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Career and Technology Center

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**Frederick County
Career & Tech Center**



**@FrederickCTC
@CTCPrincipal**

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OCTOBER 2023 ■ Issue 1

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome back! The staff and I hope that your summer was a good one. We are in full swing at this time and are glad to be back in school!

To our incoming new students, welcome to what could be one of the best educational decisions a student can make for their high school experience. We welcome you to our school and offer to you all of our support to make your first year here a very special one. To our returning students, we expect nothing less than your best as you prepare for a successful career.

Thanks to all who attended our Back-to-School Night on August 21st—what a nice turnout! This year promises to be a rewarding one for all, and students have already begun to focus on their academic studies, career exploration, and extra-curricular activities.

This year, CTC and all of FCPS will implement the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Act which provides the foundation needed to elevate every child to reach their full promise and potential by transforming Maryland's education system into a world-class model. Specifically for CTC, it means that all mandatory instructional items necessary for students to participate in a Career and Technical Education (CTE) course/program will be paid for and covered by FCPS. This equates to substantial savings for families who previously had to purchase CTE course supplies, while also ensuring that all students meet the College and Career Readiness standard by the time of graduation.

Working closely with our families, as well as business partnerships, is very important to us at the Career and Technology Center as we continually strive to foster a learning environment where all members of the CTC community have the ability to maximize their potential. As we engage in this partnership, we encourage open communication between school and home to ensure that all of our students are successful learners.

As we continue to strive toward career success for all, our hope is to always keep you informed of what we value at the Career and Technology Center. We will produce approximately six newsletters a year to insure timely communication with families.

Thank you for entrusting your child's learning to us.

Sincerely,

Michael Concepcion - Principal

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Good To Know

ATTENTION PLEASE

ATTENDANCE MESSAGE

If your student is going to be absent, please email both your student's home school and ctc.attendance@fcps.org so the absence may be excused. Your student's absence will be considered unlawful/unexcused if a note or email is not received. The One Call Now texts will now occur only once a day at 1:30 pm. If you need to pick up your student early from CTC, please email Amy.Kreger@fcps.org

REMINDER

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CTC SCHOOL STORE

Hello CTC! My name is Mrs. Keller. I am the smiling face you see in the CTC school store when you come through the front doors. The store offers CTC Spirit Wear and a great selection of snacks and drinks. It is also the place where you turn in your CTC bucks for chances to win gift cards. We are now able to customize t-shirts with your school colors and/or program name. Stop by, say hi, and check out our school store! I look forward to seeing you!

CTC BUCKS

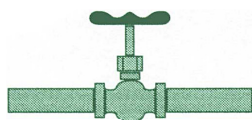
CTC Bucks are awarded by staff members as an incentive to encourage students to improve their academic performance and to participate in various school-based initiatives. When students earn five CTC bucks, they may redeem them for a blue ticket at the school store to be entered in drawings for gift cards. The drawings will occur before winter break and near the end of the school year.



WHAT IS A CTC STUDENT AMBASSADOR?

A CTC Student Ambassador is any student who wishes to represent their program with enthusiasm! Our ambassadors represent and participate in CTC's Educational Outreach Program. This program enriches and engages elementary, middle, and high school students, as well as community members with information and activities that showcase our CTC programs. Examples of ambassador responsibilities during the school day, include middle school career fairs, elementary school classroom presentations, high school visits, and the CTC shadowing process. CTC Student Ambassadors also have the opportunity to share their experiences at community events, such as STEM Nights and Science Fairs. Ambassadors gain valuable experience as they become the teachers. Public speaking, leadership, lesson and activity planning, and collaboration are just some of the skills that are gained throughout this experience. This experience will no doubt give a sense of pride to those involved.

Interested in becoming a CTC Student Ambassador? See **Mrs. Keeney-Fisher** in the guidance office.



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Good To Know 3

COME SEE THE AMAZING THINGS STUDENTS CAN DO AT THE... FCPS CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER (CTC) OPEN HOUSE THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26TH 6:00 – 8:00 PM

25 CAREER PROGRAMS FOR FCPS STUDENTS IN GRADES 10-12

- ★ Teachers from CTC programs will talk to students & parents/guardians about various career programs.
- ★ Check out our new Dental Assisting Program.
- ★ Staff will discuss the curriculum, student activities, post high school employment and education.
- ★ Students will demonstrate activities.
- ★ Alumni, businesses, and colleges will be present.
- ★ Additional information sessions offered for Multilingual Language (ML) students and families (with interpreters):
5:30 – 6:00 PM & 7:15 – 7:45 PM

Many programs offer college credits, dual enrollment, industry certification/license.

