



Developing students who are competent, productive and responsible by promoting the academic skills and character to succeed in life.

Student Handbook

2024-2025

(updated 10/08/2024)

Falcon Ridge Public Charter School accepts all students regardless of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, gender, social or economic status, or special needs.

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ATTENDANCE POLICY 3050A3

Parents are expected to call the school office prior to 9:00 am to report the reason for their child's absence.

At Falcon Ridge Public Charter School, regular attendance and punctuality are a vital part of a student's education. Teachers implement a high level of direct teaching and interactive learning and both students and teachers are held accountable to complete a set of standards and benchmarks. These teaching techniques do not allow students to simply make up concepts missed. Additionally, FRPCS' mission is to develop students who will become exceptional employees and incorporate a school-to-work emphasis in all we do. As attendance and punctuality are essential qualifications for individuals in the workforce, so they will be for those who attend Falcon Ridge. In accordance with our charter, Falcon Ridge Public Charter School has a 96% attendance standard. Every effort and commitment should be made by students, parents and administration to ensure that students are in attendance and punctual every day. A school calendar is provided well in advance to allow families to schedule activities during breaks. Students are expected to attend classes regularly.

TARDY POLICY

Students are considered tardy if they are not in the school building at the time school commences at the beginning of the day as established by the school calendar. The tardy bell rings at 8:05am. All students arriving late must be signed in at the office to ensure accurate records and lunch counts. Each time a student accrues (3) unexcused tardies, the student will also be treated as having 1 absence. Examples of an unexcused tardy include oversleeping, late walking to school, missed school bus, parent running late, etc. Students will not be considered tardy in the event of bad weather, if buses are running late, etc.

ABSENCE POLICY

1. A student will be allowed nine absences per semester. Any absence beyond that number may result in loss of seat. Additional absences may be excused with administrator approval due to extenuating circumstances.
2. The ONLY absences that WILL NOT be used in calculating the attendance record are:
 - A. Those that occur due to school-sponsored activities, since these are considered an equivalent educational experience. These exemptions will apply to students participating in sports events, academic field trips, and others deemed co-curricular.

- B. Bereavement in the immediate family (grandparent, parent, or sibling). Any extended bereavement may be reviewed by the Board; C. Subpoenas to appear in court or court-ordered placements for special services; and
 - D. Illness or hospitalization verified by a doctor's statement with date(s) excusing the student from school.
3. Absences which will be counted in the nine-day limit will include such areas as: illness (without a verified doctor's statement), family trips, work days, vacations, visiting friends or relatives, suspension in and out of school, attending tournaments not included in Attendance Policy 3050 Absence Policy Section 2A, medical and dental appointments, personal appointments, recreational activities, events, or any others not mentioned which the school board determines as an absence.
 4. After five absences from school/class, a letter will be sent to the student's home, indicating the school policy and the number of days missed.
 5. After seven absences, another letter will be sent, indicating the severity of the situation.
 6. After exceeding the ninth absence, the student may lose their seat. That student, with parental accompaniment, must appear before the school board.
 7. The Board will review the absence report to determine if the student will be withdrawn due to noncompliance with the attendance policy.
 8. The Board can, after hearing a student's/parent's appeal, put certain stipulations on a student dependent upon an agreement reached with the student and parents concerning attendance for the rest of the semester.
 9. Any decision to withdraw the student can be appealed to the Falcon Ridge School Board.

TRUANCY

Truancy is defined as a student being absent for all or any part of the school day without the approval of the parent, guardian or school authorities. This includes students who are on the campus, but not in their assigned classroom. Truancies will be counted as full-day absences and are subject to absence consequences.

ABSENCE VERIFICATION

When a student has not arrived by 9:00 a.m., and no contact from a parent has been received, a school representative will make a reasonable attempt to contact the parent/guardian. A parent/guardian must call or send a signed note stating the reason for the absence upon the student's return to school. The school procedure for submitting medical or other notes is as follows: All medical or other relevant notes must be submitted to the school office within two business days upon the student's return to school after an absence. This ensures proper documentation and compliance with school attendance policies.

A doctor's note is recommended for extended absences due to medical reasons. Parents whose work schedule prevents them from contacting the

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school during the normal school hours are strongly urged to send a note with the student, leave a phone message after hours, or email the school with an urgent message. Students leaving and returning during the school day must be signed in and out by an adult.

STUDENTS WITH A HISTORY OF POOR ATTENDANCE

If a student accumulates an excessive number of absences over two or more years, the student and parent/guardian may be required to appear before the board and may lose his or her seat.

