria) to be checked in.
- Students not attending After School Care will report to their designated carpool area. See assigned areas on map below.
- Students not picked up by a parent within 15 minutes of dismissal will also be taken to after care in the MPR (cafeteria) where a parent will need to sign them out (charges apply).
- Students must either be picked up or go to after care. Students who attempt to avoid going to after care by hiding or going off campus without permission will face disciplinary action.



Arrival and Departure from Campus

Morning Drop Off: NOTE: We ask that parents not enter the classrooms/buildings during morning drop off.

TK4

- Students must be dropped off and picked up in person at the classroom.
- Park in the spaces along the sidewalk along A31 (see maps below) for drop off and pick up.

K5-12th Grades have two options:

- Pull into the drop off circle and drop student off students on the sidewalk.
- Park in one of the lower parking lots and walk student to the front door.
- K5 - Enter classroom directly
- 1st - 5th - Enter C Building main door and go directly to their classroom
- 6th - 12th - Report to first period classroom
- Note: Some MS/HS students will need to drop off instruments in the A building or sports bags in the gym before heading to class. They are still expected to be in class before the bell rings for 1st period.

Afternoon Car Lines:

TK4

- Students must be dropped off and picked up in person at the classroom.
- Park in the spaces along the sidewalk along A31 (see maps below) for drop off and pick up.

K5-5th Grades

- Fill both lanes in the traffic loop.
- Wait for a signal from the traffic director to proceed forward and out of the parking lot.
- Families will be issued carpool signs with their child/children's name during open house.
- Display the carpool sign when going through the carpool line. Staff will announce your child's name and direct him or her to the correct vehicle. If you need a sign, please contact your child's teacher.
- Be patient over the first few days as we work to be certain that all students are going home with approved pick ups. Once the year gets rolling, things will go much quicker.

6th-8th Grades

- If arriving before 2:55 pm dismissal, please park along the fence by the soccer field and up to the entrance to the traffic loop at the bottom of the hill at the end of the C building.
- Once elementary car line is over, you will be directed to pull forward into the traffic loop.
- **Form only ONE line** closest to the curb.
- Once your student(s) is in your car, carefully pull out and leave the parking lot.
- If a car in front of you leaves, please pull forward to allow those behind you to move up.
- *Watch carefully for moving students.*

9th-12th Grades

- Please park along the fence by the soccer field or in one of the open parking spots in the lower parking lot.
- High school students will be dismissed out the end of the C building by the grassy hill and allowed to leave independently or find you where you are parked.

Families with students in multiple grades:

- Please pick up younger students first and then get back into the correct line for the older siblings.
OR
- Park in an open parking space to wait for them to walk to you.



