



# THE CARDINAL

*Wisdom begins with respect for the Lord.*



## Preparing for a New School Year

The 2016-2017 school year is just around the corner. Here are a few guidelines for a strong start and a successful year at the Fairfax Christian School.

### JupiterEd

FCS uses JupiterEd as an online grade book, communication tool and information hub. Parents will receive an email with login instructions before the school year begins. Please contact the Main Office with any questions.

### Uniforms and Dress Code

All new uniform pieces must be purchased from Flynn O'Hara. Students are expected to arrive on their first day in uniform.

The 2016-2017 Dress Code is available in the Main Office and on JupiterEd. Please put your student's name on all uniform pieces to prevent permanent loss.

### iPads

New Middle and High School students need to purchase an iPad (new or used). Other tablet brands are not permitted. Any full-sized iPad is acceptable.

All students with iPads must have a signed iPad Policy Agreement on file in the Main Office. Abiding

by this policy allows students to have a better educational experience with their iPads.

Students should bring their fully charged iPads to school daily. iPads should have a cover or case to keep them protected.

FCS does not allow students to use "jailbroken" iPads. "Jailbreaking" is a process by which the default operating system of a device is deliberately altered. Student iPads must run the most recent iOS version that their device supports.

Students are not permitted to use 3G, 4G or hotspots to connect to the internet while on campus. All students must keep their WiFi connection turned off unless a teacher has asked the class to login specifically for an activity.

Gaming apps may not be installed on students' iPads (except when a teacher instructs students to download an educational gaming app from the approved list). iPad sounds must be muted at all times except by a teacher's permission.

Students are expected to access JupiterEd daily for assignments. Some classes will use ebooks and

supplemental materials on the iPad. Teachers may administer tests and quizzes using Juno. Students may also use their iPads for word processing, study, research and presentations.

Students must cite online sources by URL and date where applicable. Please note that it is illegal to copy large sections of a copyrighted work without the author's permission.

Failure to comply with the rules in the FCS iPad Acceptable Use Policy will be considered an Honor Code violation and result in disciplinary action accordingly.

### Summer Reading

There's still time to read a few books on the Summer Reading list! Students may earn extra credit for up to four book reports on the reading list for their grade level. Please see our website or contact us for more details.

### Lunch Program

This year FCS has partnered with Smart Lunches. This service allows students to have lunches tailored to their tastes and dietary needs. Interested families can get more information and sign up at [www.smartlunches.com](http://www.smartlunches.com).

# News & Events

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## Important Dates

Wednesday, August 24th 6:00pm - 7:00pm	Homestay Orientation <i>(required for all Homestay families)</i>
Friday, August 26th 10:00am - 11:00am	Uniform Exchange <i>(new &amp; returning families)</i>
Monday, August 29th - Friday, September 2nd	International Student Placement Testing
Tuesday, September 6th 9:00am - 12 noon 5:00pm - 6:00pm 6:00pm - 7:00pm	Orientation Day Lower School Open House International Orientation Middle & High School Orientation
Wednesday, September 7th	First Day of School

## Uniform Donations

Graduates and non-returning students are encouraged to donate to the Uniform Exchange. Please bring lightly used uniform pieces to the Main Office from 8:00am to 3:00pm on or before Thursday, August 25th.

## Volleyball Camp

There will be a week-long Girls' Volleyball camp from Monday, August 29th, through Friday, September 2nd, from 9:00am to 12 noon. The camp will take place at the FCS outdoor basketball court. Girls should bring water and wear appropriate clothing. For more information, please contact the school.

## Circle: Content Control for the Family

In this digital age, managing your family's screen time is important. Parents and guardians often struggle to filter content, limit children's use of electronic devices and enforce healthy sleep habits. Fortunately, new technology can help you maintain order and reason in your home.

**Circle** is a tool which allows parents to manage content and time across all devices on the household wireless network. The physical component is a small "box," set up and connected to the wi-fi through managing software (available for iOS and Android).

Once paired with the network, Circle lets you set up profiles for each family member and device. Preset levels for Pre-K, Kid, Teen and Adult makes it easy to choose the right filter for your children. You may also enable ad blocking and Safe Search settings on any of your family's devices.

Through the Circle app, you can set time limits customized for each family member. You may opt to set a total online time limit, or you may set individual time limits on any app, platform or category.

A notable feature of Circle is the ability to set "bedtimes" for each device. At the chosen "bedtime," the device disconnects from the wi-fi until a set "wake" time. This cutoff encourages kids to put down their devices and sleep at the appropriate time every night.

For dinnertime, family time and other events, parents can use "Pause" to disable wi-fi for the whole household. "Pause" may also be applied to devices and individuals separately.

The **MyCircle** app (not required for device management) features personal dashboards for family members to view time limits,

bedtime countdown and details about their use of online time. Children can be encouraged to keep an eye on their usage of online time to promote healthy digital habits. "Insights" in the parent account shows a breakdown of each family member's activity.

We strongly recommend that all Homestay families invest in Circle or a similar product. A frequent concern for international students is adjusting to our time zone and maintaining a proper sleep schedule. Circle allows guardians to enforce bedtimes for their students' devices easily, authoritatively and without disruption.

Visit [meetcircle.com](http://meetcircle.com) for more information about Circle and MyCircle, as well as the new **Circle Go** app for managing your family's iOS devices on mobile networks.

# FCS Summer Programs

Our summer programs offer students an opportunity to explore, engage and expand their minds.

Students excel in our intensive summer English classes which are designed to quickly increase English skills. A comprehensive placement test is used to place each student in the appropriate levels for phonics, reading, writing, vocabulary, grammar, conversation, public speaking and TOEFL preparation. Students work in small groups with personal attention from FCS teachers. They also attend weekly educational field trips.

Our US Culture Camps are designed for groups of students looking to explore, engage and expand their minds. The program includes daily lessons and corresponding field trips.



# Staff Spotlight: Mr. Joseph Sun



Mr. Joseph Sun has worked at the Fairfax Christian School for five years. He is our International Admissions Director, primarily handling admissions for Chinese-speaking countries.

Mr. Sun enjoys meeting students from different backgrounds. During interviews, he gets to know them and their goals and inspirations.

Guiding families through the admissions is an important part of Mr. Sun's job. He often leads campus tours for potential students and families.

As a former international student himself, Mr. Sun understands the issues that many international students face. He first came to America at the age of sixteen. "The hardest part is being accepted," he says, "and not feeling like a foreigner." At FCS, the thriving population of international students gives new arrivals a sense of belonging. Our

students and graduates show that, with hard work and determination, any student can succeed at a good school.

Education in China emphasizes cutthroat competition, repetition and memorization. In America, particularly at high-quality schools, the top priority is to foster true understanding of each subject. Once students know the basics, they must learn how to really think. With guidance, students develop the minds of scholars.

Mr. Sun's favorite thing about the Fairfax Christian School is seeing his own children grow and thrive in a wholesome Christian environment, taught by kind and caring teachers.

## Please welcome our new staff!

Mrs. Kristin H. Sapperstein is our new Admissions Director.

Mrs. Sapperstein grew up in Gloucester, Virginia, close to many sites from early American history. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Government and worked on Capitol Hill for Congressman Steve King before joining the staff at FCS.

"I have always been interested in meeting new people and helping others," she says. "I am excited to meet all the great parents and students who are part of the FCS family."

