



Fulton Science Academy New Parent Q & A

General

Q How many students go to FSA a year?

A For the school year 2009-2010, we have enrolled 503 students, total.

Q Will your head count per class go up with the new bigger Fulton County classroom size mandate next year?

A Yes. Our goal is to keep the numbers to not more than 26 per class.

Q Will parents have to sell candy or gift wrap, etc, at FSA?

A No. We do not do fundraisers of that sort. We do separate donation campaigns to help us purchase certain items, like new computers and needed equipment. Donations of this type are tax-deductible because FSA is a 501 (c) (3) organization.

Q Is there a morning show?

A We have morning announcements on video. Parents can view them as well on www.fultonscience.org. Look on the left hand column of options and select which day's announcements you want to watch.

Q If a child is sick or traveling how is make-up work handled?

A Any child who is absent from FSA may access their assignments and homework via the FSA school website and FSA Connect. They can turn it in when they return to school.

Q Is the school staff friendly?

A We have a wonderful staff at FSA and we enjoy a true sense of community. School activities include a new family picnic in August, International Night, lock-ins for different clubs and groups, and soccer, basketball and volleyball tournaments with staff and parents.

Q What kinds of sports activities are offered at FSA?

A We currently have a competing soccer team that plays against other Fulton County schools. We also have a basketball team that plans to compete next year.

Q How do you pull from the waiting list?

A As spots open, or are turned down by the lottery winner, we call the next family on the list.

Q Is the FSA Charter document available on the school website?

A Yes, go to www.fultonscience.org, click *About FSA*, then click *Board Members* . The *Charter Document* is at the end of the page.

Q Are there any Music programs? Is there a chorus or orchestra at FSA?

A This year's After School Clubs offer Rock Band Club, Orchestra Club and Band Club. We have had a chorus in the past. All students take Music for one of their 9-week Connections Classes each year.

Q If a sibling is enrolled at FSA, will the younger sibling be enrolled automatically even if the current sibling is leaving that year?

A If you have a current 8th grader with a rising 6th grader for the following year, yes, they are given a spot at FSA through the sibling program. However, you still must register for the lottery, *and* fill out the required paperwork for that 6th grader by the given deadline.

Q Can we request tutoring after school?

A Tutoring is offered after school during club time. Students are informed which days tutoring classes are offered from 3:50-4:50. A student cannot attend a club and a tutoring session on the same day.

Q My child is a vegetarian? What is the lunch menu?

A "Chef Advantage" provides a catered lunch for a monthly fee. Menus are available in advance, and provide many options for variety of preferences and needs. However, they cannot meet all special dietary requirements. Lunch is purchased by the month only. At www.fultonscience.org go to *Forms*, and then *Lunch Form* to see the menu and monthly charge for that month. "Chef Advantage" caters the food to FSA so food quantities have to be given in advance.

Q Are cell phones allowed inside the school? Is there a general use phone for kids to call parents if need be?

A Cell phones are required to be turned off and placed in the student's locker - they are not permitted to be used in the school building or during school hours. There is a phone in the front office for student use, in an emergency. Approval from one of the administrators is required to make a call.

Q When students go from room to room, how much time between classes?

They have 4 (four) minutes between classes.

Q Why is there a "For Sale" sign in front of the school?

A Current owner has the building for sale; However, FSA currently has a lease on the building for three more years. Plus, we have the right to renew the lease when the time comes.

Q How do we donate to FSA?

A Donations are always welcome! *We could not do all the wonderful things we do without your generosity.* Donations can be made online on the FSA main website or with a check payable to "Fulton Science Academy". Donations to FSA are tax deductible. FSA is a 501c3 organization.

Q If I own a business and I am ready to sponsor FSA, whom should I contact?

A You should contact the Principal and/or PVO President. They will be happy to meet with you on what your sponsorship interests are, and how you can best help the school.

Classroom/Curriculum

Q What is the difference between Advanced classes and TAG? How does my child get approved for TAG? If my child is in TAG classes now will he/she be in TAG at FSA?

A FSA follows the same guidelines as Fulton County Board of Education for the TAG program. If your child is in 5th grade TAG in a Fulton County school, your child will move into our TAG program. There is also TAG screening every year at FSA. Advance level classes are offered to those high achiever students but not yet identified as TAG.

Q How do students prepare for CRCT?

A Students take "Check Points" tests in school, and can take Online Assessments via *FSA Connect* for practice and extra credit for that particular class. FSA also offers Saturday CRCT

Practice sessions in Math and Science, starting in February of each school year and Spring Break CRCT Camp. Weekend practice sessions are free of charge.

Q Do you get homework on the first day?

A It is possible your child may receive homework the first day.

Q What foreign languages are offered at FSA?

A FSA currently offers Turkish and Spanish.

Q Foreign Language – Can we select the language? As a Science Academy, why don't you offer Latin?

A Turkish and Spanish are offered to all 6th graders. Foreign language selection can be made at the end of school year. Latin has been offered in the past during Team Teaching time. We may be able to offer it again if the demand is high.