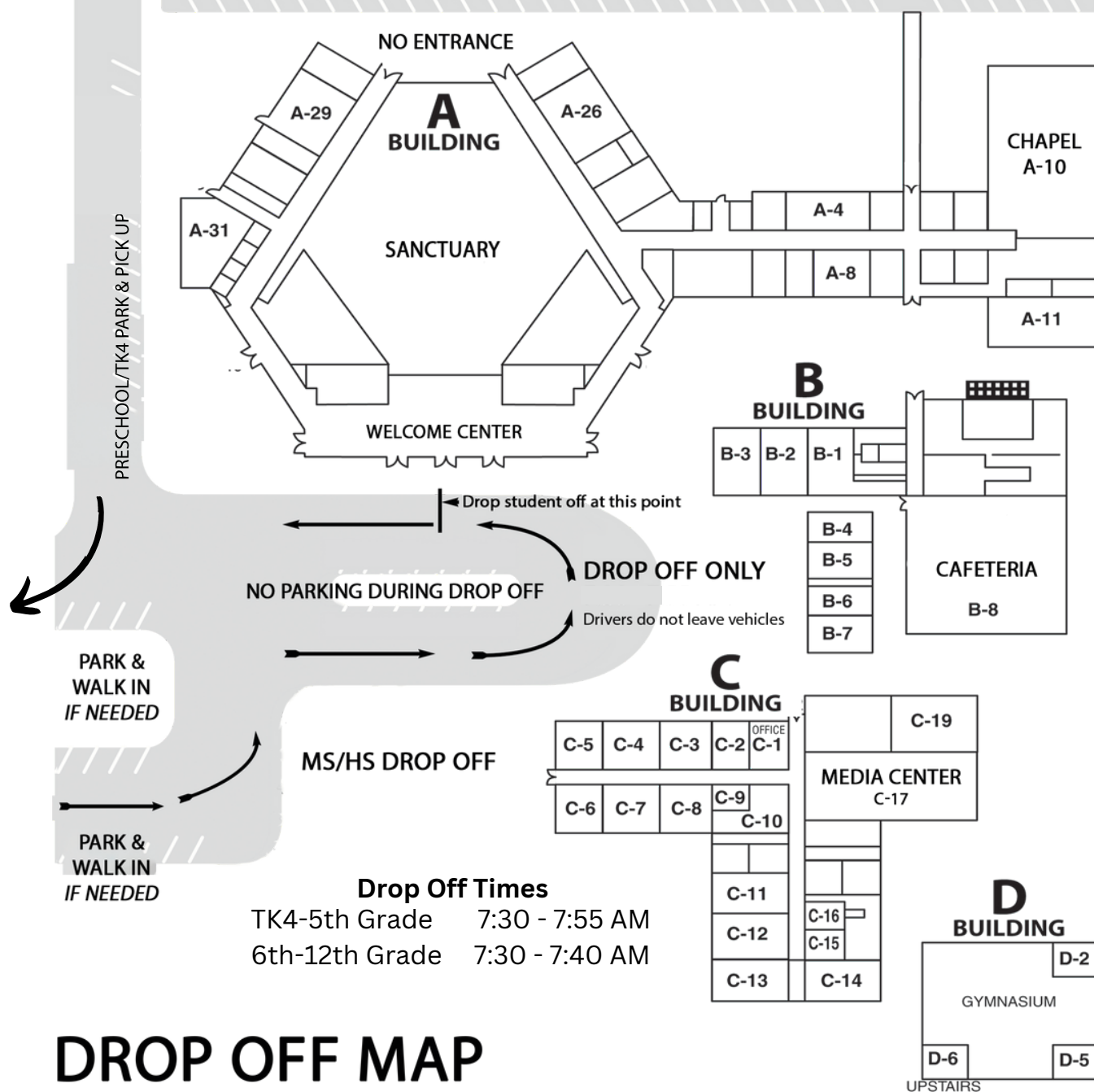
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FALLS OF THE NEUSE ROAD

