THE FCS WAY

Connecting *Faith* and *Learning*

Parent | Student Handbook

Academic Information
2026-2027

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PREFACE

Welcome to the Florence Christian School family! To complete your family's enrollment at FCS it is required for every parent to read and agree to abide with the policies and procedures presented. This handbook was written with you in mind and contains academic information that will answer many of the questions you may have concerning your child's academic career at FCS.

Attendance at FCS is a privilege and not a right. Students and parents may forfeit this privilege if they do not conform to or support the standards and ideals of work and life of FCS. The administration reserves the right to determine appropriate and acceptable actions, behavior, conduct, and dress. This may or may not deem the necessity of adding, updating, or deleting elements of this handbook. This handbook serves as a guide and is in no way an all-inclusive statement.

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INTRODUCTION

SCHOOL HISTORY, MISSION, AND VISION

History
Florence Christian School was established in 1972 as an extension and ministry of the Florence Baptist Temple to assist families in training their children intellectually, physically, spiritually, and socially toward maturity and responsible independence (Luke 2:52). We view our school as an adjunct to the home and church--not a substitute.

FCS currently consists of four divisions: Pre-kindergarten (K3-K4), Elementary (K5-5th Grade), Middle School (6th-8th Grade), and Senior High (9th-12th Grade).

Mission
The mission of FCS is to assist parents in developing a biblical worldview in the minds of their children by providing an excellent education based on the principles of God's Word.

Vision
Successful FCS students are able to think independently through a biblical worldview so that they can wisely and appropriately apply knowledge that will guide them in their God-given responsibilities.

SCHOOL OBJECTIVES

Spiritual Objective
Each student will understand how to have a biblical relationship with God through salvation and experience a victorious Christian life by following God in submission and obedience to His will as revealed in the Bible.

Communication Objective
Each student will be able to communicate, express, and present himself or herself effectively in the areas of speaking, writing, technical skills, and listening.

Character Objective
Each student will demonstrate quality character traits in the areas of manners, respect, conduct, honesty, patriotism, and appearance.

Study Skills Objective
Each student will possess good study skills in the areas of listening, organization, following directions, completing assignments, and classroom time management.
The following expectations will be required:

- written presentations will begin in 5 yr. old kindergarten
- long range assignments will begin in the 3rd grade
- parent's signature on assignments through the 3rd grade
- complete independent effort (no parental assistance-except for guidance) on assignments after the 4th grade.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

ACADEMIC AWARDS

The following recognitions are awarded at the end of each school year. These awards are based on the qualifications provided.

- President's List - All A's (4.0 GPA) every grading period in every *core subject
- Principal's List – "A" final average in each *core subject
- Honor Roll – "A/B" final average in each *core subject

* Core subjects include Bible, English, fine arts (high school), foreign language (high school), history, mathematics, science, and technology (high school).

Academic awards will be based on grade calculations made after the 3rd nine weeks grading period.

Note: Elementary penmanship, conduct, art, and music are not considered for these awards.

CLASS RANKING

Class rankings are based on students' cumulative weighted GPA (rounded to 4 decimal places) in academic courses in accordance with the South Carolina Uniform Grading Scale as calculated by the school management software, FACTS. Elective classes are not included in this calculation.

CURRICULUM AND PROMOTION

Elementary students must pass 3/4 of all subjects taken in order to be promoted to the next grade. This must include math, English, and reading. Students in grades 6-8 must pass English, math, science, history, and Bible to be promoted. Students in grades 9-12 must pass every subject to be sure that they can remain in their normal college preparatory schedule. If a student fails any subject, it must be made up in summer school. Administrative approval is necessary for any deviation from this policy due to possible scheduling conflicts, which may occur.

Any student retained for the first time may return to FCS pending an opening in that grade. It is the responsibility of the student to remain in the promotional process in order to allow openings for the students that are moving up from the grade below. If there are not any openings, a student who is being retained will be placed on the waiting list.

Any student retained for the second year may not return to FCS unless there are unusual circumstances approved by the school. We feel that it is important to keep the ages of the students no more than one year apart.

The curriculum for 3K-12 primarily consists of Bob Jones University Press, which is recognized as one of the leading Christian curricula among Christian schools.

