



Kindergarten Families Frequently Asked Questions for 2017-18 (Updated as of 5-4-17)

Note: WCPSS and FWES policies and procedures can change during the summer months and this document will be updated as needed to reflect any needed changes.

Information below is intended to support kindergarten families in the kindergarten transition. Additional information about full school needs such as before/after school, lunch prices, school procedures, etc. will be available the beginning of August 2017 in the School Handbook and on the website. Until the updated handbook is completed, feel free to reference the [FWES School 2016-17 Handbook](#) on the school website.

How do I bring my child to school?

- **Bus Riders-** Students who ride buses to school will be dropped off in the lower parking lot- as it serves as our bus loop during arrival and dismissal. Many staff will be on duty at the bus loop and will put tags and bus information on each student. Kindergarten students will be met the first 2 weeks by teacher assistants and/or other staff members and will be walked to the classroom. If a child is going to eventually ride a bus to school, they should begin riding the bus as soon as possible or they risk being dropped from bus enrollment.
- **Carpool-** Parents may enter the upper parking lot, following the carpool pattern and as the car reaches the front side walk, safety patrol team members will open the door and students will exit and enter the school through the front doors. The first 2 weeks, there will be extra adults and 5th grade K helpers available to walk with kindergartners to classrooms
- **Walkers-** Families who live within the walk zone around the school may walk with their child to school in the mornings.
- **Park and Walk-** Parents may choose to park and then walk with the child to the classroom to drop off. Note- for pedestrian safety families who choose this option may park at the Church at the corner of Seabrook and Cary Parkway and walk to the school using sidewalks as there is not parking available in the school parking lots
 - For those parents who choose to walk into the school with their child: Arrival is 8:45-9:15am although students should be in classrooms by 9:05am to prepare for the day and watch the morning news program. Parents must exit the building prior to the 9:15am bell. Parents may not stay in the classroom and should let students be independent in putting their belongings away and getting started with their day. This arrival time is also not a time to conference with teachers, as they are responsible for students during arrival. We enjoy our open door policy but must ask for your cooperation with our expectations.
- **Late Arrivals-** Students who arrive after the 9:15am bell are required to be signed in by a parent in the front office. Tardies are monitored by the school social worker, data

manager and counselors. It is important that students arrive at school prior to the start of instruction at 9:15am.

How will my child find their way to the classroom?

- There are adults stationed in all arrival areas of our campus and at each corner/intersection of the school during arrival times each day. These adults ensure that students are safe during arrival. They are also available to assist as needed for students who are unsure about where to go.
- The 1st two weeks, there will be additional staff on duty in the bus and carpool loops to assist kindergartners with learning arrival routines. 5th grade K helpers will also be available for students who may need a buddy to walk with them.

How do I pick my child up from school?

- *Bus Riders:* Students who are assigned to a bus route will be loaded to that bus route during our dismissal process each day. The first month of school, ALL bus riders are tagged with important information to ensure they get to the right stop and home safely. Buses will be loaded in the order they arrive on campus between 3:45pm and 4:15pm. FWES is in the 3rd transportation tier so our buses have served 2 other school routes prior to serving our school's route. This status can mean that within the first few weeks there can be delays in an effort to insure that students in all 3 Tiers get home safely. Parents can follow our FWES Bus Twitter (@FWESBusFeed) to monitor the times when each route leaves our campus and if there are any delays. It is important to note that K and 1st grade students will NEVER be dropped off at a bus stop if there is not an adult at the stop to meet them- please be at the bus stop at least 10 minutes early for the first few weeks until the routines are established- but this policy lasts all year long and if the child cannot be dropped off, they will be returned to the school and the parent will need to come to the school to pick them up.
- *Walkers:* Students who are identified by parents as being "walkers" will be dismissed from classrooms at 3:45pm. Kindergartners will be dismissed the 1st 2 weeks 5 minutes prior to all other walkers to establish the routine. Following the early dismissal, students will exit from the front doors between 3:45-3:50pm and adults who are meeting students should be on the front porch waiting. Students who are not walking home, will not be allowed to leave the front porch area to meet a parent at another campus location- so parents need to plan for the challenges of dismissal traffic to be able to be on the porch during dismissal. Walkers should exit campus as soon as meeting an adult so that carpool dismissal can begin. Walkers not picked up will be taken back into the front office to wait safely for pick up- note that families unable to consistently be able to pick up on time will need to use carpool for pick up. Students and families may not re-enter the school after being dismissed as the school and teachers are continuing to supervise students during the bus dismissal process until about 4:15pm. Families may use the K-1 playground on the back of the school's campus to visit and play following dismissal.
 - Note- Walkers and their families may not re-enter the building after they have been dismissed as the remaining students in the building and classroom teachers