FACILITY
ENTRANCE

FACILITY
ENTRANCE



DROP OFF MAP



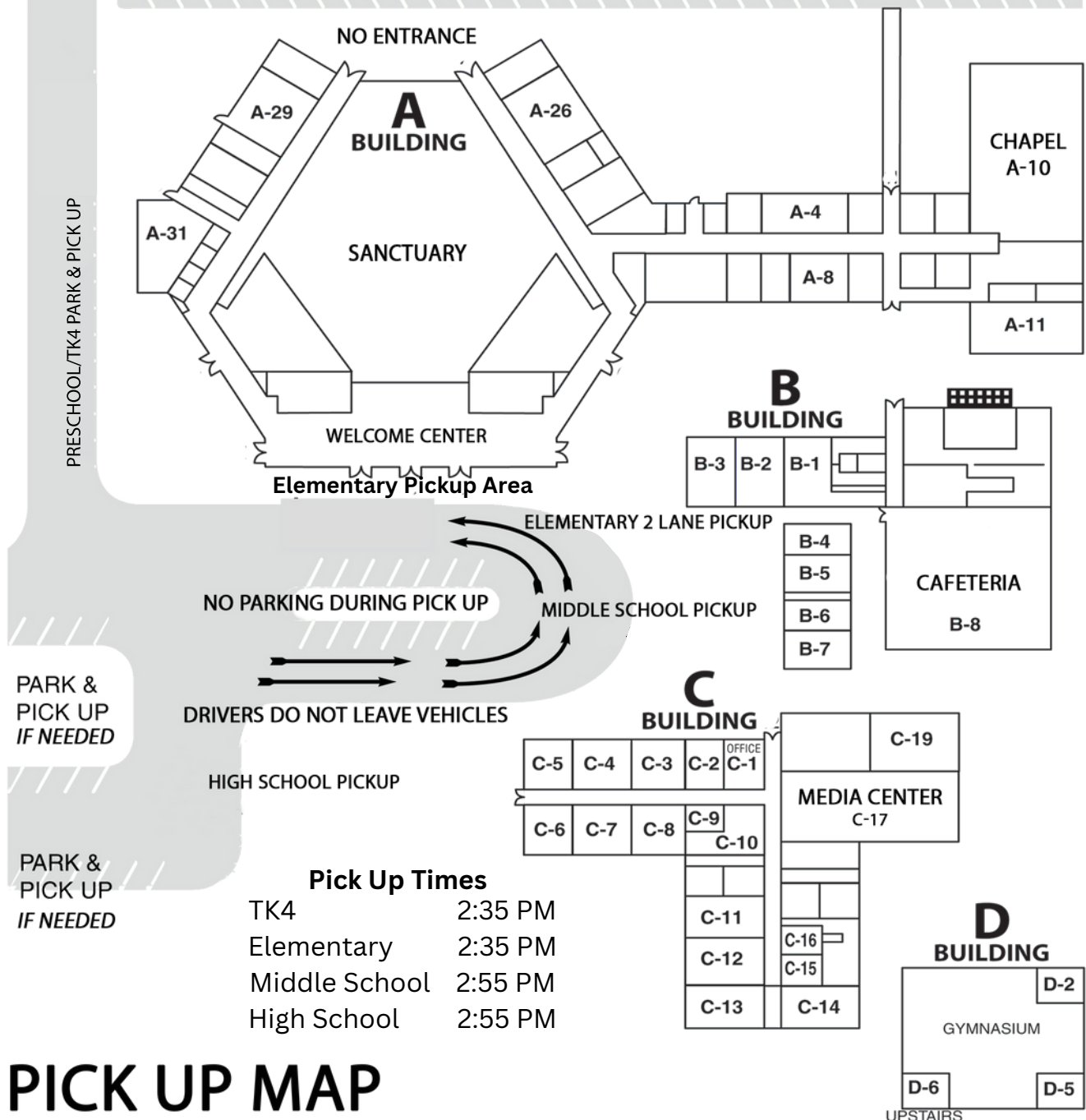
FRIENDSHIP

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

FALLS OF THE NEUSE ROAD

FACILITY
ENTRANCE

FACILITY
ENTRANCE



PICK UP MAP



Athletics

FCS is pleased to provide athletic extra-curricular activities. Below is a list of the teams offered by season. Practice times for each team are determined by the Athletic Director. General athletic information can be found on the [athletic website](#).

Fall / Winter / Spring

- **Fall Sports**
 - Soccer (Boys Varsity & Middle)
 - Volleyball (Girls Varsity & JV & Middle)
 - Cross Country (Coed Varsity)
- **Winter Sports**
 - Basketball (Boys Varsity & JV & Middle)
 - Basketball (Girls Varsity & Middle)
 - Cheerleading (Girls Varsity)
- **Spring Sports**
 - Baseball (Boys Varsity & Middle)
 - Soccer (Girls Varsity & Middle)
 - Golf (Boys Varsity)
- **Team Divisions**
 - Varsity Teams: 9th-12th Grades
 - May also include 7th and 8th Grades
 - Junior Varsity Teams: 9th-11th Grades
 - May also include 7th and 8th Grades
 - Middle School Teams: 5th-8th Grades

Important FCS Falcons Athletics information for Fall 2023.

If you are planning to try out for any of the following sports, please read each point carefully!

