



# Family Handbook

2021

May 2021

Dear FSA 2021 Campers and Families,

Welcome to Full STEAM Ahead 2021! We are looking forward to exciting and fun learning experiences with you. This handbook may help answer some questions you may have about our camp that will begin on Monday, July 12. Please keep this as a handy reference to use throughout our two-week program.

Sincerely,

Amy Miller

FSA Program Director

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# **Mission Statement, Educational Philosophy, and Core Values**

## **Mission Statement**

*Full STEAM Ahead engages middle school students in an enriching summer program that fosters intellectual curiosity and inspires academic achievement through creative explorations in science, the arts, and technology.*

## **Educational Philosophy**

At the root of this enrichment program is the desire to show students joy in learning. Through hands-on engagement, on- and off-campus explorations, excellent teaching, and supportive mentorship, we aim to bring excitement to each day's learning experiences.

## **Core Values**

We value each and every member of the FSA team, from the administrators to the teachers to the high school mentors to the students. We work together to make this program empowering and inspirational, with lessons that transcend our buildings, our academic workshops, our field trips, and even the dates of our program. We strive to give students lifelong lessons that they can take with them into their own schools and their educational lives.

## **History of the Program**

Full STEAM Ahead (formerly Reach) began in 2021 as an innovative collaboration between The Colorado Springs School and two middle schools to bring academic rigor, creative hands-on learning and mentorship to middle school students. Over the past nine years, the program has grown stronger and wider in partnership with Peak Education, now encompassing students from three school districts. We are pleased to offer another summer of valuable learning and exciting, fun challenges in 2021.

## Governance and Organization

Tambi Tyler, Head of School, The Colorado Springs School

Karen Grover, CFO, The Colorado Springs School

Mike Zaccagnino, Director of Transportation and Grounds

Amy Miller, FSA Program Director and workshop instructor

Natalie Hanson, Brain Matters instructor

Amanda Krone, Brain Matters instructor

Blisse Beardsley, Innovation and Discovery instructor

Caren Goldberg, Innovation and Discovery instructor

Hans Wolfe, Design and Deliver instructor

Delovell Earls, Design and Deliver instructor

Lori Burgess, FSA Food Coordinator

Mentors:

Heather Hatch

Francesca Pellicano

Carissa Lay

Finnegan Thompson

Morgan Jarolimek

Henry Gresham

Ty Williams

Cailan Reid

## Policies

### A. Transportation

Transportation will be provided for Districts 2 and 11 students by district buses.

We are currently working to obtain transportation from D14. More detailed information will be shared as it becomes available. Pick up and drop off times will be announced in mid-June.

When we travel off-campus during the day for field trips, licensed CSS faculty will drive CSS vans.

### B. Attendance

All students are expected to attend FSA every day of the program. If extenuating circumstances (illness, family emergency) prohibit attendance, **please call or text Amy Miller at 719-338-8471** to report absences early in the morning of the absence or before that, if known.

Naturally, frequent absences will reduce the impact of the program for students and may jeopardize the return of the family deposit and/or the possibility to return to the program the following summer.

**C. Lunch**

Healthy, well-balanced lunches will be provided for students who have requested daily lunch. If your student has special dietary needs, please provide a lunch daily, for we cannot guarantee that we will be able to accommodate all preferences or special needs. (CSS is a nut-free campus.) You may also provide snacks at your discretion, only to be consumed at lunchtime, and we ask that they be healthy and nutritional (no candy, for instance). We cannot, however, provide lunch for students who have not requested a daily lunch, so if you initially stated that your child would bring his/her own lunch, this must be a daily occurrence.

**D. Safety**

Naturally, safety is of the utmost concern to us all. To that end, our bus drivers are all state-certified to operate the vehicles transporting students, including the teachers driving school vans.

We will also conduct a safety drill in the first few days of the program so that students and staff are aware of all safety procedures, including lockout, lockdown, and evacuation.

Because we expect unexpected weather in Colorado Springs, we will certainly follow best practices for dealing with sudden storms, including lightning. We will bring outdoor activities inside at the first indication of lightning or other dangerous weather conditions.

