



Dear Parents and Students,

Greetings from FSWC! We are getting ready to get back to school and we are very excited to start the 2025-2026 school year! The purpose of this letter is to share some of the more common questions that often are asked before our doors open to students on August 11th.

PRESCHOOL:

GR 9/10 SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS – Students are reminded that their summer book assignment is due on the first day of classes. Assignments received after this date will be subject to our grading policy for late submissions. Please be reminded that the assessments related to your assigned book will be the first graded assignments in your English class so please have a strong start in your important ELA course. If you have any questions, please contact your English teacher directly by email at: Grade 9 Barbara.Teitelzweig@fsw.edu and Grade 10 Hilary.Davey@fsw.edu.

GR 9/10 PRESCHOOL INFORMAL OPEN HOUSE- There will be no “formal” Open House program; however, **9th and 10th grade families are welcome to stop in from 6-7 pm on Thursday, August 7th** if students would like to: 1) pick up a paper copy of their course schedule; 2) walk the halls and identify each classroom if they are new; 3) receive their School ID; 4) purchase a PE uniform - \$25 for t-shirt and shorts combo or \$15 each; and 5) request a bus pass for special circumstances. Student schedules will be visible in Focus but please understand they are subject to change prior to the first day of school.

FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL:

GR 9/10 - Grade 9/10 students will be starting school on **Monday, August 11, 2025**. The high school day begins at 7:30 am and ends at 1:45 pm. Students may enter the building at 7am and report to the cafeteria until the first bell rings at 7:25 am.

GR 9/10 ABSENCE & ATTENDANCE LINE - If your student is absent for classes, **please call 941-637-5673 to report the absence** to our Attendance Coordinator, Mrs. Thibault. You may also email her at Bobbiejo.Thibault@fsw.edu. If you know that your child will be out of school for an extended time because of illness or other reasons, please let us know in advance so that teachers can be made aware. Students who have been reported by parents as excused may reach out to teachers directly through email for missing assignments while out excused. An excused absence provides a student 2 days upon his/her return for each day absent to make up assignments with no deduction from the earned grade. Please keep in mind that missed tests and quizzes should be made up during after school “extended learning” time so that current instruction is not missed once the student returns. Long term projects and assignments are due on the assignment due date regardless if the student is absent and can be emailed or uploaded to Canvas to ensure it is not considered late. Please take a close look at our school calendar and try to arrange your vacation plans accordingly as we feel it is very important that our students are in school. ***All unexcused absences may result in a 30% deduction from the earned grade for work made up so it is important to report all school absences WITHIN 2 days of the absence.***

GR 9/10 1st BUC PRIDE DAY - our first Friday (August 15th) includes a casual school day with most of the day dedicated to building school spirit, forming new friendships, and simply having some fun! It is a tradition here at FSWC and we really want our students to show their Buc PRIDE and be willing to participate in indoor and outdoor games/challenges. Students are encouraged to wear their school "Class of" t-shirts with comfortable clothing and shoes, bring hats and/or sunglasses and sunscreen, and a fillable water bottle to school on Friday, August 15th. There will be a modified bell schedule with suspended regular classes to accommodate school spirit games on this day that include both indoor and outdoor events.

Gr 9/10 BUS TRANSPORTATION - Charlotte County Public Schools (CCPS) provides our bus transportation. Our students whose geographical zone is Port Charlotte or Englewood are offered "cluster stops" - this means that group stops are provided in common areas such as behind PCMS, CTC, and LAAMS. Our students who are zoned for CHS simply ride their buses to CHS and hop on a shuttle bus that brings them here. Bus information should be visible in Focus by August 1st by selecting the "My Information" tab and then selecting the "Transportation" tab with route information. If you need help identifying your child's bus information, please call Crystal Steed at 941-637-5673 or email her at Crystal.Steed@fsw.edu. Mrs. Steed is also your contact person for special bus passes needed for student athletes and those with a 2nd address for a co-parenting household. If you experience transportation problems in the first weeks of the school year, please notify her so that she can help resolve the issue. Please keep in mind that we do not set the route schedules and bus stops. You may be directed to the CCPS Transportation Department if we cannot help resolve your challenges.

GR 9/10 DROP OFF AND PICK UP FOR PARENTS- Please follow the signs and the directions of the college public safety officials. We are recommending parents use the entrance closest to the PicklePlex area from Florida Street and stay in the first row to the left as you enter the parking lot to avoid PicklePlex traffic. Students who arrive prior to 7:00 am will be asked to sit outside and our front door will be unlocked at 7:00 am for students to sit in the cafeteria until they head to their first period classrooms at 7:30 am for the Pledge of Allegiance, morning announcements, and a moment of silence.

GR 10 DUAL SOPHOMORES – You should remain in the high school cafeteria at one of the first four tables towards the entrance during your DE class time until your class begins on the 25th or 26th. You will be provided a date and time prior to classes starting that you can pick up your textbook from the Bookstore. Keep in mind that you **must ALWAYS sign out and sign back in when you head over to the college during your dual class time.** There are only five approved locations at the college campus besides your classroom that you are granted access to including: the FSW Library, FSW Academic Success Center, FSW Student Services J Building, College Bookstore, or College Cafeteria. You may NOT leave campus for any reason during your college DE class time as a sophomore including for lunch.

