



BIG” BEGINNINGS FOR “**LITTLE**” LEARNERS
PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK
2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

Parents,

Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year. I hope you have had a restful and relaxing summer. We have exciting things planned for the upcoming school year, and we are thrilled your family is part of the Fordham Early Learning Academy tradition.

As the administrators at Fordham Early Learning Academy, Mrs. Tracy Moody and I bring a wealth of early learning experiences to the school. We are committed to providing a nurturing and stimulating environment for your child. We are honored to work with you to ensure this is a tremendous year of learning for your child.

At Fordham Early Learning Academy, we believe in the power of partnership between the school and parents. We have a dedicated team of experienced and returning staff who are excited to meet your family. Throughout the year, we will provide numerous opportunities for your family to engage with the staff and learn about the reading and math benchmarks your child is mastering in the classroom. We look forward to working together to ensure your child's success.

Safety is a top priority at our school. We work hard to ensure children are safe at all times on campus. Our school has a full-time School Resource Officer on campus. We utilize our exterior fencing, and the gates remain closed and locked during regular school hours. All classroom doors will remain locked during the school day, and our District has installed a front office door buzzer system for added security. When visiting our campus, we ask that all visitors check in through the front office. Parents and visitors must check in with their driver's license or state I.D. Visitors will be provided a name tag to wear for the duration of their visit. We will also routinely schedule practice drills during the year, including fire, severe weather, and active assailant drills. This ensures students and staff know what to do in an emergency.

Over the past four years, Florida has adopted new standards for students in grades K-12. They are called Florida's Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.). Florida teachers wrote the standards for Florida students. The standards are intended to be clear, concise, and comprehensive, emphasizing foundational skills. Early Learners and Voluntary Prekindergarten students will be taught using the Florida Early Learning and Development Standards (F.E.L.D.S.). Opportunities for parents to learn about the standards will be available throughout the year.

Regular attendance is critical. I encourage students to be at school every day if they are healthy and able to do so. This includes being on time and remaining at school for the entire day. Let's work together to make this a priority. Our students have so much to learn this school year.

Join our school advisory council to be involved in your child's education. I encourage parents to attend conferences and parent meetings regularly and participate in class and school activities. We love volunteers at school, so be sure to complete a new volunteer application.

Parents and students are asked to review the pages of this handbook so that they will become acquainted with our school's policies. I urge all parents to work closely with the school to provide the best educational environment for our students. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me anytime. We are off to another successful year filled with "**BIG**" beginnings for our "**LITTLE**" learners.

Mrs. Jennifer Beck
Fordham Early Learning Principal

ACCIDENTS

With children in an active environment, accidents are often unavoidable. At times, parents cannot be reached. The school must have updated phone numbers for emergencies. If parents cannot be reached during medical emergencies, trained medical personnel will transport the child to a medical facility.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE

If your child is injured during regular school hours, any medical expenses incurred are the responsibility of the parents. The School Board of Marion County does not carry insurance on students. Parents are encouraged to purchase optional school time or extended 24-hour student accident insurance, offered annually through an outside vendor, for a nominal cost. Additional information on this optional coverage is available on the District homepage or by contacting your child's school.

ANIMALS IN THE CLASSROOM

During the year, live animals may be used in our classrooms to enhance the curriculum and help teach responsibility and sensitivity to other living things. If you have concerns, please contact the school. Because of liability, parents and guardians are not allowed to bring animals to the school campus.

ASBESTOS-SCHOOL INSPECTION

In accordance with E.P.A. Regulations, all Marion County Schools have been inspected for asbestos-containing materials. The original inspection, a diagram of the location(s), and a copy of all re-inspections have been made available in each school's administrative office for review.

ATTENDANCE

Daily Attendance

Students are encouraged to be in school every day. Good attendance is essential for satisfactory progress. Students are

expected to be in school and on time except in cases of emergency, illness, or school-approved absences.

A note from home, signed by the parent, is required within three days following each absence. The note should be dated and reflect the student's name, dates of absence, specific reason for the absence, and the parent's signature. Excused absences include personal illness, death in the family, doctor appointments, or trips authorized in advance by the principal/director before the absence. (The complete list of excused absences is available within the Code of Student Conduct.) *****ClassDojo messages to the teacher do not replace a note from home.**

A student who is absent five (5) or more consecutive days must present a note from a licensed physician. The principal or designee may also require a doctor's note after ten (10) excused absences due to illness within a school year. Chronic absenteeism will be grounds to revoke a student's continued participation in our program at Fordham Early Learning.

