

2022-2023 MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS BY PARENTS OF STUDENTS TRANSITIONING TO FSEMS

**As we begin the 22-23 school year, all answers and dates below are subject to change. This document is intended to provide a broad overview of the year with general questions and answers. Thanks for your understanding. **

- **What is the contact information for Fred S. Engle Middle School?**
 - 107 School House Road, West Grove, PA, 19390
 - Phone: 610-869-3022
 - Main Office Fax: 610-869-0827
 - Nurse's Office Fax: 484-667-4447

- **What are some important dates to start the 2022-2023 school year?**
 - PowerSchool is available for parents/students starting mid-August.
 - Homerooms will not be posted – please check PowerSchool.
 - The first student day is September 6, 2022.
 - Back to School Night is September 8, 2022.

- **What do I need to know about the 1:1 program at FSEMS?**
 - Every student is assigned a Chromebook for the school year.
 - All parents/guardians may attend an optional meeting.
 - All 1:1 forms (Chromebook Compact) and processes are in PowerSchool registration process for the 2022-2023 school year, including the link to pay the annual tech fee.
 - Optional meetings regarding the 1:1 program in the AGSD will be announced at a later date.

- **What are some potential fees at FSEMS?**
 - Technology Insurance Fee - \$50.00
 - Extra Chromebook Charger - \$25.00
 - PIAA Athletic Fee - \$125.00
 - Activity Fee - \$25.00
 - Field trips – Varies per trip

- **What is PowerSchool?**
 - PowerSchool is the student information system used for grades, attendance, and various other functions.
 - Each student and parent will receive access to the system to monitor progress throughout the year.
 - Directions for creating an account will be emailed out to parents/guardians in August.

- **What is Schoology?**
 - Schoology is a learning management system.
 - Your student will have Schoology courses for each class at FSEMS.
 - There is a calendar on Schoology where teachers list assignments according to due date.
 - Directions for creating an account will be emailed out to parents/guardians in August.

- **What is my role as a parent in helping my student be successful?**
 - Please communicate with your student regarding his/her goals and expectations and help him/her develop a plan to reach those goals.
 - Stay abreast of homework assigned (review Schoology calendar).
 - Help your student stay organized, provide a quiet place for homework, and make sure work is completed and submitted in Schoology or in the correct folder to ensure assignments are submitted on time.
 - Encourage your student to find a “study buddy” in each class who can be contacted in case of absence or confusion related to an assignment.
 - Encourage your student to become involved in the middle school through the various sports, academic clubs, and performing groups.
 - Stay involved with not just your student’s academics, but also his/her activities, friends, and interests.
 - Check PowerSchool for grades and check Schoology for assignments.

- **What time does the day begin and end?**
 - The student day begins at 7:30 AM. All students need to be in their homerooms by 7:30 AM. Any student reporting to homeroom after 7:30 AM without a pass is late. Late students must report to the main office to sign into school. A late is unexcused if there is not an appropriate excuse from a parent/guardian.
 - The student day ends at 2:25 PM.

- **What are the dates for the state assessments (PSSAs) during the 2022-2023 school year to avoid conflicts with appointments or vacations?**
 - The preliminary dates for PSSA testing are
 - ELA - April 24-28, 2023
 - Math & Science – May 1- 12, 2023.

- **How do I access the District calendar?**
 - <http://www.avongrove.org/calendars>

- **How much homework is assigned, and how much time will it take?**
 - Homework is assigned at the discretion of the teacher. Please be sure to check the Schoology calendar for homework assignments. Note: Assignments are listed on the Schoology calendar by their due date.

- **How will my student know where to go on the first day of school?**
 - Homerooms will be available through PowerSchool.
 - Teachers, guidance counselors, and principals will have lists to direct students as they arrive.

- **When will I get my student’s schedule?**
 - Your student will receive his/her schedule on the first day of school in homeroom, which includes his/her teachers’ names and classroom locations.
 - Your student’s schedule will be available via PowerSchool in August.

- **When will my student be assigned a hallway locker? How will he/she know where it is and then learn how to open it?**
 - Lockers and combinations are assigned on the first day of school in homeroom. Teachers will be in the hallways to assist each student as needed.
 - Students attending the FSEMS Transition Camp will receive their locker and combination that day.

- **Where should I drop my student off in the morning if he/she doesn't take the bus?**
 - Student drop-off is at the front of the middle school in the first lot on the right.
 - Students should be dropped off after 7:10 AM.
 - The drop-off location is also used by individuals with mobility concerns and is only for dropping off students. If you need to enter the building, please use one of the parking spaces in our main lot.
 - Please be aware of traffic patterns (especially on days with inclement weather) and be advised that a student is late if he/she arrives to homeroom after 7:30 AM.

