

# The Patriot Press

K-12 Tuition - Free Public Charter School:

Creating Community-Minded Leaders

March 2024

## Celebrating our Patriots!

Our Patriots have been working hard and sharpening their skills (and colored pencils)! Our budding artists have much to celebrate. Here are just a few examples:

Hila C., a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student, was awarded the 10<sup>th</sup> place prize for her submission into the NCDOT Division of Aviation Artwork contest. Hila's piece was selected out of 1600+ pieces from students all over NC. Congratulations, Hila!

Students in K-5<sup>th</sup> grade are being showcased at Waterworks Art Gallery in Salisbury. The show is ongoing now until March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Take time to visit the gallery to see our student's work, along with other elementary artists in Rowan County. Our 13 students will be honored with a reception on March 13 from 5:00-6:30. The students being showcased are Kaleigh Beasley, Emma Blais, Madelyn Blymer, Erin Downs, Aubrey Fox, Naomi Haynes, Haddie Ingram, Isabelle Jenkins, Cheyenne Miller, Lydia Morton, Eden Osborne and Ella Wall.

Also, being showcased this month are the talents of our Middle and High School Theater Arts Students. Our young thespians have been preparing their Spring performance. This season's show will be a selection of short scenes directed by our very own students. The shows are being offered as two performances for two nights, March 21 and March 22. If you haven't reserved your seats, take a moment to do that now.

Click here to secure your reservation:

<http://tinyurl.com/4a59fzn3>

## FACS Parent Teacher Organization is ready!

Congratulations to our PTO Board members:

Jennifer Beasley- President

Shelly Riley- Vice President

Christin Funderburk- Secretary

Samantha Rebello- Treasurer

Sheena Dietz- PTO Volunteer Coordinator

Lindsay Sharp- Staff Appreciation Chair

Andrea Woods-Family Events Coordinator

## PTO (Includes all families and teachers)

The Board has met twice and is planning to meet monthly for the remainder of the year. The first general PTO meeting for all FACS parents and staff will be held on Sunday, March 17 at 3:00 pm in the Auditorium (Main Building, Original Campus). Everyone is invited to join for this meeting to share ideas and vision for the months ahead and future goals.

The first ever FACS PTO fundraiser is set to begin. Flyers were sent home with all students on Thursday, March 7. These flyers must be signed and returned to your child's homeroom teacher. Please return signed forms on Tuesday, March 12. More details will be shared at the General Meeting on March 17, so please make plans to be there. Chocolate boxes will be sent home with students the week of March 18. The sale will last two weeks. Our goal is to sell 800 boxes of chocolates! Please help us reach our goal of at least one box sold per child!

PTO stands for Parent-Teacher Organization, which means that families and staff are encouraged to join the PTO so that we can utilize everyone's talents for the good of the school. PTO membership will be \$5.00 per person. Forms will be available at the General PTO meeting on Sunday, March 17 and will be sent home for all families.



## Fun Times at FACS

Thursday, March 7 was a day of celebration for the staff and students. Students were treated to a slice of birthday cake for Dr. Seuss' birthday. We are extremely grateful to Debbie Suggs for her culinary expertise and to our phenomenal servers. We love it when the Cat in the Hat shows up!

During Kindness Week, classrooms participated in a poster contest to show ways that they can share kindness with others. As the judges moved through the hallways to judge, it was evident that there was one winner for the contest: The entire school. The students showed their compassion and empathy, along with their creativity. To reward the students and staff for such an amazing week, the Kona Ice Truck came to give everyone a cool treat before the long weekend!!

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Ends

We hope you are enjoying the start to your long weekend as we finish the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter. This year is moving rapidly towards the finish line. To recap the learning that took place this past quarter, our students will lead conferences with their families. All families are asked to join us on Monday, March 25 between 1:30 and 4:30 pm. Your child's classroom teacher will send a note for specific sign up directions for his/her classroom. We look forward to sharing the wonderful things your children have participated in over the last nine weeks.

## Yearbooks on sale until April 5<sup>th</sup>

This year has definitely been one of the record books for FACS. Mrs. Drury and Ms. Ritchie have been hard at work capturing special moments to record it all. If you would like to purchase a yearbook to keep these memories for your family please use this link. Yearbooks are \$40 each.

