FLETCHER ACADEMY

Orientation Manual

2025-26

Dear Parents & New Students,



This handbook was created with you in mind! Students who are new to the Fletcher family may not be familiar with the ins and outs of life on campus and, while the Student Handbook addresses some things, there are traditions and cultures that are not.

We'd like to do everything we can to help you navigate this new chapter and jump into life here on campus as smoothly and quickly as possible! This manual does not replace, but hopefully enhances the Student Handbook. Additional information will be available through Blackbaud and communications with and from the school throughout the year. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact administration or a dean. Welcome to the Fletcher Family!

Sincerely,
The Fletcher Academy Administration, Faculty and Staff

**Subject to change at Administration's discretion* *Updated: 12/5/25*

Welcome!



Arthur Gibbs
President/CEO
(828) 708-4885
agibbs@fletcheracademy.org



Phil Wilhelm
Principal
(828) 989-2046
pwilhelm@fletcheracademy.org

Welcome to the Fletcher Academy family! We are so glad God has brought you here! We have been here on our now 600-acre campus since 1910 and are a growing community of believers operating schools, businesses, and ministries in harmony for one reason: to educate youth to have a transforming influence on the world as disciples of Christ.

We are here to partner with you and each family to foster the positive growth and development of the whole student. As such, we are committed to the development of each person's character, intellect, work ethic, and spiritual health. We're thankful you decided to allow us to join you on your journey! Fletcher Academy has a top-notch leadership team committed to serving our students and their families. We're so excited you chose to be a part of Fletcher Academy!

This document was created to help answer some of the many questions you may have about what to expect. If you have any questions that are still left unanswered or concerns or suggestions we invite you to get in touch with us. We hope you treasure the experience of watching your young person grow in mind, body, and spirit to the service of God.

Arthur Gibbs
President/CEO, Fletcher Academy Inc.

Phil Wilhelm
Principal/CAO, Fletcher Academy

Table of Contents

Communication? **6**
What's a parent to do? **7**
Successful Students **8**
Gabb Phone Policy **9**
FAI Schools/Blackbaud **9**
Academics/GPAs/Report Cards/Awards **11**
GPA 11
Report Cards 11
Awards 11
PK Awards 11
Schedule Changes 11
Academic Restriction/Down Grades 11
Re-Application 12
Dual Enrollment 12
Information for Seniors **13**
Scholarships 13
Transcripts 13
Senior Class Trip 14
Student Support Services **15**
Academic Tutoring 15
Student Support for Learning Differences 15
Class Planning & Academic Load 15
Suggested School Supply List **16**
Sample Class Schedule **17**
Unexpected Absences & Absence Requests **18**
Who reports unexpected absences? 18
Apply for an Absence Excuse 18
Finding the Forms 18
What Happens Next? 18
Free time **19**
Learning Center 19
Student Center 19
Gazebo 19
Items of note 19
Things to look forward to **21**
Senior Survival 21
Handshake 21
Vespers at the Skeeter Bowl 21
Sabbath in the Mountains 21
Class Scramble 22
Class Parties 22

Quarter Parties 22
Boy's/Girl's Club Campouts 22
View Southern 22
Humanities Trip 22
Labor Day 23
Fall Picnic 23
Biology Trip 23
Fall Festival 23
Boys'/Girls' Club Banquet 23
Spirit Week 24
Winter Olympics 24
Senior Class Trip 24
SA Banquet 24
Mission Trip 24
Junior/Senior Banquet 24
Friendship Vespers 25
Lighting/Changing the Number on Strawberry Hill 25
Your 24-25' Student Association Officers 26
Current Class Sponsors 28
Work Program 29
Touring Music Groups 30
Choir 30
Orchestra 31
Handbells 31
Piano 31
AcroKnights 32
The Farm 33
General Q&A 34
Supervision 34
Conflict Resolution 34
How to contact teachers 34
Dorm Details/Q&A 35
The Boys' Dorm 35
The Girl's Dorm 35
General 35
Community Student Q&A 37
Community Student drop off 37
Pick up 37
Dorm Visiting Hours 37
Leaving Campus 37
Cafeteria 37
Taking students off campus 37

Homeleaves & Transportation **38**
Cafeteria **39**
IT **40**
Student Health **41**
Campus Ministries **42**
FAI Affiliates **43**
Captain Gilmer Christian School 43
Lelia Patterson Center 43
Fletcher Park Inn 43
Heritage Hall **44**
Faculty & Staff **45**

Communication

Fletcher Focus E-mail Newsletter
The Fletcher Focus is our email newsletter, usually sent out at the end of each week while school is in session. Subscribe to receive current announcements and to learn more about what God is doing through our students and faculty. You can also read past issues on our website at:
https://fletcheracademy.org/focus/

Website: fletcheracademy.org
Our main website has links to livestream for major events and lots of additional information. If we have a weather emergency it will usually be posted directly on our main page.

Texting
The school uses a mass texting service system that allows us to send text messages to parents and students directly throughout the year. Please make sure we have the correct mobile numbers in our school information system to ensure you are receiving these messages.

Calendar
The dates of Fletcher Academy events and activities are listed online using Google calendar and can be added to your phone.

What's a parent to do?

Helping your student(s) navigate their teen years can be challenging. Add in the ups-and-downs of high school, and it can seem almost overwhelming at times! So what's a parent to do? Here are a few tips for helping your student(s) succeed and flourish at Fletcher Academy.



DO:

- Help your student(s) set up an organized system. They need to know when and where they are supposed to be, as well as keeping track of what is assigned and when it is due for each class. It can be as simple as a page in their notebook, or as complex as it needs to be. Let them customize it to whatever makes sense to them.
- Regularly check on your student(s) progress on the FAI Schools online portal, (more info on that in the pages to come). If they are doing well, tell them so! If you notice any issues, ask them what's going on and if there's anything you can do to help.
- Help them evaluate how they are using their time and if there is anything they could be doing to improve their time management. Personal responsibility is very important! Ultimately students should be learning to use and manage their time in a way that is productive/makes sense to them without someone telling them what to do and where to be every minute of the day.
- Remember that character development is even more important than academic success. *We're building for eternity, not just college.*

DON'T:

- Micromanage/rescue. Sometimes allowing students to experience the consequences of their ill-planning can lead to important lessons learned.
- Yell, guilt-trip or blame everyone else. Instead, challenge students to look for creative solutions to any issues, encourage them to communicate in healthy ways, and guide them through the process.
- Stop being the parent. Even though they are teenagers, no one can take your place. Your student(s) still need your guidance, support, and love.
- Forget to pray for and with your student(s)!