During this extraordinary global pandemic, we will also faithfully follow all protocols for Covid mitigation, both on campus and off. Although public guidelines may change over the course of the summer, at this point, face masks, properly worn over the mouth and nose, will be required and social distancing enforced throughout the program. Should further protocols ensue, we will closely follow the guidance of our on-campus Health Coordinator, and we will inform all families of all safety requirements. Naturally, non-compliance with any safety rules (including wearing seatbelts) may jeopardize any student's continued participation in the program.

## **E. Dress Code**

We will provide FSA t-shirts to all students and ask them to wear those t-shirts on all field trips and for other designated events. On all other days, we ask students to dress appropriately for workshops and elective courses.

Thus, all pants must be in good repair, with no rips or tears. Likewise, we ask that all shorts are at mid-thigh or below in length. Mid-thigh-length skirts or skorts are also appropriate as long as they fit the needs of the day's activities.

T-shirts and sleeveless tops are appropriate, but they may not have any controversial writing on them (political slogans, alcohol or drug-related messages, other messages deemed inappropriate or offensive by the program staff and Director) and must again be in good repair. Please avoid all strapless and thin-straped tops. Abdomens, cleavage, and backs must remain covered.

Shoes must be worn at all times, unless otherwise noted by a teacher during certain activities. Athletic shoes with socks are always appropriate. Sandals may be worn only if the activities of the day allow for them. Students may certainly bring shoes to keep in their lockers for changing activities throughout the day. Certain electives, in fact, will require appropriate shoes, which may be left at school throughout the program.

Sports electives and certain field trips may demand a change of clothes, so such announcements will be made during the Orientation Day on July 12 and/or prior to field trips in academic workshops.

Hats may not be worn in buildings, but may be essential on some outings.

## **F. Other Supplies**

Students may wish to bring a backpack to carry water bottles, extra clothes, and other supplies.

Students may also leave cell phones **silenced or turned off in those backpacks in their lockers for use after the program day ends**, but students are **not to have cell phones in their possession during workshops, electives, or on field trips during the day**. If a student must be reminded of this policy, Ms. Miller will hold onto his/her phone until the student boards the bus for home. Repeat reminders to keep phones in backpacks/lockers/with Ms. Miller will result in a phone call home and a request simply to leave the phone at home

each day forward. If parents need to reach their student during the day in case of emergencies, they can do so by calling Ms. Miller at **719-338-8471**.

Although the CSS lockers do not have locks on them, students may choose to bring their own combination lock to use for the two weeks. We require that Ms. Miller has the combination for all such locks.

**G. Deposit**

While students attend FSA at no cost, spots in the program are in high demand; therefore, we do ask for a \$50 deposit to secure each student's spot and insure their commitment to the program. Once the program has concluded and the students have fully participated and followed the policies within this handbook, the deposits will be refunded.

### **Program Dates and Hours**

The FSA Program for 2021 runs from Monday, July 12-Friday, July 23. Students will arrive at CSS by 9 a.m. each morning (unless field trips require a modified start time) and will depart from the school at 3:00 p.m. each afternoon.

During our lunchtime on Friday, July 23, we will have a closing ceremony, a celebration of your children's adventures in the program. Please watch your email for a formal invitation.

## Proposed Calendar for July 2021 (alterations will be announced ASAP)

| Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday                            | Friday   |
|--|---|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| 12<br><b>Orientation</b><br><b>9:00-11:30</b><br>(FSA students first day)<br>Shortened Workshops and Electives<br>30 min. each | 13<br>Safety Drill<br>time TBD<br><br>Workshops and field trips | 14<br>Morning workshops<br><br>Afternoon Electives<br>12:30-2:55 | 15<br><br>Workshops and field trips | 16<br>Morning workshops<br><br>Afternoon Electives<br>12:30-2:55   |
| 17<br>Morning workshops<br><br>Afternoon Electives<br>12:30-2:55   | 18<br><br>Workshops and field trips                             | 19<br>Morning workshops<br><br>Afternoon Electives<br>12:30-2:55 | 20<br>Workshops and field trips     | 21<br><b>Special Closing Lunch and Ceremony for parents/ guardians to join us. Please watch your email for further specifics.</b><br><br>Afternoon Electives<br>12:30-2:55 |