Dual Sophomore Mandatory Student Meeting – Tues., Aug. 12th during 3rd period in the HS Cafeteria.

GR 9/10 ID'S & DRESS CODE – All FSWC students will be provided with a free school ID and lanyard that **MUST be visibly worn each school day inside the building.** The school ID lanyard must be worn around the neck and clearly visible at all times during the school day. Students **MUST** show their ID to enter the building, receive a school lunch, and check out a textbook or school laptop. If a student needs to replace his/her high school ID, the replacement fee is \$5.

We expect that all students will come to school dressed appropriately every day and consider it vital to maintaining an environment focused on student learning. Please help us by ensuring your student arrives to school in clothing that meets the dress code guidelines so there is no interruption to her/his learning to address attire. We may ask students to put on a t-shirt or athletic shorts if we deem their attire to be out of school dress code that day. We do allow shorts/skirts/dresses that are mid-thigh in length (approx. 3 inches above the knee). We ask that ripped jeans do not include areas that expose the skin above mid-thigh as well. We do NOT allow spaghetti straps, strapless tops, or crop tops. Hats and head coverings are allowed outdoors only. In addition, pajama pants, house slippers, and blankets are meant for home and are not allowed at school. Parents: we need your help in this! We want to focus on daily academic lessons and not dress code violations. Please don't accept the "Everybody wears this." or "They don't care." response when you question it. Help your student select school appropriate attire to avoid any dress code violations.

Gr 9/10 LUNCH SERVICE – We are excited to share that we will again be offering daily hot and cold school lunch options prepared by Canteen, our food service vendor, for \$7 per meal. Parents must **pre-purchase** daily lunch passes through Hometown Ticketing at:

<https://fsw.hometownticketing.com/embed/all?schools=4>. Options exist for lunches to be purchased in quantities of 10, 20 and 40 at a time for your convenience. Lunches **MUST** be pre-purchased and cannot be paid for at a later date. You will be provided a QR code for your student to show and scan for a daily lunch. Mrs. Steed has emailed out to parents our ***Application for Free or Reduced Lunches*** and a paper copy can be picked up at school. Please understand that we are NOT affiliated with Champs Café so if you have another child at a different public school within CCPS, please know that their lunch system is not the same as ours. Please call or email Mrs. Steed at Crystal.steed@fsw.edu for any questions about our lunch program.

GR 9/10 MEDICATION POLICY - If your child needs to take prescription or over-the-counter medication during the school day, it will be under the supervision of our Front Office Staff Members: Bobbie Jo Thibault, Crystal Steed or Rita Lease. As a reminder, FSWC does ***not*** have a School Nurse. A parent should personally deliver the medication to the school and present a completed medication form signed by a parent for OTC meds and by a parent and a doctor for prescription meds. A phone call will not suffice for the dispensing of medications - even if for over-the-counter medications such as headache/pain relievers, cold medicine, and indigestion relievers. Forms are available in our front office or can be requested by email to rita.lease@fsw.edu.

GR 9/10 PHYSICAL EDUCATION UNIFORMS - If your child is participating in HOPE or a PE class, it is a requirement to wear a school PE uniform. The cost of a PE uniform will be \$25 for a t-shirt and shorts combo or \$15 each for a t-shirt or shorts individually. They will be available for purchase at Open House and during the first two weeks of school.

GR 9/10 SCHOOL CLOSURES - It is important for you to know about our school closure policy due to inclement weather. We are operated by Florida SouthWestern State College in Fort Myers, but we are located in Charlotte County; therefore, we must follow both Charlotte County and Florida SouthWestern State College. This means that **IF CHARLOTTE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS OR FLORIDA SOUTHWESTERN STATE COLLEGE ANNOUNCE AN EMERGENCY**

CLOSING, WE ARE LIKELY CLOSED. Emergency closure information will be communicated directly to all parents.

Gr 9/10 SCHOOL SUPPLIES/APPROVED CALCULATORS –Teachers will be letting students know on the first day what supplies are needed for their class. These will include traditional school supplies. Please consider purchasing a scientific calculator with a **one-line** display if you have not already. Scientific calculators with a two-line display and a fraction mode are NOT permitted on the state end of course exams so we want our students to be familiar with the proper calculators all school year. Texas instrument TI-30Xa is the most commonly sold approved calculator. It is typically less than \$15.

Gr 9/10 STUDENTS STAYING AFTER SCHOOL- The school day ends at 1:45 pm each day and *students are expected to leave campus at the end of the school day unless they are working with a specific teacher, attending a club meeting/event, or reporting to a structured Study Hall until 3pm.* There is no after school supervision provided except for school club activities or Study Hall that meet from 2:00– 3:00 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, or Fridays. Students are required to leave campus immediately when the club or activity dismisses. Students should be waiting for parent pick up on the benches in front of our school – NOT at the college. After school on Tuesdays are reserved for faculty meetings and students are required to leave the building immediately after the school day ends on Tuesdays. Our dual enrolled sophomore students may head over to the college campus after school with written parental permission to utilize the library but may NOT loiter on campus in areas unauthorized. *Our HS Students may NOT hang out at the college after school and are subject to disciplinary consequences if this occurs as they are in an “unauthorized area” on the college campus. High school students do NOT belong on the college campus after school – there is no supervision provided.*

The Boys and Girls Club of Charlotte County does offer an after-school supervision site for high school students. They will be sharing information at our Open House on Aug. 7th.