Successful Students

DO:



- Be organized. Organization in both your personal life and school work is crucial and will help your day run more smoothly.
- Turn in assignments (& get to work) on time. You're in high school; this should be a no-brainer, but you'd be surprised. Do yourself and your teacher a favor; just do the work and turn it in. Your grade will thank you; even if you don't do well, it's better than a zero!
- Ask for help if you need it. Teachers are more than happy to do whatever they can to help you; that's literally why they're here. Don't be too proud or self-conscious to reach out for help. Everyone here wants you to succeed!
- Reach out to fellow students; if you see someone sitting by themselves, ask to join them. Say hi to someone in the hall. Just smile at someone you don't know. It doesn't have to be anything big to make a big difference!
- Get involved. Fletcher has tons to offer and participating in activities is a great way to get to know your schoolmates.
- Be respectful; of faculty and staff, peers, and yourself. Make The Golden Rule a thing.
- Do your best. It won't guarantee you'll have a 4.0, but it's important to give it your all. Colossians 3:23 advises us, "Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men."
- Pray with and for each other.

DON'T:

- Compare yourself to others (positively or negatively). It's been said that, "comparison is the thief of joy." You're no better than anyone else, but no one else is any better than you, either. God made each of us with a specific purpose in mind, so comparing ourselves to others is pointless. Be you.
- Wait until the last minute. Procrastination tends to lead to stress and sloppy work. Pace yourself and do your best.
- Expect perfection. We're human and everyone is going to mess up at times. Have mercy, both on yourself and others.

Gabb Phone Policy

Fletcher has adopted a “no smartphone” policy. The faculty and staff put a lot of thought, prayer, and discussion into the decision after seeing the harmful effects of unfettered access on students.

First and foremost, the school adopted this policy to help prevent the complete hijacking of our students by the unfiltered internet. Since the policy has been instituted, we have noticed a significant difference in our students’ level of interaction and engagement, both academically and socially.

Students may have a phone purchased through Gabb Wireless (https://gabbwireless.com/) on campus, which must be registered with the school office. These phones allow students to call, text, and take photos but do not have internet access. Anyone needing access to filtered internet may do so in the Computer Lab, Learning Center, Student Center, or dorms. Chrome Books are also available in the Learning Center and several classrooms for student use.

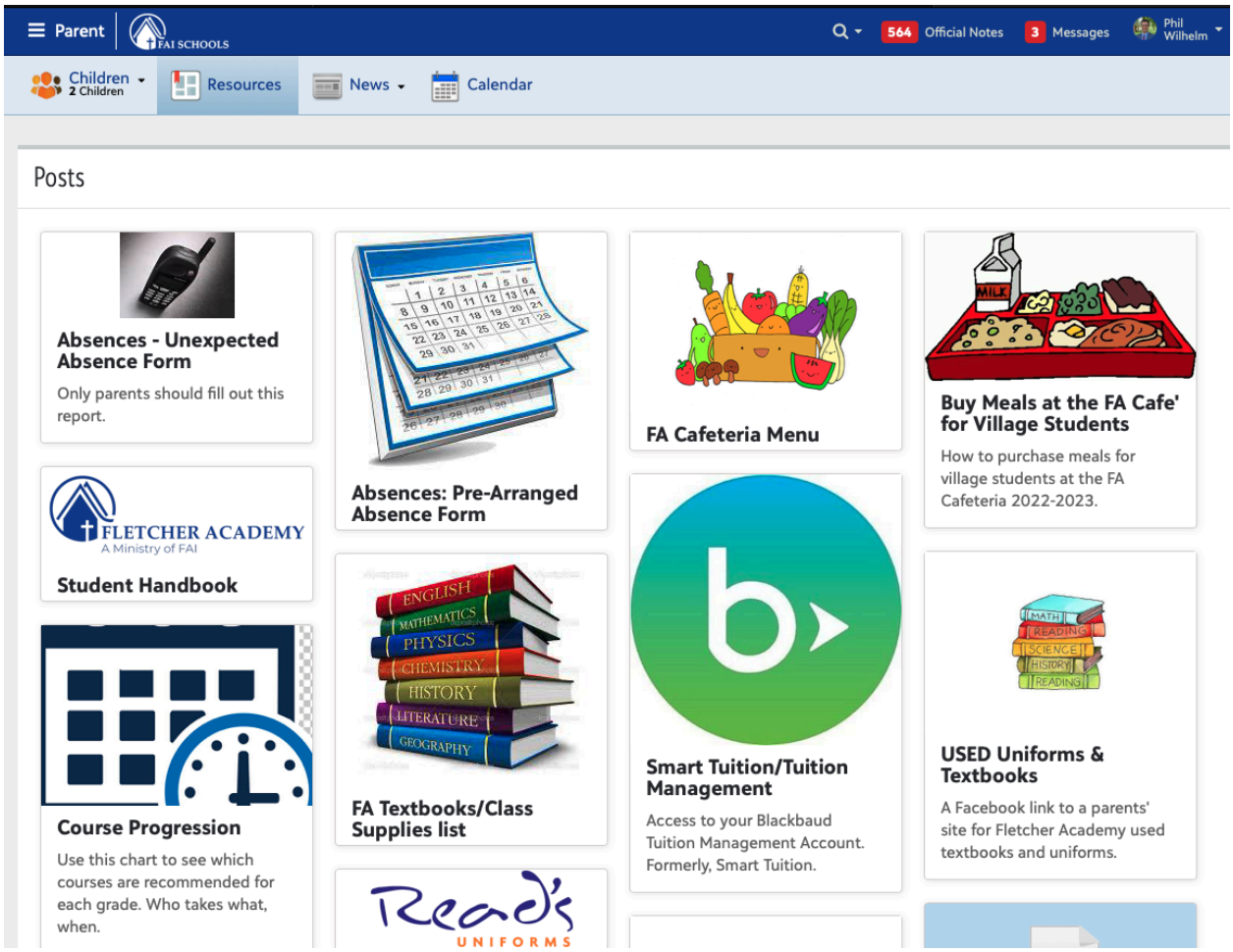
Gabb phones are allowed in the Ad building, but should be kept concealed (in a pocket, bag or backpack) with the ringer off during classes and while in the Learning Center. Downloaded videos and inappropriate pictures are not allowed on phones.

It is important to have our students and parents work with us and respect this policy. Towards that end, at registration all students are required to sign an agreement to abide by the written policy (See Handbook Page 28). Abuse, including inappropriate material found on phones, may result in loss of phone privileges and possible additional disciplinary action. For further information, see the Student Handbook.