MAKE-UP WORK

1. Students will be allowed 2 days make-up time for each absence to make up new material.
2. Students are responsible to make arrangements for make-up work, assignments and tests upon his or her return to class.
3. It is the responsibility of the student to check with the teacher about any new assignments or tests that may have been announced during an absence from class.
4. Except in extenuating circumstances, assignments or tests that are assigned in advance of the student's absence are due on the day the student returns to school unless other arrangements are made with the teacher. The student is responsible to have all assignments completed and be prepared to take any tests upon his or her return to class.
5. "Assigned in advance" means the assignment or test was listed in a class syllabus, class handout, on the web, written on the board, or announced by the teacher.

COMMUNICATION PATHWAY

Falcon Ridge Public Charter School has adopted a "Communication Pathway" for parents and students. This will ensure that issues are addressed first at the classroom and then at the organizational level before the board addresses them.

1. Teacher/student/parent meeting
2. Teacher/student/parent/administrator meeting
3. Teacher/student/parent/administrator/Board.

FALCON RIDGE SAFETY PROTOCOL

1. Secure the safety of all
 - Upon hearing a report, immediately remove and isolate the student from peers along with their belongings
 - Consult with law enforcement (potentially before the above step) if the threat is already in progress or if danger is imminent
 - Conduct a thorough two person search of the student and their belongings
 - Isolate the student further to proceed with the investigation if law enforcement is not needed
2. Determine the level of the threat
 - Interview the student and gather appropriate data (witness accounts, teacher statements and camera footage if relevant) ● Building administrators send the student home and give out appropriate consequences
 - Complete a full team Threat Assessment which will determine the level of the threat before the student returns (involves the administrators, counselor, teachers, and witness accounts)
 - Re-consult with law enforcement and administration to affirm and determine the final threat level
 - Communicate with involved stakeholders
3. If low level threat (green), plan for re-entry
 - Set a return date
 - Structure appropriate interventions and plans for future safety including potential searches and supervision of the student
 - Conduct any meetings to mitigate harm between involved parties using Restorative Practices

We promise to inform all families of any “substantive” or high level threats

(red). If your child is ever the victim, or directly involved, we will alert you as soon as possible of any high level threat by phone. If there is a high level threat, safety will always be our top priority, followed by alerting those affected and then the general public in that order. In the event of a “transient” or low level threat (green), we will alert families on a need to know basis. It is not in the best interest of children and their reputation to alert the public on every green level threat.

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BEHAVIOR POLICY

Because our number one goal at Falcon Ridge Public Charter School is to have a safe and orderly school that provides an atmosphere that is conducive to learning, we have the following focus on acceptable behavior. Students are expected to always be respectful, polite, honest, kind, exhibit good work skills, and use appropriate language. Students are expected to follow school rules and policies at all times.

We feel that all parents send their children to school expecting that their child will be taken care of physically, emotionally, socially, and academically. Falcon Ridge Public Charter School will meet those expectations.

Offenses that will not be tolerated are harassment and intimidation of other students, disrespect toward any staff member, defiance, profanity, and not using playground equipment appropriately. The consequences for these infractions will correspond with the severity of the offense.

When deemed appropriate, teachers will recommend to the administrator that a Disciplinary Action Report (DAR) be issued to a student based on unacceptable behavior. Please see potential progression below:

- An initial DAR will serve as notification to parents in hopes that parents will address the problem sufficiently and eliminate future issues. • A 2nd DAR issued by administration, within a school year, requires scheduling a parent/teacher/administrator conference and may involve a one day out-of-school suspension.
- A 3rd DAR issued by administration, within a school year, will result in a one or two day out-of-school suspension and require a parent/administrator conference in order for the student to be permitted to return to class.
- A 4th DAR issued by administration, within a school year, will result in a two-day out of school suspension. Parents and student will be required to appear before the FRPCS School Board before being permitted to return to class.
- A 5th DAR issued by administration, within a twelve month period will

necessitate an expulsion hearing before the FRPCS School Board.

The DAR will be delivered to parents via email (other modes of delivery will be utilized if email access is not available to parents). A follow up phone call is made by the school office to verify receipt.

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AGGRESSIVE OR THREATENING BEHAVIOR

No aggressive or threatening behavior will be tolerated at FRPCS. Fighting, being defined as: pushing, shoving, hitting, kicking, pulling, or physically connecting in an aggressive manner. As an added precaution for the safety of Falcon Ridge students and staff, local law enforcement may be contacted if administration determines that there is a threat or concern of safety. Please take time to review with your students the seriousness of the words and actions they use.

Each offense may be an out-of-school suspension. The number of days will be decided upon severity and the recommendation of the administrator. Offenses deemed to be excessive defiance towards staff or considered to adversely affect student safety may be immediate out-of-school suspensions or require an expulsion hearing before the FRPCS School Board.