GR 11/12 DUAL ENROLLMENT CLASSES OPENING DAY - College classes begin on Monday, *August 25th* (This also includes Grade 10 students who have a college DE class).

COLLEGE TEXTBOOKS: The Bookstore Manager is currently working to ensure your books will be ready prior to classes beginning and will be sending us specific pick up times based on your last name to avoid huge lines and delays for you. We'll share out those dates and times just as soon as he provides them to us.

Junior Class of 2027 Mandatory Student Meeting – Friday, Aug. 22nd at 12:00 pm in the FSW Auditorium.

Senior Class of 2026 Pictures – Tuesday, July 29th in the HS Cafeteria. Mrs. Platt has sent information to seniors and senior parents regarding senior pictures.

Senior Class of 2026 Mandatory Student Meeting – Friday, Aug. 22nd at 1:00 pm in the FSW Auditorium.

Gr 11/12 LUNCH SERVICE: We are excited to share that we will again be offering a daily hot and cold school lunch option prepared by Canteen, our food service vendor, for \$7 per meal. This is a high school lunch option only available in the high school cafeteria (not the college's cafeteria). Parents must pre-purchase daily lunch passes through Hometown Ticketing at:

<https://fsw.hometownticketing.com/embed/all?schools=4>

Options exist for lunches to be purchased in quantities of 10, 20, and 40 at a time for your convenience. Lunches **MUST** be pre-purchased and cannot be paid for at a later date. Mrs. Steed has emailed out to parents our ***Application for Free or Reduced Lunches*** and a paper copy can be picked up at school. Please understand that we are **NOT** affiliated with Champs Café so if you have another child at a different public school within CCPS, please know that their lunch system is not the same as ours. ***This application will also allow us to qualify junior and senior students for an ACT or SAT testing fee waiver.***

Gr 11/12 BUS TRANSPORTATION: Our juniors and seniors are not automatically routed on a school bus due to their varied college class schedules. They are eligible to ride though if needed and can request a bus pass from Mrs. Steed at crystal.steed@fsw.edu.

GR 11/12 BUC CARD ID's - Our Dual Enrolled students can upgrade to a college Buc ID Card that they utilize for any purchases made at the college (food, drinks, printing, etc.) or to check out a book in the college library. These cards are only issued by the college (not the high school). Students request an ID on the FSW website at <https://www.fsw.edu/buccard>. Our juniors and seniors are asked to wear school ID's when entering the high school building and follow our school dress code while in our building for meetings or activities. We are happy to provide them with a high school ID if they have chosen not to order a college Buc Card ID.

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC) (Parents of ALL Students) - Please consider joining us to allow parents to share concerns or questions and allow us to share important school topics. Our ideal school PAC committee consists of several parents from each grade level to serve as a true representation of our parents for shared decision making. Every parent is invited to every meeting of PAC throughout the school year. To kick off PAC, please mark your calendars for our annual ***"Parents Back to School Night"*** for parents of students in Grades 9 and 10 on **Thursday, August 28, 2025 at 6:00 pm**. More information will come but this is an evening parents will not want to miss!

Again, we are looking forward to a fantastic school year! Please enjoy your remaining summer weeks.



Sincerely,
Michelle Wier, Principal

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES:

Tuesday, July 29	Gr 12 Senior Pictures in the HS Cafeteria (info sent from Mrs. Platt)
Thursday, August 7	Gr 9/10 Open House 6-7 pm (NOT mandatory) Students can pick up their class schedule & school ID, purchase PE uniforms, and walk the halls between 6-7 pm *Schedules will be also viewable in Focus.
Monday, August 11	Gr 9/10 First Day of School for HS Classes
Tuesday, August 12	Gr 10 Dual Enrollment Meeting 3rd Per in the HS Cafe
Friday, August 15	Peer Mentors present our 1st Buc PRIDE day (see above for info)
Friday, August 22	Gr 11 Junior Class Meeting at 12:00 pm in the FSW Auditorium
Friday, August 22	Gr 12 Senior Class Meeting at 1:00 pm the FSW Auditorium
Monday, August 25	Gr 11/12 First Day of College Dual Enrollment Classes at FSW
Thursday, August 28	Gr 9/10 "Parent Back to School Night" at 6:00 pm
Friday, August 29	Gr 9/10 Quarter 1 Progress Report #1 in Focus
Monday, September 1	Labor Day; No School for All Students and Staff (HS and College Closed)
Wednesday, September 10	Gr 9/10 Early Release Day – Mandatory Dismissal at 11:45 am
Friday, September 12	Gr 9/10/11 Picture Day (Smile Day)