- **How will my student know what bus to get on and where?**
 - You will receive a notification of your student's bus number, bus stop time, and location from our District Office.
 - Buses park in the same spot at the end of each day, so students should go to their designated bus spot each day at dismissal. (Teachers will have a bus map in their classroom and will be available to help students find their bus during the first week of school.)

- **Are there late buses available for my student if he/she is involved with afterschool activities?**
 - Parents/guardians are responsible for picking up their son/daughter from afterschool activities.

- **What do I do if my student is absent, late, or needs an early dismissal?**
 - If your student is absent, please send a note on the day he/she returns with his/her name, date of absence, reason for absence, and homeroom number. You may also submit an absence through [Safearrival](#).
 - If your student is late to school, he/she is to report to the main office. Please be aware, a student arriving at school after 7:30 AM is late and will need a note explaining why they are late. Missing the bus, waking up late, or getting caught in traffic is not considered an unexcused late.
 - To participate in an athletic sport or school activity, your student must be in attendance for at least half of the school day to attend, practice, or compete on that day. Please refer to the Athletic Handbook for more specifics on athletics.
 - If your student needs an early dismissal, please send a note with your student giving the time of the dismissal and reason. When you arrive to pick up your student, please report to the main office with your ID, and your student will be called for dismissal. Your student will only be released to the individual noted on the early dismissal note or a contact listed in PowerSchool. Please make sure parents/guardians and emergency contacts are updated through the PowerSchool registration process.

- **What is the Engle Middle School dress code?**
- The dress code for Engle Middle School is available online and the rest of the student-parent handbook. Please go to www.avongrove.org and look under "Parents" or "Students" and select Handbooks.
- **DRESS CODE (Policy #221)** The purpose of the dress code is to create an educational environment that minimizes distraction and encourages order for and among students. Avon Grove School District takes pride in the appearance of our students. Your dress reflects the quality of the school, conduct, and your schoolwork. All students are expected to dress and groom themselves neatly, in clothes that are suitable for school activities. In an effort to help your apparel decision making, the following dress code has been put in place:

No apparel displaying or promoting violence, alcohol, drug or tobacco advertisements is permitted. No student shall be permitted to wear articles of clothing which promote or advertise a substance which is illegal for the student to use or possess. No item of clothing is permitted which depicts or promotes sexism, violence, obscenity, vulgarity or ethnic prejudice. Clothing that is substantially disruptive to the learning process is unacceptable. These provisions shall also apply to tattoos or other body markings that violate this handbook and board policy. Clothing that is a hazard to the health or safety of the student or other student(s) shall not be permitted.

The school administration reserves the right to determine whether the student's attire is within the limits of decency and modesty. Any exceptions to the dress code will need the approval of the building principal.

Expectations for Student Dress are as follows:

- Hats, bandanas, hoods, or any other head coverings are not to be worn in class/building. Head coverings for religious purposes shall be permitted.
- Sunglasses may not be worn or in view (around neck, head) while in school.
- Large, long or heavy chains are prohibited.
- No fish net, revealing necklines, off the shoulder shirts, half shirts (bare midriff), see through clothing (without proper undergarments), tie straps, spaghetti straps, halters, muscle tops.
- All shirt straps are to cover the shoulder and be approximately 2" in width and the shirt/blouse must hang below the waistline.
- Midriffs and/or undergarments are not to be intentionally exposed at any time.
- Pants/jeans: Low rider pants/shorts that fall below the hips must be secured with a belt, no excessively torn clothing or apparel that overexposes the body. No see-through pants. Undergarments must be covered at all times.
- Dresses and skirts must be approximately mid-thigh length.
- Shorts must have a minimum 3" inseam.
- Bare or stocking feet are not acceptable. Sneakers must be worn for physical education classes.
- Coats and jackets are outerwear and are not to be worn in school. Students should place their coats and jackets in their lockers when they arrive at school. Teachers/teams should use discretion if the classroom is cold.
- Tattoos or body markings that violate the provisions contained herein must be covered at all times.
- Pajamas/bedroom slippers are not permitted unless it is a designated Pajama Day.
- No face paint unless it is a designated Costume Day.

- **Is there a uniform for PE class? If so, where can one be purchased?**
 - There is no requirement to purchase a uniform, although clothes are recommended for wear that comply with the school dress code.