FAI Schools/Blackbaud

You will regularly hear references to a computer program called “FAI Schools”, “Blackbaud”, or “the portal.”. This is the online program Fletcher uses for internal communication and can be accessed at www.faischools.myschoolapp.com (this is the same program you used to fill out an application) or by clicking on “School Portal” on the school website banner. Your username and password are unique to you, and the student, their parent/guardian, and the faculty are the only ones who can view the information associated with specific names.

Through this program, students and parents can keep track of their grades and assignments, communicate with teachers, and access the school calendar. Parents can use the same program to access Smart Tuition for bill payments (including tuition, banquets, cafeteria meals for community students, and additional fees). They may also view the school calendar, submit absence requests, and more. Click on the “Resources” or “Calendar” menus at the top of the Parent Portal page to explore what is available.



Academics/GPAs/Report Cards/Awards

As mentioned previously, the faischools.myschoolapp.com portal is the parent's instrument to attend to student progress. You can set notifications, check attendance, see current assignments/grades, and download report cards each quarter.

Students meet with the registrar near the end of each school year to plan their following year's courses. Notifications are sent via the portal, and students can submit course requests at that time. Schedules are built based on core courses needed first, then work assignments, then electives. Parents are able to see/monitor selections in the portal. For standard course progression, see: https://fletcheracademy.org/academics/.

GPA

Please check the Student Handbook to see how GPA is calculated.

Report Cards

Report cards are available online through the faischools.myschoolapp.com portal at the end of each quarter. Only semester grades are recorded on transcripts and count toward cumulative GPA; mid-semester grades are merely a snapshot of the progress up to that point.

Awards

Please see the Student Handbook for yearly and graduation awards for Academics.

PK Awards

Please refer to the Student Handbook to learn more about the PK (privileged kids) Awards system and how it is connected to grades and attendance.

Schedule Changes

To drop a class, students must start with a drop form obtained from the registrar's office. This form is taken by the student to the teacher(s) for signature. It must also be signed by a parent or guardian (if a community student). Boarding students must obtain permission via a parent's email or phone call to the registrar instead of a signature (registrar@fletcheracademy.org or 828-209-6803).

Classes may be added up to two weeks after the start of a semester. Students may drop a class until nine weeks into the semester without affecting their GPA.*

Academic Restriction/Down Grades

Students who have an F, two D's, or an I (incomplete) are placed on Academic Restriction (also referred to as the "down grades list"). Dorm students on this list are restricted from some privileges (possibly including limited computer privileges) and will be required to be in M*A*S*H (RA-led tutoring) in the dorms during study hall hours.

Certain grades are necessary to run for or hold an elected office. Please see “Requirements for holding student offices” in the Student Handbook for more information.

Re-Application

Forms for each year’s reapplication include a user profile update, yearly medical form update, financial questionnaire, and a financial aid application (optional). Forms may be found in the portal. The yearly entrance fee is discounted if paid by June 30th and should be sent to Fletcher Academy, attn: Finance Office, PO Box 5440, Fletcher, NC 28732.

Dual Enrollment

Fletcher Academy provides the opportunity for diligent upperclassmen with good grades to earn college credit through dual credit classes on campus and online. The college credits offered include some of the general education courses required by most colleges and universities and are transferable to most. For more information on course offerings, fees and requirements, visit https://fletcheracademy.org/college-credit/

**Those in performance groups must complete a semester before dropping due to commitments made to the group.*

Information for Seniors

Your senior year is one full of exciting opportunities as you near the end of your academy experience. We'll do everything we can to help you have a successful and rewarding year! This section contains information specifically for seniors.



Scholarships

Seniors and their parents should search online for various scholarships. SDA colleges/universities will extend scholarships based on their criteria to those students who have applied to their schools. Application fees to these schools are typically waived on College Fair Day (a day in the fall when several SDA colleges have representatives on campus to talk to students about their school/answer questions). When a student fills out an application for a college on College Fair Day, transcripts will be requested by and sent to those schools without further permission.

Transcripts

Graduates receive one official (sealed) and one unofficial transcript in their diploma envelope along with a copy of any vaccination record that Fletcher has on file.The registrar will also send official transcripts and test scores on file to those schools the graduate has indicated before school ended.

Transcripts can be requested from the "Contact Us" button on the website and take approximately 7 days to process.They will be released once the student account is cleared and transcript fee (only applicable for rush deliveries) is paid. Digital methods may result in faster delivery times.

Dual Enrollment credits from SAU and WAU should be requested from those institutions directly. Please see this link for more information: https://fletcheracademy.org/college-credit/

Please note: Copies of diplomas are NOT kept on file. Only transcripts are kept and used for education verification purposes.

Southern Adventist University recruits on Fletcher Academy's campus several times a year. Transcripts are automatically provided to SAU and representatives help students navigate the

first steps in applying for FERPA and additional programs that apply to all post-graduate colleges.

Awarded scholarships are printed in the Graduation Program if proof is received roughly 2.5 weeks prior to graduation (date determined by printer's requirements).

Fletcher Academy orders the seniors' graduation regalia. It is theirs to keep (with the exception of the National Honor Society stole which can be purchased if desired).

Only photo graduation announcements are available through the Jostens site affiliated with Fletcher Academy. Parents are responsible for all announcement ordering.

Senior Class Trip

The much-anticipated Senior Class trip may be an international mission trip or domestic "fun" trip. Every attempt is made to keep domestic trip costs to no more than $300 per student. Extensive fundraising on the part of students and the class occurs for international trips.

Regardless of the destination, the class trip creates memories that last a lifetime. It is a fun and meaningful bonding experience for the entire class!



Student Support Services

Academic Tutoring

If a student is struggling and in need of extra academic help, tutoring is available Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings in the Learning Center or math room (in the Ad building) from 6:30-7:30 pm. Each evening a different teacher is available during this time for students to make up missing assignments, get extra help on a topic or skill, or simply be available to answer questions as a student completes their homework. This tutoring is voluntary unless the teacher providing the tutoring has required a student to attend (this can happen if a teacher becomes aware that a student needs additional help or if the student has accrued a significant number of missing assignments).

If you feel that your student(s) would benefit from additional structured support, please contact the Vice Principal of Academics, Adam Mohns, at admohns@fletcheracademy.org or 828-209-6816.

Student Support for Learning Differences

We strive to accommodate students with learning differences to the best of our ability. If your student has a learning difference that has already been identified and diagnosed, please notify either the Registrar, Elizabeth Kendrick, or Vice Principal of Academics, Adam Mohns, so that an appropriate accommodation plan can be devised for your student.