Attendance Policy

1. A signed written explanation of the child's absence is required within three days (3) of the absence.
2. Administrative approval or denial of a pre-arranged absence request will be based on the student's academic standing, attendance history, and reason for the request.
3. Make-up work is required when applicable. A 24-hour notice is required before picking up homework. Homework may be picked up in the front office. Students will receive full credit for work that is appropriately completed and submitted within one (1) day for each day of absence.

Tardies

If a student is tardy, the parent must park and walk the student to the reception desk to sign the child in and be issued a pass to class.

Tardiness and early sign-outs are disruptive to the learning environment and can have a negative impact on student achievement. A tardy or early sign-out will only be excused due to sickness or injury, death in the immediate family, or medical or dental appointments for students with a note from a physician/dentist. Other reasons, such as oversleeping, will be unexcused. A student is allowed three (3) unexcused tardies/early sign-outs within a nine-week grading period. After that, the school administration will address consequences for excessive tardiness and early sign-outs as outlined in the Level 1-Corrective Actions, "Violation of Attendance Procedures." Early sign-outs are not permitted after 2:00 p.m. as staff and students are preparing for dismissal.

BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Marion County Public Schools invites all students to eat breakfast at school. Breakfast will start being served at 7:35 a.m. for K-2 students. If your K-2 child wants to participate in this program, he/she must be in the cafeteria before 7:50 A.M. Early Learners eat in their cafe, and VPK students will eat breakfast together in the cafeteria at 8:00 a.m.

BULLETINS

Students will receive notes and newsletters at home regularly. The office will also send a monthly Parent Newsletter and calendar. It is vital to check your child's book bag nightly.

CELLULAR DEVICES

Cell phones and similar wireless devices may be in students' possession on campus, but cannot be visible or activated during regular school hours. The unauthorized recording and/or photographing of employees, volunteers, and/or

students is prohibited. The school will not be held responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged cell phones and/or any other electronic devices.

Parents are asked to refrain from cell phone use during school drop-off and pick-up.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/TELEPHONE NUMBER

The school must be able to contact you in case of an emergency involving your child. Please notify the office promptly when you have a change of address and/or telephone number (home, work, or other emergency numbers). It is also important to update the list of people who are authorized to pick up your child. Please make any changes in Skyward Family Access.

CHILD ABUSE

As teachers and school officials, we are ethically and legally obligated to report suspected child abuse and neglect cases. Professionals in daily contact with children are the first line of defense against child abuse and neglect. Suspected cases of abuse or neglect are reported to the following toll-free number:

1-800-962-2873

COMPUTERS

Chromebooks at school are for educationally approved purposes only.

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS: Foxes are F.A.S.T.

1. Follow the Rules
2. Act Responsibly and Respectfully
3. Solve Problems Peacefully
4. Try Hard

CONFERENCES

Good parent-teacher relationships benefit every child. Conferences help keep the lines of communication open. Parents, teachers, or administrators may request conferences, which should be scheduled at a mutually convenient time.

Teachers have many duties in the mornings and afternoons as they prepare for their students. Our wish is to meet with you in a quiet, relaxed, private atmosphere to discuss your needs and concerns.

We have an open and knowledgeable faculty interested in addressing any concerns to provide your child with the best educational experience possible.

CUSTODY

To best serve the needs of the students of our school, we use the following guidelines in dealing with divorce/separation issues. We are guided by the documents of the court, which outline restrictions involving the school and the student. Such documents must be signed by the court (judge). Documents not signed by the court cannot be considered legal and binding. Copies of documents must be provided to the school and shall be complete (containing all pages of the decree/order). Parents need to provide:

- Complete documents signed by the court
- Court documents as they are updated

When parents have shared parental responsibility, "the child is viewed as both parents retaining full parental responsibility with respect to the child, unless otherwise noted in the decree/order."

In instances of "sole parental responsibility," as stipulated by the court, one parent makes decisions regarding matters of

the minor child. Schools are limited by the specifics of the court's decree/order.

Parents bear the burden of communication between the school and each other regarding their children.

DISCIPLINE

At our school, we want everyone to feel safe, happy, and ready to learn. We believe in treating everyone with kindness and respect. When we all follow the rules, school is a better place for everyone!