Q What support materials or programs does FSA use for Foreign Language? Do you have software like Rosetta Stone or other brand?

A Yes, we have Rosetta Stone.

Q Can my child pursue a track like Engineering vs. Life Sciences?

A Curriculum wise? No. But for Engineering, you will want to investigate the Tech Fair Team, Future City and Math Olympiad Team. This will probably fill your needs.

Q Is there a "Study Hall"?

A No.

Q Can you sit anywhere at lunch?

A Each grade level has its own lunch period time. Students are assigned a class called "Place Holder". That class goes to lunch together and sits together.

Team Teaching

Q Do the students select one Team Teaching topic for Monday through Wednesday, or three, one for each day?

A One Team Teaching is selected for Monday through Wednesday. Team Teaching classes are selected at the beginning of each school year and takes place during school hours between

3:17pm and 3:46pm. Change forms are available online should a student wish to change classes, and a spot is available in that class.

Clubs (Afterschool Programs)

Q Can you change, add, or delete a Club at a later date?

A Yes, if there is space available in that Afterschool Club. Change forms are available online.

Q How many clubs can you join?

A One per day (some clubs meet two times per week)

Q Are there any fees for clubs?

A Majority of the clubs do not have a fee. See www.fultonscience.org "Afterschool Clubs" for details on each club.

Q I see pictures of kids getting awards. What are those competitions?

A We have several competition teams: Science Olympiad, Math Olympiad, Model UN, Tech Fair Team, Chess Team, Future City, Lego League, to name a few. These groups meet after school and on weekends. The information meetings for these activities will be posted at Orientation and the first week of school.

Uniforms

Q Can girls wear any accessories (i.e. earrings, necklaces, etc)?

A Yes, but nothing that draws undue attention to themselves.

Q Are all the uniforms sold at school USED?

A In the PVO office, we sell gently-worn garments. There is a link on the FSA website, where you can order new uniform items.

Q When can I shop for used uniforms?

A Monday thru Friday, school hours, except 12:30 to 1:30. Summer hours will be 9am to noon. There is also a computer in the PVO office where you can place orders for new garments.

Q Do all parts of the uniform have to have FSA on it?

A Any part of the uniform worn on torso must have an FSA logo except the white oxford dress shirt. Samples are on display in the PVO office.

Q Can the girls wear tights?

A Yes, tights in school colors (red, white and navy blue). No leggings allowed.

Q Is there a separate PE uniform? Do they change at school?

A There is no special gym uniform. Just appropriate gym clothes. Students take PhysEd for one of their 9-week Connections classes. They are given time to change clothes before and after class, and will be assigned a gym locker to keep their things in.

Supplies

Q What's an agenda?

A A daily planner that is provided by FSA for assignments and organization. This agenda is also used as the hall pass and must be with the student at all times. If it is lost, a new agenda can be purchased.

Q Are students allowed to carry backpacks around with them?

A No! Backpacks must fit in their locker and are to be used to carry things to and from school only. A small bag is allowed for pencils, scissors, calculators etc. but cannot hold books, and cannot be worn on the back, like a backpack.

Q What kinds of backpacks are best?

A Soft, foldable backpacks are easier to store in their lockers. No backpacks with wheels.

School Hours

Q What time does school begin and end?

A Classes begin at 8:30am. Students should arrive no later than 8:25 in order to get inside their classroom. Regular school day ends at 3:46pm. Clubs end at 4:50pm

Q What is the earliest drop-off time? What is the latest pick-up time?

A 8:00am. There is NO supervision available before 8am.

7:00pm is latest pick-up time from afterschool care that is held in the library (there is a daily fee for this service).

Q What is the sign-up process for afterschool care? Do we register now? Do we pay by the month or as we go?

A We do not encourage students to remain after school unless they are involved in after school clubs or tutoring. However, we will make sure your child is properly supervised if you cannot pick them up on time. Charges for this service are \$8 per hour or partial hour between 4:00PM and 6:00PM, and \$24 between 6:00PM and 7:00PM.

Q If my child is in a club after school and then goes to afterschool care, does my afterschool care fee start after the club?

A Yes

Buses/Carpool

Q Once we determine that we are in a bus route or zone, do we need to sign up for that bus stop?

A No. Complete, updated details will be available at Orientation in August.

Q How can we get info to create a carpool group?

A At Orientation, in August, you will get a list of families by zip code and subdivision for you to create your own carpool group.

Q How do I check out my child early for a medical appointment?

A You may check out your child anytime up until 3:15. (12:15 on early release days) At that time, all checkouts must cease. You may only check out your own child. If you send someone else to get your child, you must make sure that person is on the Approved List from your registration paperwork.

Q Where do we park to pickup our kids?

A For early pickup, you may park in front of the school. For regular carpool, you will find that there are 3 clearly marked lines. PLEASE DO NOT park on any street near the school, also PLEASE DO NOT park in any parking lot adjacent to the school, as that is private property. If you park on the street or on the private property, you may be towed.