



Dr. Jeffrey Bearden, Superintendent • 1120 Dahlonega Highway • Cumming, Georgia 30040 •
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August 1, 2022

Dear FCS Family:

Welcome back! For those of you who are new to FCS, welcome to our family. I hope you all had a very safe and enjoyable summer recess. I look forward to the return of our students later this week. I know you will be ready.

I want to take a few moments to share some information with you about school safety. First and foremost, please know that the safety of our students and our staff is our number one priority. It always will be. School safety is a team effort and the responsibility of ALL staff and ALL students. We must work together, and we will.

This school year, the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office has assigned at least one School Resource Officer (SRO) to every school in our system. I am so grateful for our outstanding partnership with Sheriff Freeman and his team. Not only do we have a strong team of SRO's, we have other deputies who are on patrol around our campuses when school is in session. It is not unusual to see two or three cruisers parked at any one campus during the academic day. This is intentional.

There are several ways you can assist. Please, NEVER prop open ANY exterior door. If you see a door that is propped open, close it immediately and check to be sure it is locked. Report any doors that are propped open to your school administration. If you find any doors that do not lock properly, please report to school administration and we will have our facilities team remedy that situation immediately.

ALL visitors MUST report to our front offices to be granted access to any building. In order to be approved for entrance, ALL visitors MUST show a valid driver's license and must be approved through our RAPTOR system. This system checks to make sure we do not have any identified child predators in our schools.

If you ever see someone in a school that is not wearing a FCS badge or an approved badge that is created after their identification is scanned through RAPTOR, please ask for identification and report immediately to your school's administration.

Forsyth County Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, or gender in employment decisions or educational programs and activities.

Please be vigilant. If staff or students see something, or someone, suspicious on or around campus, please say something. If staff or students see something posted on social media that is cause for suspicion, please report that immediately.

Our “See Something, Say Something” campaign has been very successful. Our students have reported suspicious activity to us 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and we appreciate it. I am proud of them for doing so. Tips can be reported anonymously, and ALL tips are appropriately investigated.

Teachers, during your planning time, please take a minute or two and walk your corridor. If you have an exterior door on your corridor, please check to ensure the door is locked. Taking just a minute or two out of your daily planning to conduct a quick safety check is one way for us to be proactive.

Know your school safety plan. Be prepared. Be sure all students are attentive and engaged during any safety drills.

I feel VERY confident about the safety of our schools. I have complete confidence in our FCS Safety Team and our local law enforcement agencies. We plan together. We train together. We communicate. We always work together.

I wish you all a very enjoyable and productive 22-23 school year. I look forward to my visits to your school.

Sincerely,



Jeff