Enjoy fun activities for all ages.

Learn about potential careers.

Students: Find out how to jump start your future at CTC!

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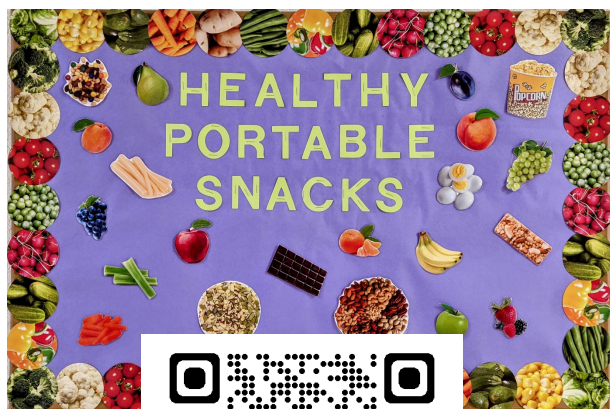


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HEALTH & WELLNESS

At CTC we like to promote health and wellness for our students and staff. One way we do this is by creating and posting fun and informative nutrition bulletin boards in the front hallway. Shown is our most recent bulletin board giving students healthy portable snack ideas to stay nourished throughout the day. We also incorporate activities into our programs that support physical and mental health.



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Resources & Support



HELPFUL RESOURCES FOR EVERY STUDENT

Click the [CTC Career Exploration & Job Prep Guide](#) link for helpful tips and resources!

Click the [Peterson's Test and Career Prep](#) link for resources that will help improve your test scores, explore colleges, universities and scholarships, explore careers, and prep for vocational tests. You will need to take a minute to complete the "New User Signup" if you are new to this database. Once you do that you are good to go.

You can also find these resources and many more on the [CTC Media Center](#) page.

Please see **Ms. Leatherman** in the CTC media center if you have any questions or need assistance.

Learning Lunch

Technology, Lunch, Collaboration & Instruction

Learning Lunch at CTC is a unique time. Taking place between the am and pm programs, Learning Lunch provides time for all-day CTC students taking online courses to work on assignments, eat their lunch, and receive academic support from certified teachers. Students are given autonomy over their learning and can choose their own pace, place to work, and pathway.

CTC uses a blended approach to online learning. Students have access to teachers and mentors who guide them through the online courses and help them comprehend the content. Teachers also provide hands-on guidance and understanding of text and difficult concepts. Students can also collaborate with other students or work on their own. Learning lunch is a great time to learn in a relaxed and supportive environment. Our staff who help students during learning lunch are Lera Straits (English Teacher), Lorraine Marshall (Math Specialist), Dina Karakus (Mentor) and Jen Leatherman (Mentor).

Learning Lunch is a valuable bonus to attending CTC as it allows students to complete the required courses to graduate seamlessly in conjunction with their CTC program.



TutorMe

TUTORME IS LIVE!

Tutor Me is an online tutoring program that will connect any FCPS middle or high school student to a live tutor, 24 hours a day in over 300 subjects. Log on day or night and in under 30 seconds you will be connected to one of over 10,000 verified tutors from the nation's top universities who are all experts in their field(s). Once matched, you'll enter a lesson space that features audio and video chat, screen sharing, virtual white boards and much more. The program can be used from home or school. Tutors can provide homework help, understanding concepts, writing support, and SAT prep. There are also options for students that speak Spanish, French, and many other languages.

Students are able to [log into "Tutor Me"](#) using the single sign-in Clever tool found on their Chromebooks. Students can even access past tutoring sessions later on if needed. Teachers have added a link via their individual Schoology Course Page to the One-Pager. If your student needs help finding it, please have them reach out to their teacher for assistance.

Here is an Introductory Video: [Tutor Me Overview](#). Additionally, the following [support documentation and videos](#) will help students successfully navigate and use the TutorMe platform.

This valuable new program, purchased by FCPS, will be such an instrumental tool for all our students to succeed. This program allows our students the help they need whenever and where ever they need it. We hope each and every Cadet takes advantage of TutorMe and we are so excited to get this information rolled out to our students!