A field trip is any occasion when students are away from the school campus. Any time students are involved in field trips, there is more liability for Falcon Ridge Public Charter School. If a student is in a fight, or has had multiple behavior infractions, there is more liability if the same student is involved in a subsequent incident off school campus, otherwise known as a field trip. The only way a student with these infractions can participate in the off campus activity, is if he/she is taken by a parent and supervised by said parent, and then brought back by the parent. The student's safety is the responsibility of his/her parents.

WEAPONS

FRPCS has no tolerance for students who use, threaten to use, or possess firearms, destructive devices, weapons, dangerous instruments, explosives, or "look-alike" weapons on any school premises, or any school sponsored activity. Examples of weapons are: knives of any kind, guns, toy guns, etc. In an incident when a weapon is displayed, used, and/or threatened in an aggressive manner, the student will be automatically suspended. The administrator has the authority to determine the extent of the threat and/or the disruptiveness to the health, safety, and/or educational process of other individuals in each particular situation. For the purpose of this policy, no tolerance means that consequences will occur if this policy is violated and that the consequences will be

commensurate with the circumstances of each situation.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

The classroom is the primary venue for academic instruction. As a general rule, students are expected to enter classrooms without talking, take their seats, and await teacher instruction. This sets an orderly tone for the class whether students are entering at the start of the day or returning from recess or other activities. Permission to talk or get out of the seat is requested by the raising of

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the hand and granted by teacher acknowledgement. Students are permitted to bring water bottles containing water only into the classroom. In keeping with the high academic expectations and the mission of FRPCS, it is vital that teacher instruction and student learning not be hindered by the inappropriate activity of a few students. Activity which tends to be disruptive and steals from the learning experience of other students may include the following:

- Talking without permission (blurting)
- Out of seat without permission
- Making disturbing noises
- Refusal to participate or perform assigned tasks
- Disturbing other students
- Playing with various items
- Refusing to sit properly in the seat (causing distraction).

Simultaneous and/or multiple disruptions by persistent violators serve to frustrate the learning process for an entire class. This also displays a significant measure of disrespect towards classroom authority. This type of scenario would be in contradiction with our mission statement. Consistent with the concepts of kindness and respect for others, Falcon Ridge believes it appropriate to address the topic of classroom behavior and the potential consequences for the student. Students who refuse to correct unacceptable behavior that serves to steal from the learning atmosphere of other students will be subject to the following procedure:

Teachers will recommend to the administrator that a DAR (Disciplinary Action Report) be issued to a student based on recurring disruptive or uncooperative classroom behavior. The DAR will describe the severity and/or the recurring nature of the classroom disruption and the disciplinary action being taken. The administrator will conference with the student and follow the DAR guidelines.

DISCIPLINE

Kindness will be the number one expectation for Falcon Ridge Charter students in the area of behavior. There will be an emphasis on politeness, honesty, and integrity. The umbrella under which these areas fall is called discipline, “to disciple”.

There will be zero tolerance for unkindness at Falcon Ridge Public Charter School. If students are kind, there will be no fights, no gangs, and no name calling. Kindness covers all areas that can potentially cause behavior problems in a school setting. Many of the school’s awards are behaviorally related.

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How will we accomplish our goal of a safe and orderly environment where students can learn and succeed?

First, we must minimize the background noise. We identify background noise as hallway and assembly noise. As such we have implemented the following rules:

1. Quiet in the hallways, including when entering or exiting the building.
2. Students will walk in straight lines.

Second, students at Falcon Ridge Public Charter School are expected to be polite.

1. Students will say please and thank you to the cooks and servers, and any adult.
2. Students are expected to use napkins and talk quietly during lunch.
3. Students will always be respectful to adults, visitors, and all other students.

BUS RULES & CONSEQUENCES/ BUS SAFETY

Please note that our culture of kindness at FRPCS will be in effect throughout bus routes as well as at school. The following is a complete list of bus safety rules. Please read and share with your child in a way that is understandable to the child.

BEFORE YOU GET ON THE BUS

- Be on time at your bus stop. The bus is not permitted to wait.
- Stand on the sidewalk at the bus stop. If there is no sidewalk, stand on or near the curb. Stay off the street!

- On dark or cloudy days, wear bright clothing.

GETTING ON THE BUS

- Stay in line and get on the bus as quickly as you can.
- Help other students; do not crowd or push anyone.
- Use the handrail when going up the bus steps.
- Find a seat and stay in your seat. If needed, share your seat with another student.