If you believe that your student(s) may have a learning difference that has not been identified, we can direct you to information regarding how to set up academic testing (all testing, including scheduling and payment, is the responsibility of the parent/guardian). ***Only after official testing and diagnosis can any academic accommodations be made in the classroom.***

Class Planning & Academic Load

Many wonderful opportunities are available here at Fletcher Academy! Students can choose to be a part of a performing group such as 11th Hour, Orchestra, Bells or Acroknights (to name a few), be involved in student leadership in their class, student senate, or SA, as well as ministry opportunities. There are a lot of fantastic options for learning and growth, and we want students to take advantage of these programs! However, it is also important to consider a student's overall course load when choosing extracurricular activities. Each of these ”extras” carries a time commitment & responsibility; some miss classes at certain times of the year, others require planning & meeting in the evening & on Sundays, many will have extra evening practices. This added stress can make it difficult for some students to keep up academically.

Please consider carefully how many groups & activities you choose to be a part of. We want you to be involved, but be careful not to overextend yourself! You may be able to handle a heavy load, but that doesn’t mean that you should, as this can cause unneeded stress and anxiety. You also need time for relaxation, friends, academics, and most importantly, God. A busy life is not necessarily a balanced and healthy one!

Suggested School Supply List

- 3 ring binder
- Loose-leaf college-ruled notebook paper
- Graph paper
- Pens and pencils
- TI84-84CE Graphing calculator (if needed for math class)
- Straight edge/Ruler (including metric measurements)
- Scissors
- Tape
- Stapler and staples
- Highlighters
- Colored pencils
- Pencil sharpener
- 1 pack ruled notecards
- Composition notebook
- Post-it notes

See the *FA Textbook List with Class Supplies* link in the Resource section of Blackbaud for a current list of textbooks and necessities for each class.

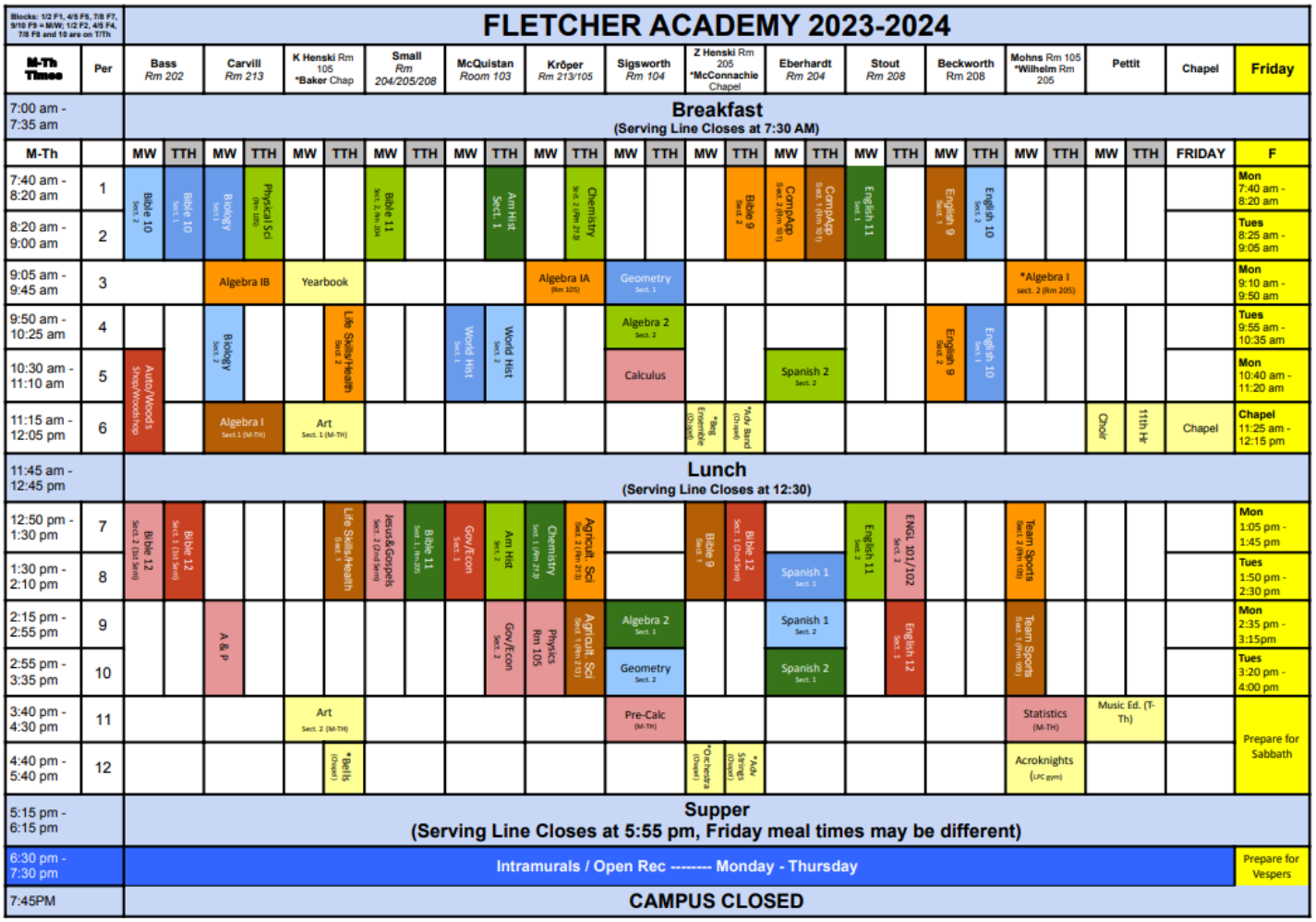
A limited supply of used uniforms and textbooks are available for purchase in the dorms; see deans for details. There is also a public Facebook group called *Fletcher Academy Textbooks & Uniforms* where parents can buy/sell/swap used textbooks and uniforms.

*Some additional supplies are available for cash purchase throughout the school year in the Learning Center Office and dorm stores.

Sample Class Schedule

Teachers' schedules are listed in columns for Monday/Wednesday classes and Tuesday/Thursday classes. All classes in periods 1-5 and 7-10 meet on Friday, with chapel during the 6th period. It can take a little getting used to, but eventually it will make sense. Feel free to ask any faculty member and they should be able to explain it to you.

The colors represent typical grade levels for each of the classes.
Freshmen - Orange/Brown
Sophomores - Light Blue/Blue
Juniors - Light Green/Green
Seniors - Pink
Electives - Light Yellow



Unexpected Absences & Absence Requests

Who reports unexpected absences?

a. **Community Students** - Parents, always report an unexpected student absence on the day of the absence ASAP (by 8:00 AM if at all possible).
b. **Dorm Students** - Parents report ONLY when the student is under parental supervision, not when under the Deans' care.
c. Report daily via email - attendance@fletcheracademy.org or submit an unexpected absence request form online (see below for link).