- **What is the technology policy for Engle Middle School?**
 - All AGSD schools follow the same policy for technology; Electronic Devices #237 (see <http://www.avongrove.org/district/board-of-directors/board-policies>)
 - Smartphones, iPods, and other personal electronic devices should be silenced and kept out of sight during instructional time and at any additional time where the use of the device would disrupt school activities.
 - The school principal will communicate guidelines identifying when and where students may use electronic devices during the school day but outside of instructional time. These guidelines may differ depending on the grade span and maturation rates of students.
 - Students who need to contact parents or guardians during the day can do so through a phone in the main office.

- **How will I learn of the recommended school supplies?**
 - The supply list will be posted on the website.
 - <https://www.avongrove.org/schools/middle-school/summer-info>

- **Where is the summer reading assignment information?**
 - The summer reading assignment will be posted on the website.

- **Does my student need a physical?**
 - Required physical and immunization information can be found at <http://www.avongrove.org/departments/pupil-services/school-health>

- **Is my cafeteria MealpayPlus information still accessible from last year?**
 - Yes. All cafeteria information is available at <http://www.avongrove.org/departments/food-services>

- **Where are the forms for applying for free or reduced lunch?**
 - Applications will be available in the main office and at <http://www.avongrove.org/departments/food-services/free-reduced-lunch>

- **Who do I contact if I have a concern?**
 - Issues or concerns about grades, class, or disciplinary matters should be addressed to your student's teacher.
 - For other concerns, please contact your student's guidance counselor. For last names starting with A through K, the guidance counselor is Mrs. Kristi Milburn (kmilburn@avongrove.org). For last names beginning with L through Z, the guidance counselor will be named at a later date.

- **What is the best way to contact teachers?**
 - Teachers can be emailed directly at any time. Teachers will attempt to respond to you as soon as possible. Additionally, teachers can be reached via phone, but please understand that they may not immediately respond as they are in class.

- **How do I find out what events are going on at school?**
 - Always check the Engle Middle School website and calendar for information.
 - Look for monthly emails from the Principal and Assistant Principal highlighting essential dates.

- **How does my student know what events are going on at school?**
 - School events are announced on the televised school broadcast and posted on our website.
 - With our transition to the 1:1 program and Schoology (Learning Management System), this will look different for the 22-23 school year. Activity advisors, coaches, teachers, and principals can post messages to parents and students. Please make sure you stay connected!

- **How do I get involved in the PTO?**
 - Sign up for committees that might be of interest to you and attend monthly meetings. This information can be found by following the FSEMS link at <http://www.fsemspto.org/>

- **How can I volunteer at FSEMS?**
 - The most up-to-date information regarding volunteers and clearances can be found on the District website <https://www.avongrove.org/community/volunteer>

- **What is academic eligibility for interscholastic sports?**
 - If the student is FAILING two or more courses, the student will be immediately ineligible in games and practices for the following week (Sunday through Saturday).
 - If a student-athlete is FAILING a course for a second week during his/her respective season, he/she will be suspended from games for the following week (Sunday through Saturday).
 - For more detailed information, please review the middle school Athletic Handbook for Student-Athletes and Parents/Guardians.

- **What are the sports available, and what is the tryout policy?**
 - Engle Middle School sponsors sports in all three seasons. Specific sports and athletic information can be found at <http://www.avongrove.org/athletics/fsems-athletics>
 - All students interested in playing a sport must have a sports physical dated after June 1, 2022, for the 2022-2023 school year.
 - The PIAA sports physical paperwork may be found at <http://www.avongrove.org/athletics/pre-participation-requirements> and must be submitted on these forms.
 - Any student selected for a team and is issued a uniform will be responsible for a one-time participation fee of \$125. This fee is only collected once per year and will cover all sports during the academic year.

- **What are the activities available, and what is the fee structure?**
 - There are a variety of activities throughout the school year. Informational meetings will be advertised throughout the building as well as through the morning and afternoon announcements.
 - Any student who joins an activity will be responsible for a one-time participation fee of \$25. This fee is only collected once per year and will cover all activities during the academic school year.

- **What is the difference between the Engle report card and a standards-based report card?**
 - The Engle Middle School report card is based on a point system to calculate the grade earned by a student.
 - Most assignments, including homework, projects, tests, and quizzes, determine a student's grade.
 - A grade is typically calculated as the number of points earned by a student compared to the available points. This percentage is then compared to the grading scale to determine the student's letter grade.
 - A standards-based report card compares a student's performance to established grade-level or state standards and reports how well a student is progressing toward mastery of those standards.