Curriculum for grades 7-12 includes

Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9 – Units Earned		Grade 10 – Units Earned	
Bible	Bible	Bible	1	Bible	1
English	+English 1 (I unit)	English	1	English	1
Pre-Algebra	+Algebra I (1 unit)	Geometry	1	Algebra II	1
World Studies	American History	World Geography	1	World History	1
Life Science	Earth Science	Biology	1	Chemistry	1
Physical Ed.	+Physical Ed. (1 unit)	Music Appreciation	1/2	Spanish I	1
Elective*	Elective*	Speech	1/2	Elective*	
		Elective*			
		Total Units	**6-7**	**Total Units**	**6-7**

Grade 11 – Units Earned		Grade 12– Units Earned	
Bible	1	English IV or ENG101/102**	1 (2)
English	1	Pre-Calculus, Business Math or MAT120** and/or MAT140**	1(2)
Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, or MAT110/111**	1(2)	Government or PSC201**(1 unit)	½ (1)
		Economics or ECO211**(1 unit)	½ (1)
U.S. History or HIS201/202**	1(2)	Spanish III or SPA101** or Physics	1
Anatomy	1	Bible	1
Spanish II	1	Computer Science	1
Elective*			
Total Units	**6-8**	**Total Units**	**6 -10**

+ High School course
*Students in grades 9-12 taking elective courses can earn up to ½ credit per course per year. Electives that award credit are as follows: Art, Choir, Drama, Media, Physical Training, Teacher Cadet, and Yearbook.
**Dual Enrollment (College Credit) opportunity – see *Appendix A* for more information

NOTE: FCS juniors and seniors may receive dual credit for approved courses through Florence-Darlington Technical College, Francis Marion University, and Troy University. Please see Dual Enrollment Policy in *Appendix A*.

DROP/ADD

Students are allowed to choose certain classes as electives. There will be a two-week period at the beginning of the school year when students will be allowed to drop and add these electives with the approval of the administration. After this two-week period, classes will not be dropped or added. No changes may be made at semester break unless approved by the Principal.

DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM AND POLICIES

See *Appendix A*.

EXEMPTIONS

Students in grades 9-12 making a "90" average for the year in any given subject will be eligible to exempt their final examination in that subject. Students do not exempt mid-term exams for any reason.

Exceptions:

- Students enrolled in semester courses may exempt 1st semester exams in those courses.
- Students with 8 or more unexcused absences in a class (4 in semester classes) will not be allowed to exempt the final exam in that class.

FACULTY

All teachers profess to be born again Christians who are dedicated to teaching. We seek to have teachers of the highest spiritual and academic quality and feel that they have been called to this ministry.

GRADE REPORTS

The purpose of reporting is to give parents and students an indication of the progress or lack of progress which is being made. Each student's ability, attitude, and application are taken into account in grading.

- Types of Reporting
  - Progress reports are emailed every 4-½ weeks between report cards.
  - Report cards are emailed every nine weeks
- FACTS Family Portal is updated daily. Please give teachers three days to have test scores entered into the computer.

- Parents are encouraged to ask for conferences any time they feel it is necessary. The teachers welcome such opportunities.

- Report cards will not be issued to any student whose account is not current as defined in the FCS Payment Policy document found in the “Parent Resources” section of the school website.

GRADE SCALES

Kindergarten	
E	Excellent
S	Satisfactory
NI	Needs Improvement
U	Unsatisfactory

Grades 1-12		
90-100	A	Highest grade in a range +
80-89	B	Lowest grade in a range -
70-79	C	
60-69	D	
0-59	F	
Incomplete	INC	

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to receive a diploma from Florence Christian School, a student must have earned at least 24 units consisting of:

English (4), Math (4), Science (3), U.S. History (1), Economics (1/2), American Government (1/2), Computer Science (1), Additional Social Studies (1), Physical Education (1), Foreign Language (2), Fine Arts (1), and Electives (5) – for a total of 24 units.

When all academic courses have not been passed, the student may participate in the graduation ceremony but will not receive a diploma until all requirements have been met. A student with less than 23 units may not participate in the graduation ceremony.