Apply for an Absence Excuse

a. **Unexpected*** - Emergent: Illness, traffic, unplanned situations
b. **Pre-arranged*** - doctor (dentist/orthodontia) appointments, family events, etc.

Finding the Forms

a. Absence excuse forms can be found at www.fletcheracademy.org/absences/ or via the link in Resources on the FAI Schools Portal.

What Happens Next?

a. Administration meets to determine whether or not the absence(s) will be excused. These meetings generally take place mid-week.
b. Parent is emailed with the outcome.
c. The student's attendance is then changed to reflect the decision.

Please see the Student Handbook for full information on absences and excuses:
"Absences/tardy resulting from unexpected delays, alarms not going off, running late, etc. are not excused."
"Students placed on sick list for the day are expected to remain at home or in their dorm room for the remainder of the day. They may not participate in activities on the day they are placed on sick list.
Classes will not be excused because of sickness when a student comes to classes or any other event/activity on campus later that same day."

* Unexpected Absence Excuse Form - may be filled out by parents only.
* Pre-Arranged Absence Form - may be filled out by either student or parent, but please only submit one form per absence request.

Free time

The Fletcher family is busy, but there are daily periods of free time. During their down time, dorm students can always hang out in their respective dorms. Certain areas of campus are "open" or "closed" at different times, usually posted on the *FA This Week* bulletin (posted in the dorms and ad building and sent out via email). For more information on Open/Closed campus, see the Student Handbook.

Other areas open to students throughout the day include:

Learning Center

The first room on the right in the ad building, the Learning Center is open 8:00AM-4:30PM Mon-Thurs (4:00PM on Friday) and closed for lunch 11:45AM-12:45PM. Acting as both a library (for recreational reading and research) and computer lab, *it is a place for quiet study and conversation*. Computers and ChromeBooks are available for student use, as are individual study desks and a copier/printer.

Student Center

The Student Center is on the lower level of the ad building, last room on the right (or first on the left, depending on which staircase you take). Open most weekdays until 4:30PM. There are pool and ping-pong tables available as well as board and card games (Uno, etc). It's a great spot to hang out and relax with friends in a casual environment.

Gazebo

On weekends, the gazebo area in front of the boy's dorm may be opened by the deans for coed socializing when campus is closed.

Items of note

No one is allowed in the chapel (across the street) unless there for a music lesson, school-wide program (such as chapel, week of prayer, etc), class or work.

Recreation period ("Rec") is after supper from 6:30-7:30 p.m. During nice weather it's usually held on the field, moving to the LPC gym when it turns cold. Different sports are played throughout the year and students can participate on intramurals teams if they choose (See Mr. Mohns to sign up). If games aren't specifically scheduled, "Open Rec" is sometimes held, meaning students can choose their activities as long as they stay within the area where Rec is being held.



Tutoring is available during Rec (M, Tue, Thurs) in the Learning Center or math room. See the *FA This Week* for details.

Campus is closed at the end of Rec. At this time Dorm students return to their respective dorms and all community students leave campus promptly for the night.

Things to look forward to

There are all kinds of fun activities planned throughout the school year! Following is a list of activities normally enjoyed at Fletcher over the course of a regular school year*. Dates, times and locations will be announced.

Senior Survival



Kicking off the year for the seniors is Senior Survival, a short trip allowing students to bond as a class and come closer to Jesus. It usually happens the week before school officially starts.

Handshake

The Handshake is our first school-wide social event of the year! It is a time to make new friends and welcome back the old after a summer apart. Ice breakers, snacks and games are a fun way to kick off a new year. Held on the field, weather permitting.

Vespers at the Skeeter Bowl

School-wide vespers in the amphitheater next to the chapel. Community students are invited to join.

Sabbath in the Mountains

Sabbath in the Mountains is a lovely day of fellowship in nature that includes spiritual emphasis, songs, food and a hike (often to a waterfall!). Buses usually load at 9 AM by the flagpole. Community students may sign up to ride the buses and families are welcome to join; please bring your own lunch (lunch is provided for students). You may join the caravan as we head to the mountains or meet at the destination.



Class Scramble

This is a fun one. Classes gather all the random items from home or dorm they think may be helpful (thank you, parents, for your patience!), and gather in the gym. Each class occupies one corner of the gym, and organizes their things/classmates. Classes have a designated number of runners, and when an item is called, if a class has it, they pass it to their runner. The first runner to make it to the center and hit the buzzer gets points. Points are also awarded for various challenges throughout the evening. The class with the most points at the end is declared the winner.



Families are welcome to come and cheer on their student's class(es)! Students wear class t-shirts (Freshmen wear white).

Class Parties

Dorm students will be provided with transportation, community students can meet at the destination or ride on school transportation (arrangements need to be made before Saturday night to ensure there is enough space). Information regarding class parties will be released prior to the parties.

Quarter Parties

Four times a year the Student Association (SA) throws a "Quarter Party." Themes vary, but usually a fee of $.25 per quarter (i.e., $.25 first quarter, $.50/2nd quarter, etc) is collected.

Boy's/Girl's Club Campouts

Near the beginning of the school year Boy's and Girl's Clubs each go on a weekend camping trip. Community students are welcome to attend. Details regarding the site and specific needs will be announced prior to the events.

Fall Picnic

Students participate in sporting events Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday nights as well as all day Sunday. Attendance is taken Sunday morning at worship and counts towards class points. This is also counted as a school day and students should be wearing their class t-shirts. Families are welcome to attend all events during Fall Picnic. If parents are willing to help with snacks on Sunday, please let a class sponsor know.

Humanities Trip

Early fall (usually over/around the September home leave) the Junior class takes their Humanities trip to several historic cities and sites in the northeast, from Washington DC

north. Adventist Heritage sites are also included in the trip. They usually visit about 13 states in 8 days and travel as far north as New Hampshire!



Labor Day

Please note that Labor Day is a required school day since Fletcher Academy is a boarding school.

Fall Festival

Fall Festival is an opportunity for classes to fundraise and have fun together. The Fall Festival is usually held in the LPC gym, with food available for purchase and lots of activities for the whole family. Tickets are sold that benefit the classes. A favorite is the pie-throwing booth, where tickets can be used to throw a whip-cream pie at select faculty/students! All families are invited. Donations of both food and money are welcome, as are parent volunteers.

Biology Trip

Also in the fall (usually around/over the October home leave), sophomores take their Biology trip to Charleston, SC where they spend a fun-filled time on and around the beach learning about ocean life.



View Southern

Similar to Academy Days, seniors and their class sponsors spend a couple of days at Southern Adventist University near Chattanooga, TN, learning about the school and its offerings.