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WHILE RIDING THE BUS

- Be quiet. Talking loudly is never permitted.
- Do what the bus driver tells you. The bus driver has complete authority while you are riding the bus.
- Stay in your seat. When on the bus, students must stay seated for safety reasons. Turning around or standing is never permitted. Windows may be opened, but you must never lean out the window nor put your arms out the window.
- Keep the bus clean. By keeping feet off the seat-back and putting all garbage in cans you will help make the bus safe. The student will be responsible for any vandalism that is incurred.
- Keep your books and other personal belongings on your lap. Throwing of any material in or out of the bus is never permitted and will result in immediate suspension from the bus.
- Know the use of the emergency exit. Keep aisles clean and clear at all times in case of an emergency. The back emergency door is to be used only in the case of an emergency.

GETTING OFF THE BUS

- Remain seated until the bus has completely stopped.
- Cross the road in front of the bus, following the instructions of the driver. Do not walk out into the road between parked cars.
- Walk facing traffic. When leaving the bus stop, always walk on the curb facing oncoming cars. Stay on sidewalks whenever possible. Do not cross the street unless necessary.

SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

We often tell children they need to take care of three general parts of their body while riding the bus.

1. Mouth – Do not talk at a noise level that is distracting to the bus driver or use bad language on the bus.
2. Hands and Feet – Keep hands and feet to yourself. Do not push, hit, kick,

or throw things. Hands and/or feet must never be put out the window. 3. Bottom – Stay in your seat. Turning around, kneeling in your seat, or standing is not allowed.

If your child can assume responsibility in the three areas listed above and can show respect for self, other students, and the bus driver, citations will not be necessary. In the event your child violates a bus rule, the following consequences will be imposed:

- 1st offense: Warning; telephone call to parents and a copy of the driver's report.
- 2nd offense: Suspension of bus riding privileges for ten (10) school 11

days. Parents will receive a telephone call from the school and a copy of the bus citation.

- 3rd offense: Suspension of bus riding privileges for the remainder of the calendar school year.

Riding the bus is a privilege. Follow the rules. The bus driver's report can cause suspension of any student from riding the bus.

Severe Clause: Falcon Ridge Public Charter School and/or Brown Bus Co., reserves the right to suspend bus riding privileges at any time in the case of severe misbehavior.

DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP PROCEDURES

- Students can be dropped off for school at 7:50 a.m. Before that time, school doors are closed to students and there is no supervision for students.
- When dropping off/picking up students, please be patient and drive slowly. Safety is a top priority for us.
- We start dismissal at 2:45 p.m. Dismissal takes some time, so please don't be concerned if students aren't coming outside right away. • If you are picking up your student, please wait in your car until your student comes to you. Students being picked up are dismissed last, so please be patient.
- If you are parking and walking to the front door to pick up your student, please be aware that the small parking lot west of the school is closed during dismissal. This is to protect students exiting to school buses. Please park in the larger parking lot, walk to the front of the school, and walk your student to your car. Students are not allowed to walk through the buses or the car pick up line by themselves.
- Please pick up your student on time. Students not picked up on time wait with a staff member, so please try to be prompt.

Dismissal Changes--If your student has a change in their normal dismissal plan, please follow these guidelines:

- If you know about the change before school starts, send a note with the student for the teacher.
- If you know about the change after school starts and before 12:00 pm, please email the teacher directly (for middle school, email the 8th period teacher.)
- If dismissal changes happen after 12:00 pm, please email the office, office@falconridgecharter.org.

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Please try to take care of all dismissal changes by 2:00 pm. If there is an emergency and a dismissal change needs to happen after 2:00 pm, please call the school office. Messages will be checked before final dismissal, but we will not have time to return phone calls.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Our goal is to provide an academic environment free of distractions being conducive to learning and a social environment that supports the development of kind and respectful relationships. Use of any electronic devices such as cell phones or smart watches (any screened watches) must be turned off and in the student's backpack at all times. Earbuds or similar devices are not permitted at school except for certain educational purposes with teacher approval. Any student using their phone or any electronic device will have them confiscated. Confiscated devices will need to be picked up by a parent or guardian. However student(s) may use their cell phones in the office with permission. If a student needs to contact a parent, he or she should come to the office. Conversely, if a parent needs to contact a student, he or she should contact the office.

FALCON RIDGE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL CELEBRATES SUCCESS

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

I. Academic Challenge Program (1st-5th Grade Level)

A. Philosophy

1. Focus on individual success
2. Encourage self-competition, not peer competition

B. Math Goals

1. Initial grade-level math goal
2. Progression to other math operations

C. Alternate Categories

1. Optional challenges for each grade level
2. Independent study with provided study guides
3. Emphasis on correct spelling in written alternative categories 13

D. Categories

1. Seven categories per grade level
2. Can be completed in any order after initial math level

E. Recognition

1. Certificate of recognition for completing grade-level math goal
2. Academic achievement medal for completing all 7 categories II. Academic Bowl (6th-8th Grade Level)

A. Extended Challenge

1. Open to 6th-8th grade students
2. Beyond grade-level requirements

B. Program Details

1. Information and study guides available on Google Classroom

C. Category Choice

1. Students can select categories for independent study

D. Bronze Level

1. Eligibility for Falcon Ridge Charter Academic Bowl
2. Requires passing 5 to 7 categories in Bronze Level by April

FALCON CARDS

These awards are given to students in each class who exhibit character traits. This is presented in class by the administrator.