Good behavior is expected at school. Students will be rewarded for positive behavior and good citizenship through various programs. When discipline consequences are necessary, parents will be notified, the teacher or administrator will share the strategies or consequences implemented, and parents will be asked for their input and suggestions to correct the behavior. We intend to foster a sense of responsibility and respect among all our students.

Students will be treated fairly and equally regardless of race or gender. Consequences will be determined on an individual basis. Parents may schedule conferences when necessary to discuss behavior concerns. All students must behave in a manner conducive to a good learning environment.

What Happens if Rules Are Not Followed?

If you don't follow the rules, there will be consequences. These could include:

- A warning from the teacher
- Talking with a teacher or administrator
- A time-out or loss of a privilege

- Written referral with appropriate and progressive behavior consequences

Disciplinary Contracts

If a student's behavior is serious and continues even after warnings or other consequences, the school may ask the student and their parents or guardians to sign a **Disciplinary Contract**. This contract is a written agreement between the student, the parents, and the school that explains the behavior that needs to change and the steps needed to improve.

A Disciplinary Contract will include:

- Specific goals to work on
- A clear plan to improve behavior
- Consequences if the misbehavior continues.

What Happens if the Disciplinary Contract is Not Followed?

If a student fails to follow the Disciplinary Contract, there will be more serious consequences. These could include:

- A meeting with the student, parents, and school staff to discuss next steps.
- Further loss of privileges
- A longer period of reflection during out-of-school suspension.
- In some cases, if the behavior continues, the student may be asked to return to their base school.

The goal of the Disciplinary Contract is always to help the student improve their behavior and make positive choices. We believe that everyone can learn from their mistakes and make

better choices in the future. Let's work together to make our school a great place to learn and grow!

DRESS CODE

Students are expected to wear neat, clean, appropriate clothing to school or school functions that meet the standards of this educational environment. Any extreme clothing, cosmetics, jewelry, or appearance that may disrupt the school's regular operation will not be acceptable.

The school will not be responsible for lost or damaged items brought from home.

These dress code guidelines MUST be adhered to

1. Elementary school students are required to wear closed-toe/closed-heel shoes to school unless the administration otherwise grants permission.
2. Students must not wear clothing and accessories that are harmful, disruptive, or hazardous to health or safety. Undergarments should not be visible at any time.
3. Students are not to wear hats of any kind within the school building unless approved by the school administration for special occasions and specific locations. "Hats" should be interpreted literally as "hats" or head-coverings and will include bandanas, hoods (such as attached to sweatshirts), caps, sweatbands, visors, and similar hat-like apparel.
4. Shirts must have sleeves and cover the body from shoulder to shoulder. A sleeve is defined as the part of a garment that wholly or partly covers a person's arm.
5. Students are not to wear T-shirts or other garments or other items with pictures, logos, phrases, decals, patches, emblems, or words printed on them that are obscene or disruptive in the judgment of the school administration. This will include, but not be limited to, nude/semi-nude figures; figures in sexually suggestive

postures; logos of alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, or prohibited substances; or gang identification. A tattoo that is obscene or disruptive in the judgment of the school administration needs to be covered.

6. Tops must be long enough to overlap the belt line or stay tucked in during normal movement throughout the day. Shirts falling below mid-thigh length will be tucked in. No bare-midriff shirts/blouses, sleepwear, muscle shirts, or tank tops will be worn.
7. Garments will be secured at the waist. Shorts and skirts are permitted at all grade levels and will be mid-thigh length or longer.
8. Students shall wear shoes for foot protection and for hygienic reasons while on school grounds or school transportation. Bedroom slippers are not permitted. For safety reasons, shoes with wheels and/or skates may not be worn on the school campus/bus.
9. Jewelry and accessories shall be worn in a way that does not present a safety or health hazard or cause a disruption to the education process.

Please refer to the Marion County Public Schools 2025-2026 Code of Student Conduct for more specific guidelines.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Students in Marion County are entitled to certain rights, standards, and protections, including due process, equal opportunity protection, accurate and confidential recordkeeping, safeguards to health and safety, and access to suitable employment. The School Board is committed to affording students these rights, standards, and protections. Students who feel that they have questions concerning this matter have the right and the responsibility to discuss such questions with the school's administration.