Resources & Support 5



COUNSELING SERVICES

Hi! Our names are Mrs. Daly and Ms. Stull, we are the counselors here at CTC and look forward to working with you! As a school counselor we can do many things to help, including but not limited to, providing behavioral, academic, aptitude and college/career counseling, identifying and addressing issues that may interfere with your education, acting as a bridge between students, administrators, teachers, and parents, and making referrals to outside agencies. We share this because we want you to know that you have many advocates in this building, including us. Our contact information is below, including which counselor works with your program, as well as some numbers in case of an emergency.

Kristen Daly Kristen.Daly@fcps.org 240-236-8494	Erica Stull Erica.Stull@fcps.org 240-236-8486
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Cosmetology 2	Cosmetology I
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7:35	8:50	7:50	8:50	8:55	8:55
8:35	9:50	8:50	9:50	10:15	10:15
9:35	10:50	9:50	10:50	12:15	12:15
10:35	11:50	10:50	11:50	1:45	1:45
11:35	12:50	11:50	12:50	3:15	3:15
12:35	1:35	12:50	1:50	4:45	4:45
1:35	2:35	1:50	2:50	6:15	6:15
2:35	3:35	2:50	3:50	8:10	8:10
3:35	4:35	3:50	4:50	9:05	9:05
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Student News



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SKILLSUSA FALL KICKOFF

CTC students participated in the annual SkillsUSA Fall Kickoff at the FCC Auditorium on Wednesday, 9/15. Students had the opportunity to learn about SkillsUSA, how it is integrated into curriculum at CTC and to find out that every student at CTC is already a member. The year is full of exciting opportunities to engage in SkillsUSA events, including Fall Leadership Conference, Ambassadors, SHOP Club, Local/Regional/State/National Competitions and more!

SkillsUSA is based on a Framework that encompasses personal skills, technical skills, and workplace skills. It supports our CTC school culture in developing accountable, professional, positive, and supportive members of society.

As part of the kickoff, our programs participated in the annual Minute-To-Win-It Cup Stacking Challenge where 2 students from each program competed to see which program reigns supreme and wins the coveted trophy for the year. This year's winners are: AM – Mrs. Huguley's Teacher Academy of Maryland program; PM – Mrs. White's Medical Assisting program. Mr. Duman and Mr. Zucco from Homeland Security won the teacher bracket. In the battle of champions between students and teachers, the trophy goes to Mr. Duman and Mr. Zucco in the AM and Mrs. White's Medical Assisting team in the PM.

Students should be on the lookout for opportunities to engage in SkillsUSA activities throughout the year.



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Student News

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TEACHER ACADEMY OF MARYLAND (TAM)

First-year Teacher Academy of Maryland (TAM) students enjoyed an outside reading session during the first week of school at the Career and Technology Center.

The Teacher Academy of Maryland is a 1.5 year-long program at the FCPS Career & Technology Center. Students must pass four courses to be considered a program completer, one of which includes a semester-long teaching internship, a portfolio, and a portfolio presentation.

Due to the accelerated level of rigor in the program, students earn both weighted credit and college credit for completing the courses. The Academy prepares high school students who are interested in becoming a teacher and provides them with course work and real-world examples to promote college and career readiness. Students will learn about the history of education, human growth and development, classroom management, lesson planning, and more. TAM partners with over 10 colleges in Maryland to award college credit.



SEPTEMBER 11TH CEREMONY

Thank you to the CTC Criminal Justice and Homeland Security program for conducting a beautiful ceremony in remembrance of September 11th.

Click [HERE](#) to view a video of the ceremony.

STUDENTS EARN COMPETITIVE BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE INTERNSHIPS AT NCI AND USAMRIID

Werner H. Kirsten Intern Program is a one-year internship at the National Cancer Institute, designed to expose high school seniors to research and administrative management in a health care environment. A similar experience is offered for seniors at USAMRIID. Four CTC students have worked 40-hour weeks this summer and now spend half their school day working with mentors and earning research internship science credits. Applications for next year's program open October 16th. CTC will run an information session in early October for interested juniors.