CITIZEN OF THE MONTH

This award is given to those students who show exemplary behavior in the following areas

- A good citizen is kind and supportive of other students. This would be compared to an adult citizen who is a good neighbor in the community.

- A good citizen is responsible and turns in all work on time. This would be compared to an adult good citizen who can be counted on to do a good job and is trusted by his employer.
- A good citizen follows the rules. This would be compared to an adult citizen who does not break the law.
- A good citizen would exhibit interest and enthusiasm about learning. This would be compared to those employees, who get the promotions at work, i.e.: A boss will not promote an employee who rolls his eyes when asked to learn something new or complete a task.
 - A good citizen gets to school on time. Owners of companies or managers do not give pay raises to those employees who are tardy.

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The Citizen of the Month is presented during morning announcements and gets to have a special ice cream party with the administrator and other awardees.

SPECIAL NOTE: Falcon Ridge Public Charter School focuses on academics and citizenship. It rewards excellence.

GRADING SCALE

A 90% – 100% E Excellent
 B 80% – 89% V Very Good
 C 70% – 79% S Satisfactory
 D 60% – 69% N Needs Improvement
 I Below 60% I Incomplete/Fail

A+ 97% C 73%
 A 93% C- 70%
 A- 90% D+ 67%
 B+ 87% D 63%
 B 83% D- 60%
 B- 80% F 0
 C+ 77%

1st-3rd Grading Scale

EX Exceeds
 GL Grade Level
 SO Sometimes
 LT Limited

Kindergarten Grading Scale

S Satisfactory
 I Inconsistent

N Needs Improvement

3 Meets the Standard

2 Progressing Toward the Standard

1 Not Meeting the Standard

NA Not assessed at this time

Placement: The goal of the Charter School shall be to place students at levels and in settings that will enhance the probability of student success. Developmental testing together with other relevant criteria, including but not limited to health, maturity, emotional stability, and developmental disabilities, may be considered in the placement of all students. Final disposition of all placement decisions rests with the Administrator or his or her designee.

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FIELD TRIPS

At different times during the school year, your child may have the opportunity to take education field trips away from the school under the supervision of school personnel.

It is difficult for us to send home permission slips prior to each field trip and receive 100% return before the field trip departure time. The result is often a hasty effort to obtain last minute parent permission by telephone or a disappointed child who has to stay at school when his/her classmates go on a field trip.

Parent's permission for field trips is included on the enrollment form. You will have the opportunity to deny permission if there is a field trip in which you do not wish your child to participate. A notice of time, place, and method of transportation will be sent home with your child prior to each field trip in which he/she participates.

HOMEWORK

The education of children must be considered a partnership between parents and teachers. Research shows that the most successful students, regardless of family income level or ethnic background, are those who perform regularly structured homework time. This parent-assisted practice serves a dual purpose:

1. Parent working with a child communicates to the child his/her priority in the parent's life. This contact time develops more than academic skills; it

- develops a sense of self value, and builds memories.
2. The discipline of nightly homework creates a habit that will benefit the student throughout life.

SCHOOL'S OBJECTIVE FOR HOMEWORK

- Practice/Review – reinforce skills and concepts taught during class
- Responsibility – develop organizational/time management skills and self-discipline
- Feedback – gauge of students understanding and application of material taught (4th-8th)
- Preparation – preview of upcoming material to be presented during class (6th-8th)

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It is our intent to require reasonable and constructive assignments that will encourage the student's success in the classroom. It is important that our parents share our beliefs about homework and will support us in this. Homework performance typically serves as a barometer measuring parental support. Additionally, to do well in school your child must be present, on time, healthy, rested, and attentive.

Homework expectations increase each year and the responsibility of completing homework and applying skills and knowledge obtained in class to outside class work rests upon the student.

Students who fail to complete homework may miss specials or elective classes to complete their work. This is a natural consequence and a method of holding students accountable, as well as helping them be prepared for further classroom discussions. The result of students not completing homework and being unprepared impacts the entire class; this causes a disruption to the instructional effectiveness of the school. Therefore, those who habitually fail to complete homework will experience the following consequences:

- Five Missing homework assignments within a two-week period will result in a (HDR) Homework Deficiency Report (HDR) being issued. (See HDR process below.)
- A 2nd HDR would require a parent/teacher/administrator conference to formulate a plan intended to support and improve performance in the area of homework.
- A 3rd HDR issued will require a parent/teacher/administrator conference to further discuss the implementation and effectiveness of the established plan.
- A 4th HDR would require an appearance by student and parent(s) before

the FRPCS school board to provide explanation for the poor homework performance.

