

Forest Heights STEM Academy



2022-2023

Parent/Student Handbook

Amy B. Cooper
Principal

Ashley Harris
Assistant Principal

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Main Office 501-447-2700
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<http://www.forestheightsstem.com/>
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Forest Heights
STEM Academy
Education

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Amy B. Cooper

Dear Parents and Students,

It is my pleasure to welcome you and your family to Forest Heights STEM Academy for the 2022-2023 school year. The staff and I look forward to providing your child with a quality education and a variety of extra-curricular experiences. This handbook contains rules, procedures, and other important information that will help us meet our goals as we embark on this exciting journey together.

Respectfully,

Amy B. Cooper, Principal

Our Mission Statement

The mission of Forest Heights STEM Academy is to prepare students to compete in our global economy by equipping them with skills that are not confined and isolated within one discipline, but are found between and across the disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.

Office Hours

The school office is open Monday through Friday, 7:05 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Students are **not** permitted on school grounds prior to 7:05 a.m., **unless** transported by a LRSD bus or enrolled in the Little Rock School District CARE Program. If you are transporting your child, he/she must be picked up by 2:55 p.m. If your child needs supervision before 7:20 a.m. or after 2:55 p.m., you may enroll your child in the after school CARE program. You may contact the CARE Program at (501) 447-1880 for registration information.

Forgotten Items & Lunch Drop-Off

You are welcome to bring forgotten items during your child's lunch/recess time. Items will not be accepted in the office. Items will not be allowed to be taken to the classroom.

Phone Calls & Student Messages

It is important that students be informed of afterschool activities and transportation before they leave home. In case of emergency only, the office will deliver messages to students. The office staff does not take casual messages for

students nor call students to the phone. If you need to leave a message for your child's teacher, the office staff will take your contact information and pass it to the teacher via email. (We need current telephone numbers at all times.)

Students may use the office phone for personal calls in case of emergencies only and with staff permission. Also, the office does not accept changes in transportation after 12 noon. **Cell phone use is prohibited unless authorized by administration.**

Change of Address/Phone Numbers

One of the greatest problems schools may have during the day is locating parents in the event of an emergency. This may occur due to changes in phone numbers or work places, or authorized individuals and parents forgetting to notify the office in the event of changes. The importance of maintaining updated information cannot be overemphasized. During registration you will receive an information form to complete.

Having this information returned correctly is of the utmost importance. A copy of this record is kept in the school office in case you need to be contacted. Please make sure your home telephone, cell numbers, and addresses are accurate and clearly written. Remember to list the names and addresses of several people who can be contacted in case you cannot be reached. **Only persons listed on the form will be allowed to checkout your child/children.**

Doctors/emergency rooms will not treat children without their parents' consent, and in the event of an emergency we must be able to reach parents.

Address and phone number changes can be made in the school office with Ms. Latoya Lamb.

Visitors Policy

The school's security plan requires all visitors to the campus, including parents, to sign in at the front office. All visitors must sign in and take a visitor sticker. The school's security plan has been established to protect the students and staff from the danger of an unauthorized person on the campus. For the safety of all students and staff, please comply with this plan.

Student learning time is a priority and classroom interruptions must be kept to a minimum. Please take time to ensure your child has his/her lunch, backpacks and/or homework prior to leaving home. When students are contacted in their room for these items, it can be a distraction to the entire classroom.

PTSA/Volunteers

We need you to help by volunteering at Forest Heights STEM Academy. You can volunteer in the classrooms, cafeteria, library, and playground. Even if it is only 15 minutes, our school will benefit from your dedication. Please make sure to sign in at the office. Thank you!

Truancy/Attendance

Attendance is taken through the last day of school. Please be sure your child is in school. The Little Rock School District Tardy Policy is included in the LRSD Student Handbook. All children are expected to be in attendance each day unless they are ill or a family emergency arises. The parent/guardian is to notify the school attendance office at (501) 447-2724 by noon when a student is absent.

- ❖ A student can check out prior to 2:00 p.m. Early check out ends at 2:00 p.m. to allow teachers to complete end of day assignments and to prepare for dismissal.

ACADEMIC POLICY

Specific skills and concepts from various subject areas are stressed at each grade level. To be eligible for academic promotion students must:

- Perform daily activities.
- Spend a minimum time each night on assigned homework.