<https://www.yearbookordercenter.com/index.cfm/job/24844>

## 2024-2025 LOTTERY

The lottery for next school year will be held on Monday, March 18 at 5:00 PM. Zoom link will be available on the FACS website.

## New Dismissal Procedure- starting 3/19/24

We are greatly appreciative of everyone's efforts to learn our traffic pattern at the new building. As a whole, we move 650+ cars in and out of the line in 30 minutes. Overall, it is a very efficient process, but we have one problem that remains...stopped traffic on Faith Rd. One reason for this traffic is due to all cars coming at the same time, prior to the line starts moving for dismissal at 3:05. In the morning, cars flow smoothly because cars come throughout the arrival time of 7:30-7:55. In the afternoon, the majority of cars come between 2:45 and 3:10 and dismissal begins at 3:05.

Due to these concerns, we have had NCDOT take drone footage and to observe our procedures. The feedback was positive- the process is efficient and moves smoothly, the drivers are cooperative and try to keep a steady flow. The recommendation, to alleviate the backup on Faith Rd. is to separate the Middle/High School student pick up from the families of K-5, similar to how it was on the original campus.

A detailed map will be given to all car riders/students next week and will also be available on the school website. The new procedure will be for K-5 students and their older siblings to be picked up along Patriot Path at the back of the building (as the car rider line currently exists). Students in 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade will be picked up in front of the school after the buses have loaded. 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> students will be dismissed from 3:10-3:30. Cars will not begin pulling on to the parking lot until 3:10 (after bus dismissal- Do not line up on Main St.) At 3:10, cars will pull in to the main parking lot off of Main St, then proceed to "snake" through the parking lot. A line of 12 cars will be directed, by a staff member, to the curb for MS/HS to enter their car. Cars will then exit the front of the school by Gardner St.



# The Patriot Press

Faith Academy Charter School: Creating Community-Minded Leaders

July 2024

## Happy 4th

We hope all families had a safe and festive holiday! It was great to see many of you at the festivities. A huge shout-out to the staff, students and families that volunteered to serve food, sell tickets and t-shirts and ride in the parade. It is great to be part of such a patriotic and caring community.



## Calling all Kindergarten Families

All Kindergarten students and their parents/guardians are invited to join us on July 26th for our first annual **Kindergarten Camp**. The 2-hour camp is designed to give students an opportunity to play and learn in the school environment, while providing the parents/guardians an opportunity to meet staff/personnel and have all of their questions answered. Families may choose to attend the morning session or the afternoon session. Use the link below to sign up for one session. [Kindergarten Camp Sign Up](#)

## New Patriot Night

On Tuesday, July 30, from 5:00-7:00 pm, all new families to Faith Academy Charter School (K-10) are invited to join us for our New Patriot Night. Visit both the Lower (K-8) and Upper (HS) Buildings to meet some staff and to get acclimated to the buildings. This is an opportunity for students and families to get to know each other and make new friends in our school community. Come out and join us for some fun!



## Infinite Campus

Faith Academy Charter School, and NC Dept. of Public Instruction, will be implementing a new platform this school year. The platform will replace Powerschool as its Student Information System, Home Messaging system, and Learning Management system. The transfer to Infinite Campus has begun and soon it will be time for families to do your part. An email will be sent out to families in the coming weeks with a link and user code for each child. *We ask all families to use the information to create an Infinite Campus account and to verify your child(ren)'s information.* All students must have an account created by families prior to the start of school on Aug. 12. If you have any trouble connecting with Infinite Campus, please call the school office to speak with Mrs. Moore or Mr. Mitchell.

## 24-25 School Calendar and Attendance

The school calendar for the year is available on our school website ([www.faithacademync.org](http://www.faithacademync.org)) Please note that our **early release** day is now on **Friday**. Monday through Thursday will be full school days.

The instructional day for HS students will be 7:30-2:30 (M-Th) and 7:30-12:30 (F)

The instructional day for ES/MS students will be 8:00-3:00 (M-Th) and 8:00-1:00 (F).