Sara Pattamawenu, a biomedical science student, works with mentor Dr. Kedar Narayan at the Center for Molecular Microscopy which focuses on visualizing biological structures using electron microscopy. She uses the process of segmentation to extract features of interest from image datasets in order to produce 3D reconstruction. She has been using segmentation on salivary gland granules, as well as cell mitochondria and nuclei. This year she will be working on zebrafish gills which will help to better understand how zebrafish intake oxygen from the water. She

is also responsible for moderating the "Etch a Cell" project on the crowd-sourcing platform Zooniverse which is used to train their AI technology. Sara loves the novel technology that she has learned and chance to hone her analytical skills which will serve her well as she studies molecular biology in college.

Gracia Mulangu, an AoHP student, works at NCI with mentor Lisa Brown in the Occupational Health Services department where she assists a registered nurse and nurse practitioner with clinical tasks such as patient intake, venipuncture, vaccine administration, patient charting and wellness promotion. She has published NCI articles on firework safety and helps with the Etch a Cell project. She will continue these duties this fall as well as working with the new website for medical personnel. She enjoys observing the nursing practices in an office setting and is grateful that this experience is helping her decide a more specific career pathway.

Enguun Chinbat, a biomedical science student, works at NCI with mentor Ravi Chalamalasetty. Their focus is on the Wnt signaling pathway that plays a critical role in embryonic development,

specifically transcription factors and effects on target genes. She spent time this summer working with Lef1 knockout cells to determine the effects on gene expression when Lef1 is not working using qPCR and cDNA. She appreciates learning new techniques and narrowing down her career focus.

Zoe Razunguzwa, a biomedical science student, is working in the virology department at USAMRIID under the mentorship of Dr. Aura Garrison whose lab focuses on Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever virus (CCHFV) and vaccine development. She worked this summer using transmission electron microscopy to visualize CCHFV infected cells. Their focus has been on the nucleocapsid protein because mice studies have shown that NP antibodies lead to better outcomes from CCHF infections. She will work this fall with her mentors to develop a lambda phage-based vaccine for CCHFV. She also likes learning new techniques and seeing real life lab applications of what she learned in the biomedical science program.

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How It All Began

HOW IT ALL BEGAN: MEET RUBY EAGLE - CTC'S FIRST SECRETARY



Ruby then



Ruby now

Ruby (Wilt) Eagle grew up in Doubs, Maryland. She graduated from Frederick High School in 1954 and in November of that year, after being interviewed by the Superintendent of Schools, Eugene Pruitt, offered her a position with the then called Board of Education. Immediately, Ruby began working for the Board of Education on Church Street in downtown Frederick. At that time, there were only 6 support staff in the entire Central Office. Times certainly have changed!

Paul Stull, the first Principal at the Career & Technology Center (CTC), formerly Vocational-Technology Center (VTC), was preparing for his role in the new VTC that was being built. One important piece to that puzzle was finding a secretary to assist him. Paul was at the Central

Office one day and asked Ruby if she would be his secretary at the new VTC. Ruby said she would give it some thought. Ruby and Paul knew each other prior to this encounter because they both graduated from Frederick High School the same year.

Ruby decided that after working at the Central Office for 23 years, she was ready for a change and was excited to work in an environment where she could interact with teachers, staff, parents, and students. Ruby started at the VTC in 1977 as the Administrative Assistant for Principal Stull. They worked in the farm house on Hayward Road until the new VTC building was complete. Ruby was instrumental in making opening day at the new school a success and kept the school running smoothly.

Throughout her years at the VTC, Ruby witnessed many changes and welcomed additions. In 1981, Karla Eshelman, joined Ruby as a secretary in the front office at the VTC. Ms. Eshelman became the administrative secretary at the VTC



Ruby Eagle (left) with Karla Eshelman (right)

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How It All Began

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when Ruby retired in 1990 and still is to this day. In 1982, James Thomas, became assistant principal to Mr. Stull. In 1987, the VTC expanded by adding an addition to the building to support new programs.

In 1990, Ruby retired from the Frederick County Public Schools but remained the administrative assistant and bookkeeper for the Frederick County Students Construction Trades Foundation, Incorporated (FCSCTF, Inc.) until mid-2012. She still serves on the Board of Directors for the foundation. Ruby supported many student house projects during her career at the VTC; the first project was during the 1978-1979 school year.

First Vo-Tech Center Student House Project



met and worked with there. Ruby is proud to be a part of the CTC community. She couldn't have said it better when she told me "My heart is in this school". It certainly is a special place to so many people.

Ruby stated she is so grateful for having such wonderful bosses and associates to work for and with during her career at the Vo-Tech Center.