- Master targeted skills and concepts based on Common Core Curriculum. FHSA students are expected to make their best effort in all areas of the school curriculum. Our staff believes that effort and achievement by students should be recognized as follows:
 - Honor Roll Incentives each nine- week period.
 - Each semester students will be rewarded for earning Honor Roll and Perfect Attendance

Accelerated Math/Science

Students at FHSA have an opportunity to begin taking accelerated math in 7th grade and physical science in 8th grade. Students should begin preparing for these classes as early as 5th grade. The pacing for these courses is advanced, rigorous, and above-grade level. Students who are not eligible for accelerated classes may still qualify for Pre-AP classes. For the accelerated math option and assignment at the beginning of 7th grade, the criteria are based on the following: performance in 6th grade math, recommendation of 6th grade math teacher, performance on past standardized tests, and performance on Scholastic Math Inventory. After successful completion of 7th Grade Accelerated Math, students can be placed in Algebra 1, a high school credit course, for 8th grade.

For placement in physical science, a high school credit course, in the 8th grade, students must have successfully completed Accelerated 7th Math and be enrolled in Algebra 1 in addition to meeting the following criteria: performance in 6th grade math/science class, recommendations from 6th and 7th grade math/science teachers, performance on past math/science standardized tests. For more information on the process, please contact your student's math teacher, science teacher, or the middle school counselor.

REPORTING GUIDELINES/eSchool/HAC

Interim reports are posted to HAC during the 5th week of each 9-week period for children working below their capacity and/or below 70%. Report cards are posted to HAC every 9 weeks. Report cards indicate students' progress made toward mastering required curriculum, citizenship, and social skills. Parents may request a copy of the report card through the front office.

Grading Scale

90 - 100% = A

80 - 89% = B

70 - 79% = C

60 - 69% = D

59 - Below = F

A parent conference is required after every unfavorable interim report and when a "D" or "F" is recorded on the report card.

School Rules

1. Respect others
 - a. Language – no cursing, teasing, arguing, name calling or threatening – either spoken or written
 - b. Keep hands and feet to self
 - c. Use your own materials
 - d. Do not destroy school property or property of others
 - e. No fighting
2. Follow the directions of all school personnel
3. Walk quietly on the right side of the halls

FHSA Café Rules

Follow directions of all adults in the lunchroom. Speak using your inside voices.

1. Stay in assigned seats until dismissed
2. Sodas or drinks in cans or glass bottles are not to be brought to school
3. Remove all trays and trash from your table
4. Due to food safety and allergies, students nor parents are permitted to share food.

Cell Phone Policy

Students are not allowed to use their cell phones in the classroom. Cell phones have caused major disruptions and we must monitor usage closely.

Students are required to keep all cell phones/headphones of any kind off and located in their backpacks during class and class changes. Phones should not be in students' pockets or jackets. If a cell phone is not in a student's backpack during class or class changes, the student will be offered a warning. If the student does not comply, the teacher or staff member will contact security or administration.

Cell phone usage is allowed before school, during lunch time, and after school.

Discipline

The primary objectives for discipline procedures are to teach students to be responsible for their own behavior. Positive and negative consequences are given based on behavior displayed by students. Students who choose to disobey the rules will receive consequences according to the LRSD Student Handbook.

Positive Consequences for Appropriate Behavior May Include:

- Verbal Praise/Stickers/Happy Notes
- Special Rewards/ Incentives/ Special Activities

Negative Consequences for Inappropriate Behavior

- Warning/classroom discipline continuum
- Referral to buddy teacher (same grade)
- Student/teacher conference, parent contact
- Behavior Document to parent (up to 3 allowed)/loss of privileges
- Parent Conference
- Office Referral/Follow LRSD Discipline Handbook

Suspensions

Suspensions from school will be given by the principal as indicated in the LRSD Student Handbook. Parents must meet with the administrator before a student can be reinstated to school.

CONSEQUENCES MAY BE ACCELERATED FOR REPEAT OFFENDERS

Home-School Communication and Parental Involvement

At FHSA, we are committed to open and clear communication. All parents are given the opportunity to participate in their child's education in the following ways:

- Parent-Teacher-Student Association
- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Teacher web pages, e-mail and phone lines for homework, reminders and more
- Parent visits and conferences (upon request)
- ParentLink- the LRSD computerized phone message system which allows FHSA to deliver personal messages to your home phone. Phone number changes should be updated at <http://lrsd.parentlink.net>

NURSE: The Parent Center located at the front of the main building will be the Screening and Wellness Center.

We have a nurse on campus at FHSA. Our nurse should have your child's medical records and any medication housed in her office. If your child takes medication daily, this must be documented and followed. Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students are allowed to have one dose of either Tylenol or Ibuprofen in their possession and without seeing the nurse. All other grade level students are required to visit the nurse for any medication. We do not give any over the counter medication. The nurse will only administer prescription meds with proper documentation.

If you are called to pick up your child due to vomiting, diarrhea, or fever, you must pickup your child. This is not optional.

PTSA

All students, parents, grandparents, family members, and friends are encouraged to join the P.T.S.A. You can purchase your membership during registration or anytime during the month

of August. Your membership will benefit every child at our school.