- A 5th HDR within a given school year requires that parent and student appear before the FRPCS school board for an expulsion hearing.

The HDR is delivered to parents via email (other modes of delivery will be utilized if email access is not available to parents). A follow up phone call is made by the school office to verify receipt. HDR is placed in the student file.

INTERNET

The use of the Internet is not a right, but a privilege and inappropriate use will result in cancellation of that privilege. To remain eligible as a user, each

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individual shall abide by the following rules pertaining to the proper use of the Internet. Inappropriate use will result in suspension of user privileges to the Internet. Falcon Ridge has filters and measures in place designed to restrict access to materials that may be harmful to students. School administration will deem what is appropriate use, and their decision is final.

1. Use of the school internet is for educational, curricular, or teacher assigned research only. Students are forbidden from accessing inappropriate material on the Internet.
2. Students are forbidden from using social media.
3. Unauthorized accessing, including so-called "hacking," and other unlawful activities by students online is forbidden.
4. Students are forbidden from the unauthorized disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal information.
5. Students are forbidden from downloading, uploading, saving, or posting any information on the Internet without permission from Falcon Ridge faculty or administration permission.

LOCKERS/PERSONAL PROPERTY

Middle school students will receive a locker. Locker measurements are 11" depth x 12" width x 35.5" height. (Large items or large numbers of items should not be stuffed to fit into the locker. This may result in damage to the locker.) Lockers are intended to provide short-term storage of the necessities that a student would need during the course of their day (books, notebooks,

short-term supplies, lunch). For organizational reasons, students are to avoid placing any non essential items (stuffed animals, decorations, etc...) in lockers. Students may install shelving that has been manufactured expressly for use in lockers. This may significantly increase the ability to store and organize.

As a general rule, students are permitted to access their locker:

1. Prior to the start of 1st period
2. Between 2nd and 3rd period (Break)
3. Between 4th and 5th period (Lunch)
4. Between 6th period and 7th period

Students are only permitted to access the locker that has been assigned to them. Falcon Ridge is not responsible for the loss/theft or damage of personal items. It is the responsibility of the student to care for personal items. Falcon Ridge discourages bringing valuables, any unnecessary items, or toys to

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school.

MEDICAL GUIDELINES

MEDICATION TAKEN AT SCHOOL

Medications needed during the school day must be brought to the office by a parent/guardian in a properly labeled prescription bottle or original container. No medication in envelopes, baggies, etc., can be accepted for distribution. A consent form must be completed by the parent and on file with the office staff for medication to be given such as Tylenol, Ibuprofen, cough drops, etc. This will help alleviate calls home and minimize time away from class.

HEAD LICE

It may be necessary to exclude a student from school who is found to have head lice including the presence of nits (eggs). To control head lice, the following measures will be taken:

- A student suspected of having lice will be referred to the school office for inspection by office staff. If head lice or nits are found, the child's parents will be called to pick up the student from school.
- After the child has been treated, he/she will be inspected at the school office and if the child is lice/nit-free, he/she will be readmitted to class.
- Close contacts and friends of the initial case may also be examined for head lice and nits. If any cases are identified, they may be sent home as described above. Other students in the school may be examined at the discretion of the administrator.

ILLNESS

Students with contagious health problems should be kept home. Please keep your child home if they exhibit any of the following symptoms: • Fever greater than 100.0°. Students should be fever free for at least 24 hours, without fever reducing medication, before returning to school. • Vomiting and/or diarrhea. Students should stay home for 24 hours to make sure they can keep food/liquids down.

- Sore throat with a fever greater than 100.0°. If they are diagnosed with strep throat, then they should stay home until they have been on antibiotics for 24 hours.
- Excessive coughing, which could include a cough that is prolonged, lasting more than a few weeks; any shortness of breath; difficulty breathing or wheezing; cough associated with fever, chills, sweating, or ill appearance; chest pain or painful cough; coughing up phlegm that is green, yellow, blood-stained, or foul smelling.

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- Pink Eye (Conjunctivitis). Keep your child home until a doctor has given the OK to return to school. Pink eye is highly contagious and in most cases is caused by a virus, which will not respond to an antibiotic. Bacterial conjunctivitis will require an antibiotic; your doctor will be able to determine if this is the case.

Students will be sent home from school if they experience any of the above symptoms.