are still completing the dismissal process. If there is a need to return to the classroom, it will need to occur after dismissal is completed for the day. Please encourage responsibility with belongings so return for “pick up” is not needed.

- *Carpool*: During Open House on Friday, August 25th, families will need to register for a carpool number and tag for the rear view mirror. Carpool runs through the upper parking lot from 3:50pm-4:15pm. Cars must display the tag and as you drive through the lot- your number will be relayed via walkie talkie to staff located in the cafeteria with students. When a student’s number is called, the student will walk out and stand on the front porch and wait for cars to arrive. Cars should pull ALL the way up to the stop sign at the front of the line and as close as possible to the car in front of them before stopping. The more cars on the line, the more we can load and the faster the process will go:) Once all cars are stopped- an announcement will be made that students may walk to their safety patrol- students will then walk to the safety patrol team member standing at their car and be loaded by the student into the car. Families are asked to help students learn their carpool number and learn to recognize their car to expedite the process. If a student is not waiting to be loaded, cars will be asked to pull beyond the stop sign and then “Pull Over”. In the pull over area, a staff member will radio to the cafeteria for the student who may have missed their number when it was called and they will be dismissed and loaded in the pull over area. It is important to note that for student safety, cars may only move single file- there is no passing other vehicles once you are loaded. For the safety of all students and staff during dismissal, cell phones should not be used during carpool.
- *After School Program or Day Care Vans*: Students whose families have enrolled them in an after school program that picks up at FWES will be dismissed when those vans/buses arrive on campus. Some arrive in the bus loop and some arrive in carpool. Adults will assist and monitor students as they dismiss to their appropriate facility. Facilities also have lists of students for pick up that is reviewed while they are on campus and getting loaded.
- If you are changing the way your child normally goes home, please send a note in writing. Teachers can not send your child home a different way without a written note. Changes in transportation cannot be taken place over the phone for security reasons, so please send a written note in the morning or come to the school to write the note.
- *Leaving School Early*: Students who need to leave school early for an essential appointment may be signed out in the front office. Students may not be signed out after 3:15pm to avoid conflicts at the end of the day that may disrupt a safe dismissal for other students.

How will I know about bus transportation and availability?

- Information about bus assignments are based on student home address. Information about bus routes and assignments will be available for families in late July or Early August for the 17-18 school year.
- A new process will require parents to create a Power School account to access transportation information and that information will be shared with kindergarten families as it becomes available. Check the website and email in the late summer.

What happens at lunch time?

- Students eat lunch each day in the cafeteria and have 30 minutes for arrival, lining up and eating lunch. Students may purchase school lunch or bring a lunch from home. The choice can vary each day as the family and student choose due to the lunch menu. Lunch menus are district wide and available on the WCPSS website.
- For school lunch, students make their own selections that can include 1 entree, up to 3 fruits and/or vegetables and a milk. Adults do not make food selections for students, they make their own choices in the lunch line, so reviewing the menu with your child each day can assist them in being prepared for choosing at lunch.
- Students should be able to be independent with lunch items they bring from home such as opening containers, peeling oranges, getting straws in juices, etc. Adults are available to assist for the occasional stubborn item.
- Lunch Money accounts
 - Money may be added in cash, check or on line
 - Money can be designated as lunch or breakfast only, snacks/extras/milk only or for use with any purchase. Note: \$ without designation is available for students to use for any item- sometimes students will purchase extra items without a parent's knowledge and then the \$ runs out before the parent intended. The school and cafeteria staff cannot restrict student food purchases. Also note that \$ designated for lunch only cannot be used for purchasing a milk to go with a lunch from home or for any extras.
 - There is no lunch loan \$ so students without lunch money are allowed unlimited fruits and vegetables and water for lunch and the family is contacted with a reminder.