Student attendance is required by law. Families will receive a letter when a child misses 3 days, 6 days and 10 days. After 10 days of absence, parents /guardians will be required to attend a conference with the Lead Administrator. Any student that misses 10 consecutive days of school will be withdrawn from attendance at Faith Academy Charter School.

## Arrival and Dismissal Times

All families are asked to line up in the assigned areas between the times listed. No early line ups will be permitted. By adhering to the assigned times, traffic flow will remain constant.

HS Drop Off (Upper School Circle)- 7:05-7:25

ES/MS Drop Off (Lower School/Patriot Path)- 7:30-7:55

HS Pick Up (Upper School Circle)- 2:30-2:55

ES (K-3 and Siblings) (Patriot Path)- 3:00-3:25

ES/MS (4th-8th Gr.) (Front Parking Lot)- 3:10-3:25

## Open House

All families (returning and new) are invited to attend **Open House on Thursday, Aug. 8th from 4:30-7:00 pm**. Open House is the time for students and families to meet the new teachers for the year, find your new classrooms, receive your schedule for the year, receive new car rider tags and bus information, visit former teachers/classrooms and connect with new/old friends.

## Orgs Online

Your voices have been heard! Our lunch ordering system this past year was not user friendly. We have employed a new company that will make lunch ordering much easier. "Orgs online" is the system that will organize our daily menus. Families will be able to order lunches one month in advance. Our vendors will continue to be Debbie Suggs Catering, Pizza, El Patron and Chick-Fil-A. Be on the lookout for information on setting up a family account with Orgs Online.

## HS BYOD Policy

High School students will be able to bring their own laptop this school year according to our Bring-Your-Own-Device policy (BYOD). Devices will be used daily to complete assignments. Students that do not have their own device will be provided a device from the school.

Students bringing their own device must meet the following requirements:

- Wireless Internet Access
- Keyboard
- Minimum 13" screen
- Minimum Intel i3 processor or AMD equivalent
- Camera and microphone
- Must be able to install and run software (iPads, and other tablets that cannot install and run software will not be permitted)

## Bus Information

School buses will run two limited routes for ES and MS/HS this year. Families that have selected to ride the bus have received information regarding your student's bus stop and route. If you were put on the waiting list, you have also received an email.

## School Improvement Team

Our School Improvement Team is in need of Family Representatives. We would like 2 representatives for each grade span (ES/MS/HS). Interested parents are asked to sign up on the attached link prior to July 19. A ballot will be created for parents to vote on representatives. The School Improvement Team will meet monthly on the 2nd Friday afternoon from 1:45-3:15.

[School Improvement Representative Link](#)

## Scheduling for MS/HS

Students in Middle School are given the choice of Exploratory Classes. 6th-9th grade students are required to take one semester of Physical Education. They may choose from Visual Arts, Life Skills, Band, Theater Arts, Technology. When a child chooses Band, he/she will be assigned to Band for two semesters. Returning students selected their classes in the Spring. New 6th-9th grade students need to complete a selection using the following link. Please do not use this link if your child attend FACS in the 23-24 school year. Only 6th-8th grade students that will be newly enrolled for 24-25 should use this link:

[New Middle School Student Exploratory Choices](#)

Newly enrolled HS students will receive an email from Mr. Mitchell, HS Principal, to request their class choices.

## Faith Academy Charter School Board

Our Faith Academy Charter School Board deserves all of the credit for the success of our school. The seven board members have been diligently working behind the scenes since 2020 to bring the school from concept to reality. We are extremely grateful to George Wilhelm, Gene Miller, Liz Morrow, Chris Sease, Nick Lefko, Janna Griggs, Tim Williams and former member Howard Torrence for their years of dedication.

At the end of the 23-24 school year, three members completed their first term of service. We are forever indebted to *Janna Griggs, Chris Sease and Tim Williams* for their countless hours of work in the planning and creation of our charter school. Kudos on a job well-done!! We look forward to having you in our school community for years to come.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our five new board members: *Mark Brinkley, Sherri Halpin, John Hudson, Robert Leslie, Somer Stanley*. We appreciate your willingness to serve our school community.