Varsity Boys Soccer (9th-12th) - July 31
JV and Varsity Girls Volleyball (9th-12th) - July 31
Middle School Boys Soccer (5th-8th) - August 7
Middle School Girls Volleyball (5th-8th) - August 7
Cross Country (coed, 7th-12th) - August 7

Athlete Registration

- Please visit our [Activity Registration site](#) in order to complete your registration. New athletes will need to create an account.
- Schedule your athletic physical ASAP! Do not wait until the last moment. Doctor's offices are filling up quickly.
- Pre-participation Physical paperwork is included in the registration process during Step 4. Please use the provided documents. I've also provided it attached. After you complete your athletic physical, you will submit that document on this site. We do not handle hard copies.
 - Here is an option for \$10 physical appointments at [Ortho NC](#).
 - This **MUST** be completed **before** the first days of tryouts.

Fall Preseason Schedule

This schedule contains all the dates/times of Fall Athletics preseason activities, including tryout times/dates.

Fall Game Schedules

Game schedules are now posted to our [FCS Athletics website](#)!

Transcript Requests

Ellen Olson serves as the Academic Principal. Please contact her concerning high school academic requirements or Grace Meng for information about college admissions.

To request a transcript, complete the [Transcript Request Form](#) or contact the office at: fcsmail@friendshipchristian.net

Please include the following information with your request:

- Your full name and year of graduation (or last year attended)
- The name of the college or place you need the transcript sent to.
- The address where the transcript should be mailed or the email address if you would like it emailed.

Christian Service Hours

- Each high school student is required to volunteer at a school, church, in the community, etc. a minimum of 6 hours per semester.
- Hours completed **after June 2nd** may be submitted for the first semester.
- Christian service hours for the fall semester must be submitted before the fall semester exams.
- Second semester hours must be submitted before final exams.
- The required due dates will be announced continuously throughout each semester in chapels and morning announcements.
- Christian service hours submitted late will not be accepted.
- Completion of Christian Service Hours counts as 30% of the Bible Exam Grade.
- Completed hours may be submitted to the office any time using the [Christian Service Hours Form](#).

The following do not qualify for Christian service hours:

1. Receiving compensation of any kind – monetary, food, gifts, etc...
2. Detentions or any form of school discipline
3. Babysitting for individual families
4. Self-improvement workshops
5. Service performed during normal school hours (exception: Walk Event)
6. Rehearsal or practice times after school

The following do qualify for Christian service hours:

1. Volunteer work at a nursing home, rescue mission, thrift store, etc
2. Nursery at church or children's church (morning or evening)
3. Mission trip
4. Volunteering at school for various duties outside of school hours (approved in advance)
5. Tutoring (after school) (approved in advance)
6. Passing out tracts
7. Youth group outreach
8. Vacation Bible School
9. Helping in Kids for Truth
10. Special Olympics
11. Working with church's children choirs or children hand bells

Polices and Procedures

After School Care

- After School Care is available for all students, kindergarten - twelfth grade from after dismissal/car line- 6:00 p.m.
- Students will be taken to the MPR (cafeteria) and may purchase a snack or bring one from home.
- Students will have time to play indoors and on the playground and work on homework.
- Students must be picked-up from the MPR (cafeteria) by 6:00 p.m. to avoid extra charges.

Cost for After School Care:

Student	Yearly Fee	Late fee
Full time (2:50-6:00)	\$2,000.00	\$1.00/min after 6:00
Part time (2:50-4:30)	\$1,400.00	\$1.00/min after 6:00
Daily rate	\$20.00 until 4:30	
	\$30.00 until 6:00	\$1.00/min after 6:00

Contact the office, fcsmail@friendshipchristian.net, with any questions.

Physical Education

Elementary students

- Wear PE uniform to school along with appropriate attire listed in the [Standard of Dress Guide](#) for boys/girls pants, on their designated PE day.

Middle school students and 9th grade

- Change into their PE uniform on the designated day for their class.