If you are sending money to school with your child please put it in an envelope with your child's name on it. Parents may come to eat lunch with your child and can purchase lunch in the cafeteria or bring a lunch. We ask kindergarten parents and family members to wait 2 weeks before coming to have lunch with your child so routines and procedures can be established- so mark your calendar for the week of September 18th to choose a day to join us for lunch!

Is there snack time?

- There is time allowed during the day for students who bring a quick snack to eat it in the classroom. Snacks should follow the FWES Healthy Student guidelines. The instructional day will not stop for snack, but most classrooms have students eat snack while they listen to a read aloud with the teacher or read to themselves, so snacks should be quick and easy for students to open and eat and move on with their day. If a child needs a drink with his/her snack, it should be water. Juices are not allowed in the classroom.

How will my child get enough water during the day?

- Students may bring and have a water bottle available throughout the school day to maintain hydration. There are also water fountains where students can access water regularly. Please make sure your child's name is on the water bottle.

Will my child take a nap?

- There is no nap or rest time as part of the kindergarten classroom schedule. Students have many things to learn and it takes all the time in the day to make that happen. We expect the first few weeks for students to be tired from all the excitement and new learning but find that students adjust quickly to the daily schedule!

How can I volunteer and be involved in the school and classroom?

- WCPSS requires that any and all adults volunteering in schools be registered as a volunteer. FWES requires that any adult volunteering in a classroom during the school day be a registered volunteer. This registration process requires a full background check for approval. Beginning July 1st each year, volunteers may register for the school year at any WCPSS School. Registration portals cannot be reached outside a school building. The FWES front office has a computer designated for volunteer registration and it will be available during school hours from July 1- October 31 for volunteers. There will also be other opportunities to register during back to school events. Please note that it can take 2-3 weeks for volunteer clearance to be issued after registering, so plan ahead if you want to be involved with PTA events at the start of the year or want to be a classroom volunteer.

What School supplies will my child need?

- School supply lists will be posted on the Farmington Woods Website by June 15th for the 2017-18 school year.

Who will help my child in the bathroom?

- Kindergarten students will need to be independent with clothing (other than shoe tying) and bathroom needs during the school day. Adults are not able to help with cleaning up after a regular bowel movement or with getting re-dressed after using the bathroom. Thank you for monitoring your child's clothing to ensure his/her independence and privacy during the school day. Please be sure to send in a full change of clothes for your child to keep in his/her cubby in case a bathroom accident occurs.

What is the dress code?

- WCPSS dress code for students is a K-12 policy. It is important to be familiar with the policy and to dress your child accordingly. Some of the more common items to look out for: no head coverings of any kind inside (other than religious requirements)- note-hoodies cannot have the hood worn inside, no halters or spaghetti straps for girls- sundresses should be worn with a t-shirt underneath to comply with the policy; no clothing that shows a student's midriff or is see through; shorts and skirts should not be too short or expose undergarments (we use the fingertip rule- when straight arms are by

the child's side); excessively sagging pants and any clothing item that distracts the student or other students from learning (superhero capes on sweatshirts, costumes, headbands with ears, etc.)

What if my child is sick or not feeling well?