Do not send children to school with notes to stay inside because of illness. A child that is too ill to be at school should remain at home unless a chronic condition exists and a doctor recommends in writing that the child may attend, but remain indoors during recesses or lunch.

Please note: We do not have a school nurse. Office staff are not medically trained and are not qualified to offer medical advice.

MEDICAL INSURANCE

Even with the greatest precautions and the closest supervision, accidents can and do happen at school. They are a fact of life and a part of the growing-up process our children go through. Parents need to be aware of this and be prepared for possible medical expenses that may arise should their child be injured at school.

Falcon Ridge Public Charter School does not provide medical insurance to

automatically pay for medical expenses when students are injured at school. This is the responsibility of the parents or legal guardians. Falcon Ridge Public Charter School carries only legal liability insurance. Parents, please be prepared to pay for your child's possible medical expenses.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS

PHILOSOPHY

Recognizing the unique developmental needs of the middle level student, Falcon Ridge Charter promotes activities that build student success through active participation, increased skill building, and positive sportsmanship. • Participation

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- Emphasize participation over win/loss records
- Provide opportunities for everyone to participate
- Balance competition with cooperation
- Encourage lifelong participation in activities
- Emphasize having fun
- Skillbuilding
 - Develop age appropriate skills
 - Focus on fundamentals
 - Develop skills as a foundation for improvement
- Sportsmanship
 - Develop a positive team attitude
 - Encourage, cooperate and collaborate with peers
 - Present positive adult role models that demonstrate self control and (mutual) respect

Students wishing to participate in Falcon Ridge Middle School athletics will have parental permission with the accompanied forms in the [Athletic Handbook](#).

Some athletic programs may have a fee associated for student participation.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS

Middle School students (6TH-8TH grade) must earn 80% of the core credits attempted (i.e., earn 10 of the 12 annual core credits) to be promoted to the next grade. Students must earn at least one credit in all 2-credit courses attempted. (A failing grade in the same course in both Semester 1 and Semester 2 would prevent promotion to the next grade.) Not meeting either of the above criteria would require that credit recovery take place (i.e., Idaho Digital Learning Academy, Kuna School District).

See table below:

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1 ST SEMESTER 2 ND SEMESTER		
COURSE	CREDIT COURSE	CREDIT
Mathematics	1 Mathematics	1
English Skills	1 English Skills	1
Science	1 Science	1
Social Studies	1 Social Studies	1
Computer	1 Computer	1
English Applications	1 English Applications	1

1st Semester Credits 6 2nd Semester Credits 6 Total Annual Credits

Attempted = 12

Must earn 80% (i.e., 10 of 12 credits attempted) for promotion to next grade and must earn at least 1 credit in all 2-credit courses for promotion to next grade.

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

(Policy 2420P)

District Goal: Falcon Ridge Charter School and the parents of the students participating in activities, services, and programs funded by Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) (participating children), agree that this compact outlines how the parents, the entire school staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership that will help children achieve the State's high standards. Reference ESSA Section 1115(a) ESSA 1116 (a)

Guidelines

Parent engagement activities developed at school will include opportunities for:

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- Volunteering;
- Parent education;
- Home support for the child's education;
- Parent participation in school decision making.

The school system will provide opportunities for professional development and resources for staff and parents/community regarding effective parent engagement practices. The Charter School also encourages the inclusion of family literacy when a substantial number of students have parents who do not have a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent or have low levels of literacy.

Roles and Responsibilities

Students

Students will work individually at their own level in all areas identified by their teacher. Students will be monitored and assessed often to ensure proficiency is met in the area identified as a need. Flexibility and different strategies will be used to best fit every student's unique learning style.

It is the responsibility of the student to:

- Cooperate with school personnel and be responsible for their behavior;
- Complete all homework assignments on time;
- Participate to the best of their ability in all classes;
- Read independently or with family on a regular basis;
- Let teachers, school counselors, and family know when they need help.

Parents

It is the responsibility of the parent to:

- Actively communicate with school staff;
- Be aware of rules and regulations of school;
- Take an active role in the child's education by reinforcing at home the skills and knowledge the student has learned in school;
- Take an active role in assuring that the child is prepared to attend school each day;
- Staying informed about the child's education and communication with the school by promptly reading all notices from the school and responding, as appropriate;
- Participating in decisions relating to the child's education;
- Utilize opportunities for participation in school activities.

Staff

It is the responsibility of staff to:

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- Work with parents to develop and implement a school plan for parent engagement;
- Promote and encourage parent engagement activities;
- Effectively and actively communicate with parents about skills, knowledge, and attributes students are learning in school and suggestions for reinforcement;
- Send information to parents of Title I children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

Community

Community members who volunteer in the school have the responsibility to:

- Be aware of rules and regulations of the school;
- Utilize opportunities for participation in school activities.