Ruby keeps herself busy these days. She proctors SAT exams at GTJHS, is a part-time administrative assistant at the Lewistown United Methodist Church, is a member of the New Midway Volunteer Fire Department, is a check-in judge for the Frederick County Board of Elections, serves on the Board of the FCSCTF, Inc., and helps the Ladies Auxiliary of the Frederick Moose

Ruby's late husband, Roland Eagle, also remained a part of VTC/CTC as well. Roland was a founding member and vice president of the Frederick County Student's Mechanical Trades Foundation. In memory of Roland, there is a scholarship in his name presented each year to a student from the automotive and collision repair programs at CTC's Awards Ceremony held at Frederick Community College.

Ruby was and still is proud of all of the great opportunities CTC has to offer students. She said "CTC is a close-knit community and like family to her". She is still involved with the school to this day. She keeps in touch and has friendships with so many people that she has

with their once-a-month spaghetti dinners – as well as visitations to nursing homes, etc.

CTC staff members have a valuable impact on our students and school. Students spend a great deal of time here, which is why making positive connections with our students is very important. Ruby was one of those staff members that has made a positive impact on generations of students. A big thank you to Ruby Eagle for taking the time to visit, share her stories, and being an integral part of VTC/CTC.

To see the first "How It All Began" article on page 8 of the September 2022 Career Talk newsletter, click here: [September 2022 Career Talk](#)



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10 Shout Outs



WELCOME STUDENTS!!!

THANK YOU TO MS. STULL, SCHOOL COUNSELOR AT CTC, FOR DRAWING THIS AWESOME SIDEWALK CHALK MESSAGE. AT CTC, WE WANT OUR STUDENTS TO WANT TO BE HERE AND ALWAYS FEEL WELCOME.

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CTC GOES PURPLE

Shout out to the CTC staff for wearing purple to support **Frederick County Goes Purple (FCGP)**. Frederick County observes National Recovery Month during September by launching FCGP to bring awareness and understanding of mental health and substance use disorders, to reduce substance-related deaths and overdoses, and to celebrate those living in recovery. For more information visit <https://www.frederickcountygopurple.com/>

Welcome New Staff 11



BRENNA EDMONDS, CAREER COACH

Hey ya'll! My name is Ms. Brenna Edmonds. I graduated from Urbana High, and went to Mount St. Mary's University where I studied Math. I went on to get my Master's Degree in Secondary Education. I have taught high school Math for 7 years, to many different populations of students in Baltimore, Montgomery, and

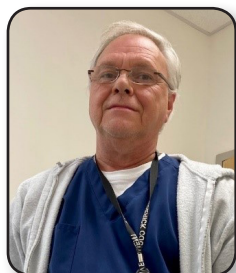
Frederick County. This is my first year working for FCPS, and I am the new Career Coach here at CTC, Heather Ridge, and the Virtual School. I enjoy working with others and my hope as a Career Coach is to help students think about their goals, take ownership of their aspirations, and share the tools and resources they need in order to achieve their goals. I will also be working with our community and local businesses to build a stronger network that will offer more opportunities for students. If you are looking for me, you can find me in the media center in the old copy room on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and sometimes Fridays - BUT if you need me outside of those days, you can always email me to set up a meeting, and you can always just pop in for snacks or candy! Outside of work, I enjoy being out in nature, hiking, hanging out with my cat named Luna, taking care of my plants and garden, and traveling.



CAMI HOWARD, DENTAL ASSISTING TEACHER

Hi! I'm Cami Howard, the instructor for the NEW Dental Assisting Program here at CTC. I have been a chairside assistant for 37 years. I'm a Qualified Dental and Orthodontic Assistant (QDA/QOA) as well as a Dental Radiation Technologist (RDT) with the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners. I

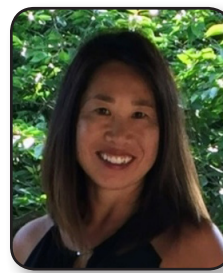
have a passion for this profession and I am so excited to share my lifetime experience with the Dental Assisting cohort. I live in Walkersville with my husband, Erik. I have 2 sons, Zach who is married to Briannin and they have twins, Mack and Maylee who, by the way, are the lights of my life! I love being a Grami and spending as much time as I can with them. My other son, Ryan lives with his fiancé Emily in Tavares, FL. Although they are living so far away, they do visit Maryland a couple times a year. My husband and I enjoy relaxing on our patio, weekend getaways to new places, and dinner with friends. We enjoy trying new restaurants in the area. In my free time I enjoy crocheting, crafting, painting and scrapbooking. I'm excited to see the completed Dental Assisting lab/classroom after the renovation and more importantly the Dental Assisting students when they begin in January. I keep peeking in the room to see the progress! Thanks for the warm welcome CTC!