Boys'/Girls' Club Banquet

Boys' and Girls' clubs alternate years for planning the fall banquet. Themes and attire vary and will be announced but are usually casual. When Boy's club hosts, boys ask girls, and vice versa.

Spirit Week

One school week per semester is deemed SA Spirit Week. Each weekday during that week has its own theme (such as Elder Appreciation Day, Career Day, Twin Day, Throwback Day, Sports Day, etc)(If you choose not to participate in a particular day's theme, please plan to wear a school uniform as usual). Themes are announced in advance so students (and sometimes staff!) can prepare. It's always fun to see everyone's creativity!

Winter Olympics



During Winter Olympics students are involved in class-on-class sports events. Families are invited to come and cheer on the students. Attendance is taken Saturday night. Students should wear their class t-shirt for non-aquatic activities.

Senior Class Trip

Early 2nd semester is the time for the much-anticipated Senior Class trip. Lots of correspondence regarding planning and fundraising is sent out. Any questions can be directed to the senior class sponsors.

SA Banquet

The Student Association plans a banquet in the 2nd semester. It is generally more formal than the 1st semester Boy's/Girl's club banquet (see the Student Handbook for dress code guidelines). Gently used pre-approved banquet dresses may be available in the Girls' Dorm store; check with a dean regarding availability.



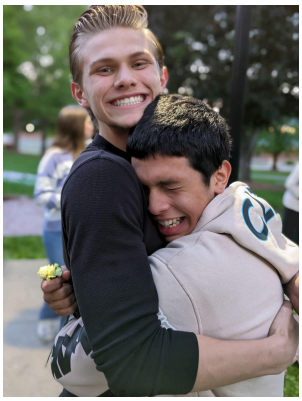
Mission Trip

Destinations for the annual mission trip may be international or domestic. Students are usually gone over Spring Break and participate in fundraising events throughout the school year. The types of projects the group takes part in varies by destination/need.

Junior/Senior Banquet

Each year near the end of the school year, the Junior class plans a banquet (usually off-campus) for upperclassmen. Themes and attire vary and will be announced prior to the banquet.

Friendship Vespers



Usually held the Friday night before finals week, Friendship Vespers is a time for students to let each other know how much they mean to each other, make amends, and tell their graduating/leaving friends goodbye. It's an emotional, unforgettable night.

Lighting/Changing the Number on Strawberry Hill

On the Saturday night of Fall Picnic, the number on Strawberry Hill is lit (yes, like on fire) to celebrate the incoming seniors. It's lit again at the end of the year after the Saturday night program graduation weekend. Following graduation on Sunday, the rising seniors, with their sponsors, change the number on Strawberry Hill to their graduating year in anticipation of seeing it lit at the next school year's Fall Picnic.

We love to have parents involved in many of the school activities! If you have a talent you are willing to contribute we would like to know; it could be hospitality, food, fundraising, giving, time, etc. Please let us know if you would be willing/available to help!

*This is not an exhaustive list of activities. We encourage you to check the school calendar (at http://www.fletcheracademy.com/student_life/calendar/) for all events as well as the *FA This Week* (sent out weekly via email) for more detailed information, times and fees associated with any of these events.

Your 25-26' Student Association Officers

President	 Olivia Ferree
Vice President	 Claire Beckworth
Secretary	 Felicity Zappia

Pastor	 Savannah Elvin
Treasurer	 Addison Joseph
Public Relations	 Victoria Winslow
Parliamentarian	

	 Izhar Jaen
Creation Health	 Abdiel Alvarado-Garcia

Current Class Sponsors

Class of ‘29	Juana Wiles & Eddie Pineda
Class of ‘28	Jodi Beckworth & Zach Henski
Class of ‘27	Denise Pettit & Clayton Neil
Class of ‘26	Kim Henski, Clinton Carvill & Phil Wilhelm

Work Program

One of life's true aims is to honor our Maker in doing our part of the world's work. At Fletcher Academy, we believe it is vital for students to learn that life requires earnest work and responsibility. Towards that end, the Fletcher staff strive to strengthen the values of diligent work and a solid work ethic in each of our students. Learning to work, be punctual, and faithfully perform assigned duties is as much a part of education as any other aspect of school life. As such, ***work is required for all students***. Provisions are made for students to be mentored and coached in order to acquire work skills while enrolled at Fletcher Academy.



Each school year Freshmen rotate (quarterly) through food service, janitorial, maintenance, and office work in an effort to give them a well-rounded work experience. Students in grades 10-12 also split their day between academic classes and work depending on age*, availability, skills, etc (see broad list below).

Work education continues to be a hallmark of our success as an organization committed to making a positive difference in the lives of our students. We are uniquely positioned with enough employment opportunities to keep our entire student body either employed or enrolled in meaningful career education opportunities to equip them to serve their Creator in whatever ways He leads.

Campus work opportunities include (but aren't limited to): custodial, Academy/Finance office, grader, food service, grounds, maintenance, LPC, dorm custodial or Resident Assistant (for dorm students only), Fletcher Park Inn kitchen, housekeeping, activities and front desk.

Students check in/out on www.paycor.com using a username and password assigned to them by HR. If a student misses a punch (forgetting to check in or out), they can contact Vicki Redden (in the Learning Center Office) or Collin Petty (HR, at the end of the hallway next to the drinking fountain on the main floor of the Ad Building). Hours worked and income earned may be tracked on this site as well.

On-campus summer/home leave work may be available; see the work coordinator for more information. For questions/concerns regarding student work placement, contact Mr. Wilhelm.

*Students must be at least 14 years old in order to be employed. Documentation required for employment includes a social security card.

Touring Music Groups



Fletcher Academy's music program is an integral part of the Fletcher experience and facilitates the school's mission to develop, nurture and affirm students' desire for a lifetime of service to God and humanity. As such, Fletcher students have many opportunities to develop a lifelong appreciation for music. Ensemble classes provide instruction, practice, and performance opportunities. Fletcher Academy music groups give performances in local churches and participate in regional music association workshops and union-wide music festivals. Each year several music groups go on multi-state or even international tours.

Choir

Fletcher Academy has two vocal choral ensembles. FA Chorale is our large general choir requiring a brief and simple audition to be placed properly in the section that best fits the student's range. A demonstrated spirit of cooperation and enthusiasm for singing are also prerequisites for membership. 11th Hour is our select or chamber choir which has a more extensive audition process. This is our touring group and is dedicated to high musical standards and substantial commitment from each member.



Our mission for both groups is to develop and enhance the vocal abilities and skills of the students. Our purpose and ministry of these choral groups is to use music to help instill positive Christian values within the students. Through practice, performance, and education singers build their skills and emerge as confident young adults with a lifelong love for music.