- Please always update the school with current phone numbers in the event a child is sick or not feeling well during the school day.
- Farmington Woods has a school nurse who is on our campus 1 to 2 days each week. She can be contacted with any medical concerns you have about your child that impact your child at school.
- The front office staff is trained in basic first aid and medication administration.
- Parents will be contacted if your child becomes sick or is not feeling well enough to participate in learning during the school day. The FWES health room and front office staff can take a child's temperature and will share that information during the phone call.
- Certain illnesses/symptoms require that students be picked up from school:
 - fever of 100 or higher (stay home for 24 hrs and be fever free for 24hrs before returning)
 - nausea, vomiting, diarrhea (must be symptom free for 12 hrs.before returning)
 - severe headache
 - red watery eyes with yellow drainage
 - undiagnosed rash
 - inability to learn
 - change in student's unusual mental status

What if my child has to be absent from school?

- We do not want students to miss school, but kindergartners typically pick up several germs during the school year as they are in a new location with new students.
- If your child is absent, it is helpful if you call the school at 919-460-3469 and let the office know that your child will be out. The message will be relayed to the teacher.
- For an absence to be excused, a written and signed note must be received within 2 days of the child's absence. Information about the conditions that are considered excused are defined in the parent handbook.
- Student attendance data is monitored by the school social worker, data manager and counselors.

What happens if my child gets hurt at school?

- WCPSS offers accident insurance at the start of the year to all families for purchase. This insurance covers accidents or injuries during the school day. WCPSS does not provide coverage for any accidents or injuries that occur during the school day. Families are encouraged to check insurance policies for information on accident and injury coverage.
- Please always update the school with current phone numbers in the event a child is sick or not feeling well during the school day.
- Basic first aid will be used to treat minor injuries that can occur during the school day.

- FWES also has a First Aid Response Team who can respond to emergency situations. All team members are CPR and First Aid Certified and know how to use the AED machine on campus. They are called for true emergencies where it is likely that 911 will also be called.

What if my child needs medication at school?

- Doctors orders are required for any and ALL medications to be given at school- including over the counter items. (Form 1704 must be completed and signed by the doctor).
- Students may not transport medicines to or from school- parents must bring medications and sign them in at the front office with the appropriate and required forms.
- Please contact the school if your student will require medication at school for more information.

How will my child's academic needs be met during the day?

- All students are assessed in ELA (English Language Arts- reading and writing) and Math in the first few weeks of the school year. Some assessments take place during their staggered entry day visit and others take place after the school year has begun. These assessments provide teachers with information on skills and understanding for each student and teachers then plan learning experiences that align with curriculum standards and also meet students' learning needs.
- Students participate in a structure called Daily 5 during the Kindergarten ELA block. This structure provides regular time daily for teachers to work with small groups of students based on their literacy learning needs.
- Students also participate in daily hands on math instruction that builds a strong foundation of math concepts. Students are closely monitored each day and small groups are used for those students who may be struggling with various math concepts and to provide extension activities as needed.

Will my child have homework? How much?

- Students K-2 can be asked to complete up to 20 minutes per night of homework along with 15-30 minutes of reading practice or listening to a book. Teachers will share information about homework when the school year gets started as needed. It is a good idea, however, to consider where in your home your child will complete his/her homework and to purchase a pencil box for home with common needed supplies: pencil, crayons, colored pencils, glue stick, scissors, etc. that can be used when your child has homework to complete.

How do I communicate with my child's teacher?

- All FWES students bring Monday folders home each Monday. Folders include information from the teacher, school and PTA. Additionally the school sends a Monday email with information about electronic documents available on line. The school website and many teachers have websites with important information to keep families informed.

- Conferences may be set up with your child's teacher before 8:45am or after 4:15pm (or during the day as your teacher's schedule will allow) to discuss your child. Please note that arrival time 8:45-9:15am and dismissal time 3:45-4:15pm are times when all classroom teachers are responsible for students and cannot be used to conference or talk at length with parents about your child.
- All teachers also have an email address and can often respond to quick questions through email. Please note that teachers may not have time during the day to check their email account- so no time sensitive information should be sent through email. Teachers try to respond within 24-36 hours whenever possible, except on weekends and during holiday breaks from school.