Valedictorian and Salutatorian Requirements:

- Students must be enrolled at FCS for two consecutive years prior to graduation.
- Students must have a GPA of 93 or above on all academic courses from grades 9-12.
- Grade calculations for these awards will be made during the first week of May of the current school year.

HOMEWORK/TESTS

Homework contributes to a student's academic success and is assigned for various purposes, including practice, drill, remediation, enrichment, and special projects. In general, if a student has been attentive in class and concentrates while doing homework, the time required for homework should be reasonable. The following are estimations of the time you should expect your child to spend doing homework on an average evening.

K4-K5	15 minutes
Grades 1-2	30 minutes
Grade 3	45 minutes
Grades 4-5	1-1 ½ hours
Grades 6-8	1 ½ hours
Grades 9-12	2-2 ½ hours

If your child is working diligently yet spends an excessive amount of time on homework, please discuss the situation with your child's teacher.

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Pencils should be used exclusively for grades K-3, pen (blue or black) may be used in grades 4 and up. Pencil must be used for math in all grades.

It is vital for the student to complete all assignments (homework, seatwork, etc.). Teachers may require a student to stay after school and complete assignments if the student develops a pattern of not finishing assignments.

No written assignments are given on Wednesday nights so students can attend the mid-week services at their church. However, math tests are given on Thursdays.

Test Schedule: (6-12)	
Monday	Science
Tuesday	English/Bible
Wednesday	Social Studies
Thursday	Math/Business
Friday	Spelling/Vocabulary Foreign Language

SUMMER SCHOOL

Required subjects failed must be made up in summer school at an accredited school approved by the administration of Florence Christian School. FCS will conduct its own summer school for required elementary subjects and any secondary subject provided that there are enough students to warrant a class and provided that there is an available teacher. Summer school at Florence Christian is for FCS students only.

TESTING PROGRAM

All students in grades 5K-12 are given Achievement tests to measure their achievement and/or ability. The following are the tests that we administer to each grade:

Grade	Test
5K-8	Iowa Assessments
1,4,8	CogAT
9	PSAT 8/9
10	PSAT 10
11 (Fall)	PSAT
11 (Spring)	SAT and/or ACT
12 (As needed)	SAT and/or ACT

Test results will uploaded to the students' FACTS Family Portal account. FCS has a long track record of excellent standardized scores. Feel free to make an appointment with the administration to discuss the academic excellence at FCS.

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APPENDIX A
FCS/FDTC DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM

Florence Christian School through Florence Darlington Technical College (FDTC) and Troy University offers a selection of Dual-Credit courses. These courses are designed for students to receive academic credit for college courses while still enrolled as a full-time student at Florence Christian School. Credits earned through FDTC will also count towards graduation requirements at the high school level at Florence Christian School. Dual credit course offerings may begin no earlier than the student's junior year. Enrollment acceptance may vary based on the admissions standards for FDTC and Troy University.

Criteria for Enrollment:

Florence Christian School and FDTC reserve the right to admit students into the Dual-Credit Academic Program.

General requirements for the FCS students:

1. 3.0 overall GPA using SC UGS
2. Student must be at least high school junior
3. Successful completion of FDTC placement exams (if required for the course)

Course Specific Requirements

1. English 101/102
   a. Completion of the following high school courses: English 1, English 2, English 3, and British Literature (offered in the fall of the junior year)
   b. Students are expected to complete ENG101 and ENG 102
2. Math –
   a. College Algebra, College Trigonometry, Intro to Statistics - Overall 80 average in Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and geometry or a Math score of at least 560 on SAT
   b. Calculus I – Successful completion of College Algebra and College Trigonometry
3. All Other Dual Credit Courses
   a. Permission from the school administration based on tests scores, previous academic records, class rank, and teacher recommendation.
   b. Other dual credit courses offerings and pre-requisites can be found below
   c. Other college courses may be taken but will not be recorded on the FCS Official Transcript.

Academic Weight and Credits:

All Dual-Credit courses taken through FCS and FDTC will receive "AP" level academic weight based on the Uniform Grading Scale.