Orchestra

The FA Orchestra strives to minister to the spiritual needs of the students and provide ministry opportunities for the students. Key instrument lessons are available to students of all ability levels. Good tone production and an awareness of the capabilities of the instrument for solo and ensemble playing are emphasized. Various instruments, subject to availability, can be checked out through the music department.

Handbells

Fletcher Academy's handbell program offers students the opportunity to participate in music ministry with two performance groups. *Redemption* is our open ensemble allowing students at any level of musical experience to learn and improve handbell ringing skills. *Exaltation* is our audition-based ensemble offering skilled ringers the opportunity to study and apply advanced handbell techniques to a variety of musical styles.

Piano

Private piano lessons are available to students of all ability levels and are individualized to the student's level of competence.

Additional purchases (performance wear, etc) may be necessary for each group. Auditions are held at registration and by appointment.

See the Student Handbook for more information regarding touring group guidelines.

AcroKnights

Fletcher Academy's gymnastics team, AcroKnights, provides students an opportunity to develop strength of body and character in a team-building environment. Practice meets in the LPC gym in the afternoon, Mon-Thurs. Team members are chosen by tryouts at the beginning of the school year.



The Farm

Fletcher Academy is building upon a rich history in farming to engage every student in agriculture and draw us closer to our Creator. Vegetables, nuts, fruit and eggs are cultivated on our farm in order to enjoy nutrient-dense food daily, with a portion set aside to help those in need.
Our farm management practices and teaches simple sustainable organic agricultural methods using minimal resources to put nutritious food on the table for life.

Students engage in the farm through a variety of activities including:

- Special group work bees
- Required freshman Agricultural Sciences Course
- Community outreach sharing food to those in need
- General student work detail and/or the freshman work experience program
- Preparing farm produce in the cafeteria
- Consuming the nutrient-dense produce of their labor in the cafeteria

We encourage parents and guardians to tour the farm when they are on campus in order to gain insights on what their child is learning and how God is blessing.



General Q&A

Supervision

There is always a dean on duty, 24/7. If they are not in their office, they can be reached via text or phone (see deans for phone numbers). An adult faculty or staff member is always present whenever students are in a co-ed social setting, as well as during weekends, rec and any time campus is “open”. Security cameras are placed around campus and monitored for the safety of everyone.

Conflict Resolution

An important life skill for anyone to learn is conflict resolution. As parents, it’s easy to want to jump in and try to solve the problem (and if the issue involves illegal activity, threats, sexual misconduct, bullying or other seriously inappropriate activity, they absolutely should contact Mr. Wilhelm or Dean Rahm immediately), but sometimes, if there is a difference of opinion, misunderstanding, or question regarding schoolwork, it’s best to step back and let them make the first attempt at resolving the problem. In Matthew 18:15-21, Jesus clearly laid out steps for dealing with conflict. If the student, after talking with the other person involved, is unable to reach an acceptable solution, it would be appropriate for parents to contact the adult at FA that is most directly involved. If there is still an issue after that conversation, contact Dean Rahm or Mr. Wilhelm.

How to contact teachers

Teachers have office hours posted outside their office doors and will usually be available there during those times. They also check their email daily (first initial, last name@fletcheracademy.org) and can be contacted via Blackbaud or their office phone (you may call the school office and ask to be transferred, or call directly at the number listed on the Fletcher Academy website staff page).

Dorm Details/Q&A

Dorm life can be a big adjustment from home, but we hope that you enjoy becoming a part of the Fletcher dorm families. Friendships will be made here that can last a lifetime!

The deans understand the ups and downs of dorm life and are there to guide and support you. For more information regarding dorm life, including a list of what to bring/leave home, please refer to the Student Handbook or contact Deans Hernandez (Girl's) or Rahm (Boy's).

The Boys' Dorm



The boys' deans strive to create an environment that encourages young men in their Christian walk as well as their academic journey. Spiritual and fun activities are planned throughout the school year, including various tournaments (ping pong, pool, foosball, corn hole, spikeball, ramen noodle cookoff, etc), Dorm week of prayer (1st semester student speakers, 2nd semester guest speakers), Boy's Club Campout, Boys/Girls Club Open House / Banquet and Father-Son Weekend.

The Girl's Dorm

Our goal is for the girls' dorm to create a loving environment where young women can form lifelong friendships and cultivate a desire to grow personally in Christ. As deans, we help facilitate their growth and independence by helping them learn important time management skills, self-motivation, and study skills. We have many engaging activities such as Girls Club Campout, Open House, Banquet, Dorm Worships, Big Sister/Little Sister, and Mother-Daughter Brunch.

General

As stated in the student handbook, family and friends are welcome to visit, however, visitors entering the dorm must first check in with the Dean on duty so they are aware that there are visitors in the building. Parents and grandparents will be allowed to go to the dorm rooms after they check in with the Dean on duty and an announcement is made on the PA intercom. If you plan to be on campus for any length of time (other than picking up/dropping off, etc) please check in with the Learning Center of Finance Office to register and pick up a visitor's pass.

When taking dorm students off campus, please communicate with the deans before doing so (as a matter of safety, they need to be aware of where students are in case of an emergency). Written parental permission is required before a dorm student can leave campus with a non-family member. The person taking a student off campus must fill out the dorm sign-out sheet prior to the student leaving campus. See the student handbook for more information.

Walmart trips - Regular Walmart trips are made on Sundays. Signup sheets are in the dorms. A bus or van takes dorm students to a local Walmart where they can purchase whatever they need. Additional items are available in the dorm stores for purchase in between Walmart trips as well.

Community Student Q&A

Community Student drop off

Most students start their day at the Administration Building at 185 Fletcher Academy Dr. Drop off takes place at the top of the driveway at the steps of the Ad Building. It is a narrow drive with lots of traffic at certain times of the day, so please use caution when exiting vehicles and make your drop as quickly as possible to keep the line moving.

Pick up

Student pick up times vary considerably due to class and work schedules. (Fletcher Academy students do not all have a set time for school to end, e.g., 3:00 PM). Pick up will not necessarily be the most convenient for you or your student at the Ad Building. due to work assignments.

You must communicate with your student **PRIOR** to any doctor's appointments for an early pick up, as many work assignments make it very difficult to get in touch with students for a last minute reminder. In addition, pre-arranged absences should be approved through Ad Council via the form found online (in the Parent Portal of Blackbaud, under “Resources”). Prearranged absences approved by Ad Council will be excused. **Students are responsible for all missed assignments.**

Dorm Visiting Hours

Community students may visit the dorm of their gender during normal school hours and at the discretion of the deans.