Dress Code

Parents/Guardians will be called when students are not dressed in appropriate attire.

Parents/Guardians must bring appropriate clothing. Students will not be allowed to report to class until they are in compliance with uniform policy.

Required polo colors:

K-8 Navy, Hunter green, Yellow, White.
Logos are not required.

Bottoms:

K-8 Navy, Khaki

Hoodies/ Sweaters/Sweatshirts: All hoodies, sweaters, and sweatshirts can only have FHSA logos or the required FHSA colors (solid/plain) Please refer the LRSD Student Handbook for specific dress code and uniform guidelines

Car Rider Drop Off and Pick-Up

All students are dropped off and picked up in the front lot of the building entrance. Parents please remain inside your car for drop-off and pickup.

A student receives a tardy when he/she fails to be in the classroom or other assigned location by 7:40a.m. Any student who arrives after 7:40 a.m. should be accompanied by his/her parent who must sign the child in at the school office.

Wellness-School Nutrition & Birthdays

The Arkansas State Nutrition Standard (ACT 1220) states that students may be given food or beverage items for up to nine different school events to be determined and approved by school officials. FHSA will not use food as student

rewards, except in the nine designated school events.

No treats are allowed for birthday celebrations. Also balloons and flowers may **NOT** be delivered to students on campus.

Food Service

Breakfast is served in the cafeteria until 7:30am. Any student who arrives late to FH due to a late bus, can still have breakfast served. All students may participate in the hot lunch program with meals prepared in the school café.

Food Cost:

Breakfast

Student	\$2.25
Reduced	\$0.00
Adults	\$2.75

Lunch

Elementary student	\$3.00
Secondary student	\$3.25
Reduced	\$0.00
Adults	\$4.00
Milk	\$0.50
Juice	\$0.50

The daily breakfast and lunch schedule can be found on the LRSD web page.

School Supplies/Textbooks

A list of the supplies your child will need is provided by the teacher, on the LRSD web site, and during registration. All regular textbooks for classroom use are provided by the school district at no charge. However, improper care, loss or deliberate damage to a district book will result in a fine to cover replacement costs.

All students must have a backpack. District policy states middle school students' backpacks must be clear or mesh.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Conferences are an excellent way of keeping you informed on the overall progress of your child in school. You will be contacted at least twice during the school year by your child's teacher to schedule a conference. You may also

request a conference any time you have questions or concerns. Please remember to schedule a conference in advance so a time that is convenient for all can be established.

LRSD Directory
Bus Transportation

Main Number (501) 447-4130
Late Bus Information ... (501) 447-4160
Bus Stop Changes... (501) 447-4162
When calling First Student regarding your child's bus, please know the run number and pick up location.

Care Program (K-5)

Supervisor: Martha Rogers
4800 West 26th (501) 447-1880

Child Nutrition

Supervisor: Mrs. Stephanie Walker-Hynes
Main Number (501) 447- 2458

Student Registration Office

501 Sherman Street... (501) 447-2950

Student Services

Senior Director: Dr. Frederick Fields
501 Sherman Street... (501) 447-2955
Student Registration
Homeless, Neglected, Delinquent,
Dropout Prevention
Student Hearing Office
CARE Program, Health Services
English-as-a-Second-Language
(ESL) & Multilingual Program

ViPS Staff contact numbers:

General office (501) 447-8477
Tammy Blaylock, Director

FHSA Daily Schedule

7:05- Building opens

7:30- Teachers arrive to

classrooms 7:35-Bell rings

7:40 - Tardy bell rings & instructional day begins

2:25 Elementary Dismissal

2:40 Middle School

Dismissal

Lunch Schedule

Kindergarten Lunch

10:15-10:35

Physical Activity

10:40-11:00

First Grade Lunch

10:40-11:00

Physical Activity

10:15-10:35

Second Grade Lunch

11:00-11:20

Physical Activity

11:25-11:45

Third Grade Lunch

11:45-12:05

Physical Activity

12:10-12:30

Fourth Grade Lunch

12:10-12:30

Physical Activity

11:45-12:05

Fifth Grade

Lunch

11:25-11:45

Physical Activity

11:00-11:20

Sixth, Seventh, & Eighth Grade

Lunch 12:30-1pm

Middle School Schedule

1st period 7:40- 9:20

2nd period 9:25- 10:55

3rd period

11:00-12:30

Lunch 12:30- 1:00

4th period 1:05- 2:40

Middle school will follow a block schedule. Periods 1-4 will be held on the A day and periods 5-8 will be held on B days.

Please refer to FHSA PTSA Facebook Page, Website, App, E-blasts, and paper notices for updated and event date information.