Administration

It is the responsibility of the administration to:

- Provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to plan and implement effective parent and family engagement activities to foster improved student academic achievement and school performance;
 - Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the participating children to meet the State's student academic achievement standards in Math and /or Reading as follows:
 - FRPCS curriculum allows for the most supportive and effective learning environment possible - students feel safe to learn by encouraging classrooms and respect. FRPCS teachers provide instruction, support, and guidance for parents and students throughout the school year. The parent/teacher/student team works together to enable the student to meet the Idaho State student academic achievement standards through daily communication, conferences, and academic progress monitoring.
 - Provide parents with frequent report on their children's progress as follows:
 - School and state assessment results
 - Informal reports on individual student progress via email and/or conference calls as needed.
 - Report cards are provided at each quarter for Elementary Students. ●
- Provide parents reasonable access to staff. Specifically, staff will be available for consultation with parents as follows:
- Falcon Ridge staff is available through phone, email, and office hours during regular business hours during the school year. ● Provide training and space for parent engagement activities; ● Provide resources to support successful parent engagement practices;

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- Provide in-service education to staff regarding the value and use of contributions of parents and how to communicate and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school;
- Send information to parents of Title I children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand; ● Develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to, parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy; and
- Coordinate and integrate its Title I parent and family engagement strategies with the parent and family engagement strategies of the Charter School's other relevant programs; and
- Create and support a Parent Advisory Board comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members served by the Charter School to adequately represent the needs of the population served by the Charter School for the purpose of developing, revising, and reviewing the Charter School's Parent and Family Engagement Policy; and
- Ensure that each school in the Charter School jointly developed with the

parents of Title I children a school-parent compact that describes how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and identify the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the challenging state academic standards and includes the requirements of Charter School Policy 2420.

SCHOOL DRESS CODE

In an effort to provide a safe and orderly school environment for your children, we will expect the following dress guidelines followed by the students of Falcon Ridge Public Charter School. Our focus at Falcon Ridge Public Charter School is to create an educational atmosphere with the fewest disruptions.

- Gang attire of any kind is strictly prohibited, i.e. garments that are suggestive or garments that advertise illegal substances, alcohol, or obscene statements are not allowed.
- Brief garments such as halter tops, bare midriffs, tube tops, net tops, tank tops, spaghetti straps, and plunging necklines (front or back) are

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not appropriate. All shirts must be wider than three adult fingers on the shoulder. Shorts and skirts shorter than fingertip length are inappropriate. Skin should be covered to fingertip length, this includes skin showing through holey/ripped pants.

- Pajamas or slippers of any kind are strictly prohibited.
- Makeup (lipstick, rouge, blush, eye makeup) are not allowed at Falcon Ridge Public Charter School. Blemish correction and clear lip gloss are acceptable.
- Hair color will be within the natural color spectrum (brown, black, blonde or auburn).
- No pierced jewelry, other than in the ears, will be permitted.
- Students will wear or change into athletic shoes for P.E.
- No wheeled shoes permitted.
- No hats indoors except for special spirit days.
- No student shall have ink or write on their skin or on the skin of others using ink or any other permanent or temporary writing materials while on school grounds or during school-sponsored activities. The school encourages students to maintain a clean and respectful appearance. Writing on skin can be seen as unprofessional or distracting to the learning environment.

- Students with medical needs (such as notes written on the skin for health reasons) should receive approval from the school administration.

Students that have dress code violations will not be permitted to attend class until a correction has been made.

SUPERVISION

Morning

Falcon Ridge begins providing supervision for students 15 minutes prior to school start time. Because of issues of safety and liability your child should arrive no earlier than 15 minutes before the start of the school day.

After School

School grounds supervision continues for 15 minutes following the end of the school day. Please make any arrangements necessary that ensure the timely departure of your student.

Sibling(s) of students participating in afterschool programs and activities are 26

not permitted on campus after school as there is no staff providing supervision for the sibling(s).

Please be thoughtful as you make arrangements for your student's morning arrival and afternoon departure.

Falcon Ridge Student Handbook policies may be adjusted and/or implemented during the course of the school year as result of Falcon Ridge Public Charter School Board decision. Any changes to the student handbook policy during the course of the school year will be announced in an "all-school" email with the changes attached.

Falcon Ridge Policy Manual

1000 Section By-Laws

2000 Section Instruction

3000 Section Students

4000 Section Community Relations

5000 Section Personnel
6000 Section Administration
7000 Section Financial Management
8000 Section Non-Instructional Operations
9000 Section School Facilities
10000 Section Miscellaneous Policies Uniform Grant Guidance