All students

- Required to wear/bring a clean, non-marking pair of tennis shoes for PE.

Additional uniforms may be purchased from the team store when the link is active or by contacting the office.

Ordering Lunches

- Parents can make payments, place orders, and review purchased lunch items through the [FACTS Family Portal](#).
- Instructions for ordering hot lunches will be sent to all families before school starts.
- Snacks and drinks will be available for cash purchase during lunch.
- Same day purchasing of lunches will not be available.
- Please direct questions to charrison@friendshipchristian.net.



Visitor Policy

All visitors must sign in at the office in the C building and receive/wear a visitor's badge while on campus.

Dropping Off Items

- Students will **not** be allowed to order mobile food delivery (Grub Hub, Door Dash, Uber Eats, etc.) during the day.
- Forgotten items (including lunch boxes) may be dropped off at the front office.

Student Phone Policy

Elementary Students

- There is no need for any elementary student to have a cell phone on campus for any reason.

Middle School Students

- Middle school students may have cell phones on campus, but they must be off and put away in a locker or bookbag.
- If they are seen or heard, they will be confiscated and taken to the office.

High School Students

- May have phones on campus, but they may not be seen or heard except during lunch.
- Students are not to make any calls from their phone unless given permission and when in the front office.

Smartwatches (all students):

- May only be used to tell time.
- If being used in any other way or becoming a distraction, it will be confiscated and taken to the front office.

Refer to the handbook for more specifics and applicable discipline.

Technology

All Students

- When using school managed Chromebooks, students are only allowed to be on a page/site as directed by the teacher.
- Students are never allowed to download any content without specific directions by a teacher.
- Students are NOT allowed to bring/use their own device with the exceptions of the specific guidelines about cell phones/smartwatches in the section above.
- Please direct questions to itadmins@friendshipchristian.net.

High School Students (each student will be given a Chromebook in a Bump Armor case)

- Responsible for any damage to assigned device.
- Responsible to keep device charged and ready for use in class whenever required.
 - Students will NOT be allowed to charge the device during class.
- Responsible for any activity/searches on assigned device.
- Device usage is actively monitored by FCS administration.

Further specifics will be given during first days of school.

How Can You Support FCS?

- [Donate](#) to allow our ministry to be able to offer more financial aid for students and families who want to join the Falcon Family, work to improve and upgrade our educational program, and to allow us to appreciate our faculty and staff for all the hard work they put in.
- Do you know any corporate sponsors who might donate? Contact Mr. McClain at dmcclain@friendshipchristian.net.
- Join the Parents of Friendship group on scheduled mornings to pray for the ministry and staff.
 - Dates will be sent out along with more information about how to be involved with Parents of Friendship.
- Attend the scheduled State of the School: Parent/Admin meetings.
 - Dates/times will be sent out at the beginning of the semester.
 - 3 will be scheduled per semester (2 in the mornings and 1 in the evening).
- [Sign up for your FACTS Family Portal account and download the free FACTS Family App.](#)
- Stay involved in classroom and on-campus activities and provide consistent home support to your student. **It is crucial that you read the emails sent from teachers and the school.**
- Be familiar with our Parent-Student Handbook and our Athletic and Band Handbook (if applicable) and adhere to the guidelines within.
- Maintain clear lines of communication with teachers and staff.
- Comply with all FCS health, wellness, and safety protocols.
 - Keep students home when they are not feeling well or showing signs of illness.
 - If the student has vomiting and/or diarrhea, the student must stay home.
 - Teach your children proper hand washing:
 - Proper hand washing is the most essential health and hygiene habit you can teach your child.
 - Training your child to properly and regularly wash their hands will help our efforts to remain healthy.
 - Teach your children to cover sneezes and coughs:
 - When sneezing or coughing, train your child to practice the habit of covering his or mouth and nose with a tissue or into his or her arm if a tissue is not available.
- Teach your child that the most important thing to learn in life is to fear God and keep His commandments.

Please send any questions to
fcsmail@friendshipchristian.net