Drop Restrictions:

All students are advised to finish any courses taken for Dual-Credit. For some reason, if a student decides to drop his or her Dual-Credit course, then that student will be assigned an additional course provided by the school. Students that are taking a Dual-Credit course(s) and drop or withdraw from the class before the course has been fully completed must follow drop/withdrawal policies of Florence Darlington Technical College (FDTC), Francis Marion University (FMU) and Troy University (TU).

Dual-Credit Restrictions:

Beginning with the Class of 2025, the following restrictions will be placed on all students taking Dual-Credit Courses:

1. Students must take biology, chemistry, and physics through Florence Christian School.
2. Only those Dual-Credit courses taken during the academic school year (from the first day of school until the final day of school) will count towards school GPA and class rank.
3. Only Dual-Credit courses offered at the FDTC, FMU and TU will count towards school GPA and class rank.
4. A maximum of 12 dual credit courses will be included on student transcripts. Students are allowed to take as many college courses as they wish; however, the first 12 approved courses will be included and calculated on the final student transcript.

Additional college courses taken outside of the above listed criteria may be transferred as college credits by the individual student, but they will not be listed on any transcript published by FCS. These additional credits will not be counted towards school GPA or class rank.

Dual Enrollment FCS/FDTC Approved Classes

English
ENG101 – English Composition I *(Prerequisite: 3.0 GPA or Placement score)*
ENG102 – English Composition II *(Prerequisite: ENG101)*
ENG201 – American Literature I *(Prerequisite: ENG102)*
ENG202 – American Literature II *(Prerequisite: ENG102)*
ENG205 – English Literature I *(Prerequisite: ENG102)*
ENG206 – English Literature II *(Prerequisite: ENG102)*

Math
MAT110 – College Algebra *(Prerequisite: 3.0 GPA in Alg1, Alg2, and geometry) appropriate placement scores)*
*MAT111 – College Trigonometry *(Prerequisite: MAT110 or appropriate placement scores)*
*MAT120 – Probability and Statistics (Prerequisite: Appropriate placement scores)
** MTH1125 –Calculus I *(Prerequisite: MAT111)*

Fine Arts
MUS105 – Music Appreciation *(Prerequisite: 3.0 GPA or Appropriate placement scores)*
THE101 – Introduction to Theater *(Prerequisite: 3.0 GPA or Appropriate placement scores)*
ART101 – Art History and Appreciation *(Prerequisite: 3.0 GPA or Appropriate placement scores)*

Foreign Language
SPA101 – Elementary Spanish I *(Prerequisite3.0 GPA or Appropriate placement scores)*
SPA102 – Elementary Spanish II *(Prerequisite: SPA101)*

History
HIS102 – Western Civilization Post 1689 *(Prerequisite: 3.0 GPA or Appropriate placement scores)*
HIS201 – American History: Discovery to 1877 *(Prerequisite: 3.0 GPA or Appropriate placement scores)*
HIS202 – American History: 1877 to Present *(Prerequisite: 3.0 GPA or Appropriate placement scores)*

Natural Science
BIO101 – Biological Science I *(Prerequisite: HS Biology; 3.0 GPA or Appropriate placement scores)*
BIO102 – Biological Science II *(Prerequisite: BIO101)*

Public Speaking
SPC205 – Public Speaking *(Prerequisite: 3.0 GPA; ENG101 recommended)*

Social Science
PSY201 – General Psychology *(Prerequisite: 3.0 GPA)*
SOC101 – Introduction to Sociology *(Prerequisite: 3.0 GPA)*
PSC201 – American Government *(Prerequisite: 3.0 GPA or Appropriate placement scores)*
ECO210 – Macroeconomics *(Prerequisite: 3.0 GPA)*
ECO211 – Microeconomics *(Prerequisite: 3.0 GPA)*

Technical (non-transferrable; tech prep only)
CPT170 – Microcomputer Applications *(Prerequisite: 3.0 GPA)*
ENG160– Technical Communications *(Prerequisite: 3.0 GPA or Appropriate placement scores)*
Combo of ENG101 & SPC205 will meet requirement
MAT170– Algebra and Trigonometry I *(Prerequisite: 3.0 GPA or Appropriate placement scores)* MAT111 will meet requirement

* Offered through Francis Marion University
** Offered through Troy University
All other courses offered online through Florence Darlington Technical College