Leaving Campus

All community students are required to remain on campus while there for classes/work, and leave campus immediately following Rec, as dorm students go to the dorms for the night from there, and campus is closed.

Cafeteria

See the Cafeteria page for more information regarding community student use of the cafeteria.

Taking students off campus

Community students are not allowed to take dorm students off campus in their cars without express written permission from a parent/guardian and knowledge of the dean. In order for dorm students to leave campus with a community student’s family, arrangements must be made with their respective dean and the dorm student’s parent/guardian. See the Student Handbook for more information.

Homeleaves & Transportation

Homeleaves happen roughly every month, with longer breaks for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Spring Break. Monthly homeleaves run from Wednesday at noon until Sunday. Home leave transportation is available to several destinations that may be closer/more convenient for student pick-up; detailed information can be found at www.fletcheracademy.org/transportation/. Payment for transportation can be made through Blackbaud's Parent Portal. Additional information is available in the Student Handbook.



Cafeteria

The FA cafeteria offers vegetarian and vegan options for all students*. All food and drink must be consumed in the cafeteria unless being taken to the dorms for those on Sick List.



Meal cost is included for dorm students. Community students may purchase meals in the Finance Office or on Blackbaud. Student ID cards are swiped in the cafeteria at the time of the meal and the charge is immediately deducted from their account. Additional meals may be purchased at any time.

Community students not wishing to purchase a meal may eat a meal from home in the cafeteria (please note that school policy does not allow meat or caffeine on campus). Microwaves are available.

**Gluten-free options can be available when a dorm student has requested a need. If this or any other dietary restriction (due to health or religious/lifestyle choices) is requested, please contact the Food Service Director ASAP.*

IT

The Fletcher IT department is located on the lower level of the ad building and can be contacted in person or via email or phone (fletcherit@fletcheracademy.org or (828) 209-6720).

Student ID cards, used for dorm, ad building, cafeteria, work and LPC access as well as purchasing cafeteria meals, are made at the IT Department. The replacement fee for missing student ID cards is $5.

Upon enrollment, each student is assigned an email address (first initial, last name@fa.education) that is used for all school correspondence.

Personal electronic devices (laptops, ChromeBooks, iPads, etc) are not allowed on campus, as students have access to computer labs (including printers) in the Learning Center, Student Center, the Computer Lab, dorms and several classrooms. School computers are for homework and internet research/usage. They are equipped with an internet filter in an effort to limit viewing of or interacting with potentially harmful websites and content. Access to school computers is a privilege and may be revoked if improperly used.

Student Health



If a student is feeling sick and/or needs medication, they must see the school nurse (Jessica Rahm, pictured) at the times posted in the dean's office. If a student becomes sick during the day, they should inform the supervising adult in their area ASAP.

Students who are sick must be put on Sick List by a parent/guardian (if community), dean or the school nurse. Community students can be placed on Sick List by calling or emailing the Academy Office (828-209-6800, office@fa.education) or filling out an Unexpected Absence form (available at www.fletcheracademy.org/absences/) .

Absences will be excused for students who are on Sick List. ***Students are responsible for contacting their teachers regarding missed assignments once they return to class.***

Community students who are ill may be sent home during the day as deemed necessary by the Academy Office and/or school nurse. Students sent home for illness may return to campus once they are fever-free for 24 hours and symptoms are improving. Dorm students may be quarantined in their room until they feel better or arrangements can be made for them to go home. Cafeteria meals will be delivered to dorm-bound students and appropriate medical care will be administered by the dean or school nurse.

Minor first aid is available in the dorms, Academy Office and Learning Center.

Medical emergencies are handled on a case-by-case basis and will be initially evaluated by the school nurse, dean or administrator on duty. Parents will be notified and students transported to the nearest emergency medical facility. 911 will be called for life-threatening emergencies.

We recognize that our students' mental health is just as important as their physical health and that the two are inextricably intertwined. In an effort to assist in the maintenance of their mental health, counseling services are available for students at the nearby Fletcher Christian Counseling Center. They can be reached via their website, www.fletcherccc.com or by phone or email at (828) 263-6526 and thefletcherccc@gmail.com.

For more information, refer to the Student Handbook.

Campus Ministries

Campus ministries is one of the many ways that we encourage students to develop and grow a relationship with Jesus Christ. Throughout the year, Campus Ministries provide abundant opportunities to fellowship with like-minded individuals whose purpose is to give praise to God. We encourage all students, whether dorm or community, to come and be active participants in our vespers programs, outreaches, campus events and so much more! Our number one goal is to enable students to encounter Christ on a personal level no matter what stage of life they are in. The campus ministries team, led by our school chaplain Zach Henski, is not only here to provide students with support as they begin or continue to walk with Christ, but wants to hear student's ideas as well!



FAI Affiliates

Fletcher Academy, as part of Fletcher Academy, Inc, is affiliated with Captain Gilmer Christian School (CGCS)(grades K-8), the Lelia Patterson Center (LPC) and Fletcher Park Inn (FPI). Employment opportunities may be available for students at each of these entities.

Captain Gilmer Christian School

CGCS is located across the street from the academy, on the hill behind the chapel. Only Fletcher students who are working there as graders/teacher's assistants should be there, and then only during their assigned shift or as invited.

Lelia Patterson Center

The LPC shares a drive with Fletcher Academy. The fitness center's cardio room, aquatics center and gym are available to Fletcher students at no additional charge. Schedules and availability vary by gender and will be posted in the dorms. Fletcher uses the LPC gym for rec, graduation, Class Scramble and many other gatherings.

Fletcher Park Inn

FPI is a retirement community affiliated with FA that is located across the street from the LPC. Students may work in various capacities for FPI, allowing for intergenerational relationship building that might not be available elsewhere.

Heritage Hall

Fletcher Academy has a long and interesting history, beginning with its establishment in 1910. Heritage Hall, a Museum of Fletcher Academy history, is located above the cafeteria. Freshmen take a tour during Freshman Orientation and other tours may be arranged by contacting Arthur Gibbs (828-209-6704 or agibbs@fletcheracademy.org) during normal business hours.

Faculty & Staff

The faculty and staff of Fletcher Academy look forward to getting to know you better this school year! For a full list of faculty and staff, including photos and contact information, please see https://fletcheracademy.org/staff/.

FLETCHER ACADEMY

A Ministry of FAI

We're glad you're here!

For more information regarding student life at Fletcher Academy, refer to the current Student Handbook.

Fletcher Academy
185 Fletcher Academy Drive, Fletcher, NC 28732
PO Box 5440, Fletcher, NC 28732

Email: info@fa.education
Call: 828-209-2800