TIM CROMWELL, HEALTH ROOM TECHNICIAN

Hey all, it's good to be here! I'm Tim Cromwell. I have been a Licensed Practical Nurse for about 40 years now. I was born and raised in Carroll County, moved to Pennsylvania, then California, and returned to Maryland, purchasing the home right next door to the one I was raised in. My mother is my next-door neighbor, which makes it easier to tend to her needs. My medical experiences in nursing have been in medical and surgical, psychiatric, and drug and alcohol. I've done in-patient, out-patient, and home health. I've held positions as staff

nurse, assistant director of nursing, program coordinator, assistant director of pediatric, and adult home health and wound care specialist. I've worked with patients and clients from premature infants to geriatrics. I also was a realtor for 20 years while working in nursing and gave this up when I came to school health going on 9 years ago. I requested to come to CTC for a change after being at Oakdale High School for 7 years. If you see me walking around like I am lost I most likely am. Humor is the best medicine!



AMY KREGAR, SECRETARY

Hello, my name is Amy Kregar, I am a wife and mother of 2 children who both graduated from MHS and are now in college. I was a stay-at-home mom until about

2 years ago as I started working as a Secretary at Middletown High School. I am now at CTC and enjoying my new position. I am learning a lot and meeting so many great students and staff. I am an avid runner and I love the outdoors, reading and cooking.

The most important careers make a positive impact in the lives of others.



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School Calendar

THE SCHOOL YEAR AT A GLANCE

2023

August 23 (Wednesday)	First Day of School
September 4 (Monday)	Schools* and Offices Closed
September 22 (Friday)	3 1/2-Hour Early Dismissal for Students
September 25 (Monday)	Schools* Closed
October 11 (Wednesday)	4-Hour Delayed Opening: Elementary and Middle Only (Parent-Teacher Conferences), No 1/2 Day Pre-K; High Schools Open on Time
October 12 (Thursday)	4-Hour Delayed Opening: Elementary and Middle Only (Parent-Teacher Conferences), No 1/2 Day Pre-K; High Schools Open on Time
October 13 (Friday)	3 1/2-Hour Early Dismissal: Elementary and Middle Only (Parent-Teacher Conferences), No 1/2 Day Pre-K; High Schools Open Full Day
October 20 (Friday)	Schools* Closed for Students
October 27 (Friday)	Schools* Closed for Students
November 22 (Wednesday)	Schools* and Offices Closed
November 23-24 (Thursday-Friday)	Schools** and Offices Closed
December 1 (Friday)	2-Hour Early Dismissal for Students
December 25-26 (Monday-Tuesday)	Schools** and Offices Closed
December 27-29 (Wednesday-Friday)	Schools** Closed

2024

January 1 (Monday)	Schools** and Offices Closed
January 15 (Monday)	Schools** and Offices Closed
January 16 (Tuesday)	Schools Closed*
January 17 (Wednesday)	Schools Closed*
February 16 (Friday)	2-Hour Early Dismissal for Students
February 19 (Monday)	Schools** and Offices Closed
March 22 (Friday)	Schools* Closed for Students
March 29 (Friday)	Schools** and Offices Closed
April 1 (Monday)	Schools** and Offices Closed
April 2-5 (Tuesday-Friday)	Schools* Closed for Students
May 2 (Thursday)	2-Hour Early Dismissal for Students
May 14 (Tuesday)	Schools** Closed
May 27 (Monday)	Schools** and Offices Closed
June 5*** (Wednesday)	2-Hour Early Dismissal/Last Day of School for Students

*BOE Determined

**State Mandated (See page 40)

***FCPS will make up days closed for inclement weather or other emergencies in the following sequence: June 6, 7, 10, 11 and 12. If no snow days are used, the last day for students is Wednesday, June 5. The June 2-hour early dismissal will occur on the last day of school for students. The school year will provide 180 days for students. Dates are subject to BOE revision.

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