The Marion County School District does not discriminate based on race (including anti-Semitism), ethnicity, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability (including H.I.V., AIDS, or sickle cell trait), pregnancy, religion, marital status, age (except as authorized by law), military status, ancestry, or genetic information, which are classes protected by State and/or Federal law (collectively, "protected classes") in its educational programs, services or activities, or in its hiring or employment practices as required by Title IX, Title VI, Title VII, Age Discrimination Act of 1967, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 1992 Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Florida Educational Equity Act of 1984. A lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission or participation. The District also provides equal access to its facilities to the Boy Scouts and other patriotic youth groups, as required by the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act.

Sexual harassment is a form of discrimination which is against the law and School Board Policies 1362, 2266, 3362, 4362, and 5517. The District will not tolerate sexual harassment activity by any of its members of the school district community, including students, employees, and third parties pursuant to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX Rules and Regulations

Questions, complaints, or requests for additional information regarding discrimination or harassment may be sent to the below-designated personnel at 1614 E. Fort King Street, Ocala, FL 34471. Retaliation against an individual who files a report is prohibited

ADA, Title IX, and Employment Compliance: Dawana Gary,
Director, Employee Relations
Phone: (352) 671-7711; Email address:
dawana.gary@marion.k12.fl.us

Section 504 Compliance: Anna Williams-Jones, Director,
Exceptional Student Education
Phone: (352) 671-6832; Email address: anna.williams-jones@marion.k12.fl.us

Student Title IX Complaints: Cynthia Lugo Hampton,
Coordinator I of Student Discipline
Phone: (352) 236-0536; Email address:
cynthia.lugohampton@marion.k12.fl.us

FIELD TRIPS

An official Marion County Field Trip permission form must be on file at the school before any child may go on a field trip. No handwritten notes or phone calls will be accepted. This is county policy. Transportation, tickets, chaperones, and lunches must be handled, and deadlines **MUST** be followed.

- Only students enrolled at Fordham Early Learning Academy can go on field trips.
- Only parents who are acting as official chaperones may ride the bus.
- No one may chaperone without an official volunteer 2025-2026 form on file with approval from the county office. This form must be submitted **three weeks in advance**.
- Parents are not allowed to check students out of the field trip location; students must return to school.
- If the child cannot participate, the cost of tickets, admission, etc., may be reimbursed if the cancellation occurs three days before the field trip and fees have not been paid to vendors for tickets or admission. **The cost of transportation will not be reimbursed.**
- Tobacco use is prohibited in the presence of students and anywhere on School Board property.
- Field trip privileges may be denied for discipline reasons.
- No non-school-age children may accompany chaperones on field trips.

GRADE REPORTING

Report cards will be sent home at the end of each nine-week grading period for kindergarten through 2nd-grade students. K-2 students will receive an interim progress report in the middle of each nine-week grading period.

Early Learners and Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) students do not receive report cards or interim progress reports.

Grading Scales:

K-2nd grades for academic areas

A	90-100%	Exemplary-Highly likely to excel
B	80-89%	Proficient-Likely to excel
C	70-79%	On-Grade Level-May need support
D	60-69%	Approaching Grade Level-Likely to need support
F	0-59%	Emerging-Highly likely to need support

Music/Art/PE grades

E	90-100%	Excelling beyond grade-level standards
M	70-89%	Meeting grade-level standards
P	60-69%	Progressing toward grade-level standards
NP	0-59%	Not progressing toward grade-level standards

K-2nd grade Conduct

S	Satisfactory
N	Needs Improvement
U	Unsatisfactory

HEAD LICE

The head lice policy per the Code of Student Conduct: Students are temporarily excluded from school to prevent the spread of lice. The family is responsible for treating live lice and removing all nits from the student's hair before the child returns to school for a nit inspection. Absences related to head lice are limited to one (1) excused day per occurrence.

HEALTH SERVICES

During the school year, your child is eligible to participate in certain health services. Health screenings include, but are not limited to, vision, hearing, and scoliosis. Parents will be notified if these screenings require a follow-up. If you have any questions regarding health screenings, call the Front Office.

If you do not wish for your child to participate in health screenings, please send a written note to the Principal yearly requesting that your child be exempt. You will be notified when health screenings will take place.

HONOR ROLL

Academic excellence and behavior are encouraged and rewarded. Students are recognized for excellence and awarded at the end of each nine-week grading period according to the following criteria:

Early Learners and Voluntary pre-kindergarten (VPK) do not participate in the honor roll because they do not receive grades, which is a developmental year for students.

Kindergarten, First, and Second Grade Honor Roll

"A" Honor Roll

This award will go to any student with an A in language arts, math, science, and social studies and a minimum grade of M in special areas. Students must also have a S in conduct.

"A/B" Honor Roll

This award will go to any student with at least one A in Language Arts **OR** math and a minimum grade of a B or M in all other areas. Students must also have a S in conduct.

LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER

Our library/media center is a vital part of our instructional program. Students are encouraged to explore the many books and materials our library offers. To maintain an adequate collection, students, teachers, and parents must

cooperate to see that materials are returned in good condition. We also encourage you to help your child keep up with the books checked out. Students who lose or damage books will lose the privilege of checking out books until the fees for the book or books have been paid.

LOST AND FOUND

The office maintains a "LOST AND FOUND" area. Parents are encouraged to mark their children's clothing for quick identification. We will remind parents and students to check for clothing often. Unclaimed clothing will be donated to charity at the end of the year.

MEALS

BREAKFAST – Students may eat breakfast in the cafeteria daily.

LUNCH – The lunch period is 30 minutes long.

Students are required to adhere to the cafeteria rules:

- Students may not share food.
- Students who bring their lunch will not bring food to share and should bring only what they eat.
- **Students may not bring carbonated beverages to school.** Milk, water, or juice is encouraged.
- Students will use good table manners.
- Our staff will work with students to be able to open all food containers independently.
- Students will clean up their area after eating breakfast and lunch.
- Students will refrain from horseplay and loud talking.

Parents are welcome to eat lunch with their children. **However, parents and students MUST utilize the picnic tables outside for lunch; therefore, please plan accordingly for the weather.** Students are **unable** to invite another student "friend" to join them. Parents should not drop off fast food meals for their children for lunch. Parents are encouraged NOT to bring in fast

food for their children. This is a wonderful time to talk to your child about school and for them to talk about the things happening before and after lunch. Please refrain from inviting other parents with their children to join you and your child during lunch for the purpose of a birthday party.

MAP: Marion Afterschool Program

Before- and after-care is available to all students on the Fordham campus for a fee. The MAP program will communicate program expectations and weekly fee payments directly. The MAP administrative office can be reached at 352-671-4135.

MAP Hours:

VPK-2nd Grade: 6:30 A.M.-School Bell, School Bell-6:00 P.M.

Early Learners: 6:30 A.M.-School Bell, School Bell-5:00 P.M.

MEDICATION

Fordham Early Learning Academy strongly urges parents to administer their child's medications at home whenever possible. If your child must take medication during school hours, the following guidelines must be adhered to:

1. All medications, including over the counter medications (OTC), administered in the school clinic must be prescribed for your student by a licensed medical provider. Medications must be in the original container and have a non-expired prescription label affixed to the medication.
2. Medications must be delivered to the school clinic by an adult. Students may not transport medications.
3. An "Authorization for Prescribed Medications" form must be completed for each medication your child is to receive at school.

4. Students are only permitted to self-carry certain medications (rescue inhaler, epinephrine auto-injector, pancreatic enzymes, and diabetic supplies) if an "Authorization for Prescribed Medication" form has been delivered to the school clinic signed by BOTH the parent and licensed medical provider.
5. Florida Statute allows students to possess and use OTC, FDA approved topical sunscreen and headache medication. Products must remain in the original container, labeled with the student name and cannot be shared. A Parent Authorization Form shall be completed and delivered to the school clinic for these products.

For more information, visit

www.marionschools.net/healthservices

NOTIFICATION OF TEACHER'S CERTIFICATION

Schools are required to provide each parent with timely notice that the parent's child has been assigned to or taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher or substitute who is not state-certified. You will be provided this notification if this applies to your child at any point throughout the school year.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parent Involvement is welcomed, encouraged, and an essential factor in your child's success in school! Opportunities for parent involvement include but are not limited to attending grade-level specific meetings, quarterly S.A.C. meetings, literacy/math nights, and other subject area-specific meetings, Open House, responding to phone calls from school, participating in our annual parent survey, reading and following our Student/Parent Handbook, reviewing newsletters, and reviewing quarterly report cards and progress reports (if applicable).

PARENT OPPORTUNITY TO REQUEST MEETINGS

Parent-teacher conferences may be scheduled when the need arises at the request of either the parent or the teacher. Parents may schedule a conference by writing a note or e-mail to the teacher or calling the front office before or after school to schedule a time with their child's teacher. By scheduling a conference, the teacher can prepare individual reports, papers, etc., regarding your child to improve the sharing of information during your conference. We encourage all parents to set up and attend at least one conference per semester.

PARKING

DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

THESE GUIDELINES MUST BE FOLLOWED FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL STUDENTS!

1. VPK-2nd grade parents may walk their child to class during the **first two weeks of school**, but after that, parents must have a "Visitor's" badge beyond the front office. We will have adequate school personnel on duty in the morning to assist the children from the car line to their classrooms.
2. Please park in designated parking spots at the front of the school.
3. Parents may not park and get out of their cars to wait for their children after school. Students must be picked up in the car line at the front of the school, and parents should wait in their vehicles. An adult staff member will deliver your child to your car.
4. You will be given a sign with your child's name to display in the window of your car. You will receive your sign by the end of the first week of school.

PARTIES

Three classroom parties will be held during the school year: Winter Break, Valentine's Day, and the end-of-year. Teachers will plan these parties with their students and parents. Homeroom parents are asked to discuss plans with the teacher before the party date.

A store-bought birthday snack is allowed in all grade levels. Parents must arrange with the teacher in advance. We invite parents to eat lunch with their children to celebrate these special days.

Students are unable to receive gifts, flowers, balloons, cakes, etc., at school.

Party Invitations may not be distributed at school unless every class member receives one.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Section 1006.07 (2), Florida Statute, requires that the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag be recited in every public school at the beginning of the day. Exemption from participation may be provided upon written request from the parent or guardian.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL (S.A.C.)

The S.A.C. comprises community members, business partnerships, staff, and parents. S.A.C. members must be elected by their peers. The S.A.C. reviews issues of a school-wide nature. We welcome all parents, and we value your input. Calendar dates and times will be published in school newsletters throughout the year.

SCHOOL HOURS

- 7:35 A.M.** **Students may begin arriving on campus.**
K-2 students may eat breakfast in the cafeteria or report to their classroom beginning at 7:35 A.M.
VPK students will report to the classroom beginning at 7:35 A.M.
Early Learners will be escorted to the classroom by their parents at 7:35 A.M.
- 8:00 A.M.** **School begins**
- 2:20 P.M.** **Dismissal**

Students should not be checked out early unless there is an emergency or medical reason. Students are expected to attend school for the entire day. Early checkouts are reported as tardies on report cards. Early sign-outs are not permitted after 2:00 P.M.

SCHOOL CHOICE ATTENDANCE, ACADEMIC, AND DISCIPLINE GUIDELINES

Fordham Early Learning Academy is an early learning school choice program. As such, students must follow the guidelines and remain in good standing with attendance, academics, and discipline. Failure to follow the guidelines will result in the principal requesting the student's return to their base school.

SCHOOL COUNSELING

Please contact our school counselor at 352-671-4927 to meet the school counseling team. They aim to provide a good foundation for future success by making your child's first years a happy and rewarding learning experience.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTING APP

FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows persons to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials.

<https://getfortifyfl.com/>

TEXTBOOKS AND LIBRARY BOOKS

Lost or damaged books/materials must be paid for by the parent/guardian. Please help your child treat his/her books with care.

TOBACCO USE

Any tobacco product is prohibited on Marion County Schools' property and at Marion County Schools' sponsored events.

VISITORS

All visitors MUST:

- ENTER AND EXIT THROUGH THE MAIN OFFICE
- SIGN IN AT THE RECEPTION DESK
- HAVE THE APPROVAL TO BE ON CAMPUS
- WEAR A "VISITOR'S" BADGE
- RETURN THE I.D. BADGE BEFORE LEAVING CAMPUS

If a parent wishes to visit their child's classroom, arrangements must be made with the administration before the visit, as is required by the Marion Education Association Collective Bargaining Contract.

VOLUNTEERS ARE THE HEART OF OUR SCHOOL

Plan to be a school volunteer. There are many ways that you can help our school and its students. At the beginning of each year, you will receive volunteer guidelines and application information. Please allow at least two weeks for volunteer forms to be processed.

Volunteer applications must be resubmitted every year. A form is required if you volunteer in your child's classroom or participate in special school/classroom activities, parties, or field trips.

Please read this Parent Handbook with your child, then sign and return the bottom of this form to your child's homeroom teacher by the end of the first week of school.

I have read the 2025-2026 Parent/Student Handbook with my child. We understand its contents and agree to abide by it so Fordham Early Learning Academy can be an amazing place to learn and grow.

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Date