



2026-27 Elementary (Grades 2-5) and Junior Academy (Grade 6) Family FAQ

#	Question	Answer
1	What time is the scholar drop off on Monday-Friday?	7:35-8:00 AM Scholars are marked tardy after 8:05 AM. Any tardy scholar in will grades 2-4 have to park and walk into the EA campus front office. Late scholars in grades 5 and 6 will park and sign-in through the JA campus front office. We only allow 5 late arrivals under our attendance policy.
2	What will drop-off look like with two different carlines?	2nd-4th grade families will use the original carline that we have always used at the EA campus. 5th and 6th grade families will use the carline for the Junior Academy addition. This will take some time to get used to, so please be flexible the first few weeks. Both lines will be double-stacked just like the other carline. - If your family has scholars in <u>both</u> grade bands, you will <u>NOT</u> have to get in both carlines. Instead, you will drop off your scholars at the EA carline. 5th/6th grade scholars will walk over to the new addition, since they are older.
3	What time is scholar pick up on Monday-Thursday?	3:10-3:40 PM - If a scholar is picked up late more than 3 times, the family may be called in for a conference and the scholar will be placed on an attendance plan.
4	What time is the scholar pickup on Friday?	11:50-12:20 PM - If a scholar is picked up late more than 3 times, the family may be called in for a conference and the scholar will be placed on an attendance plan.
5	Will there be an early release cut off time?	Early sign-outs will not be allowed after 2:15pm M-Th and 10:55am F to ensure a safe dismissal for all scholars. We only allow 5 early sign outs under our attendance policy.
6	What is the educational model?	For the purposes of consistency across campuses, every scholar in grades 2-5 begins their day with a 30 minute Social Emotional Learning (SEL) lesson. Scholars at the EA campus will receive 90 minutes of Math instruction, 2 hours of Reading/Writing instruction, two 45-minute enrichment classes, a 30-minute flex time for Science and Social Studies, a 30-minute lunch period and 20 minutes of recess daily. On Fridays, scholars will participate in various community-building activities, as well as differentiated small groups.

		Scholars at the JA campus will receive 45 minutes of instruction in all core classes (Math, Reading, Writing, Science, Social Studies, and Eagles Excel). They will also receive two 45 minute periods of encore classes.
7	Is early care offered?	Yes. We are committed to offering early drop off for families who need it beginning at 6:10AM for a monthly fee. Contact Mrs. Andrews for more information. We are excited to use a new platform this year for payments & supervision tracking. Stay tuned!
8	Are any after-school programs being offered?	We are open to any daycare who offers to pick up scholars at the request of their parents. Remember, HYPE is not operated physically on LSC campuses but we receive a certain number of spots on a first come, first serve basis. We will also have the YMCA offering paid aftercare at their facility. Please reach out to the YMCA or HYPE directly to sign-up. Visit the HYPE office to talk with Mr. Gadson at 415 Manning Avenue or by phone (803-934-9527). You can sign up with the YMCA at their facility on Miller Road.
9	How are school meals served?	All food is prepared at the mall campus this year and all scholars eat for free!
10	Has the staff been hired yet?	Yes, we are 100% fully staffed!
11	Will there be a School Resource Officer at the Elementary Academy?	Yes. Deputy Green will be with us again. We are excited and hopeful to announce another SRO for the Junior Academy soon!
12	Is there an outdoor play area?	Absolutely! We have a secured outside area (140 x 85 ft) for a large playground and PE field, which is enclosed by a 6 foot tall privacy fence. We also have a PE field and recess area on the Juni or Academy side (behind the mall).
13	How do report cards look at this Academy?	We will use the state uniform grading scale (A 90-100, B 80-89, C 70-79, D 60-69, F 59 and below). Under a new state law this year, scholars will earn the grade earned - there is no minimum grade assigned this year.
14	Will my scholar take state standardized tests?	Third, fourth, fifth, and sixth graders will participate in SC Ready state standardized testing (Math, Reading, & Writing plus Science for 4th and 6th) in the Spring. Second graders will participate in COGAT testing (a screener used to identify Talented and Gifted scholars) in the Fall. All scholars will complete MAP testing 3x (Fall, Winter, and Spring).
15	What will grading look like?	The EA campus will follow the state-wide uniform grading scale used in all public schools. There will be a minimum of nine grades collected over the course of a quarter with consistency across both grades as to what is taken for a grade to reinforce high expectations through rigorous coursework. There is NO grading floor. Scholars will receive the grade they earn. Graded work will be sent home bi-weekly in the NEST folder. The EA and JA campuses will fully utilize the Parent Portal component of our Power School database. Parents will be able to check their scholar's graded work as it is entered on a biweekly basis in the Parent Portal.
16	What is the uniform policy for this Academy?	Check out our board approved uniform policy for both campuses on our website here . All skirts, skorts, shorts, and jumpers MUST be no more than 3 inches above the knee.

17	Is there access between the school and mall?	There is no indoor access between the two facilities.
18	Do you practice emergency drills at this campus?	Absolutely! We conduct all state-required, monthly drills, including: Fire, Active Shooter (Lockdown/Lockout), Tornado, and Earthquake.
19	Do these Academies offer extra academic services?	Yes, they offer academic intervention, academic enrichment (GT), resource, speech, OT, and PT to all scholars who qualify.
20	Are there two teachers in every classroom at this Academy?	No—only in our inclusion classrooms.
21	How many scholars are in each homeroom?	25 is the class size, and will be maintained all year at 25 throughout the year by filling any vacant seats from the enrollment lottery waitlist.
22	What will gifted education look like?	All identified gifted scholars will receive their weekly required time with a GT certified teacher.
23	What other types of grades will scholars receive?	They will receive grades for all of their classes, including Encore. Teachers are required to input a minimum of nine grades per quarter. For EA scholars, Encore grades will be NM (Not Met), P (Progressing), and M (Met). For JA scholars, Encore classes will receive letter grades.
24	Will SEL support be offered?	Check In, Check Out Partners Friday rotation for CCC Mentoring, Morning SEL meetings (8-8:30 daily), & SEL groups At Liberty STEAM Charter School, social-emotional learning (SEL) is a key part of our educational model, with the first 30 minutes of each day dedicated to a morning meeting focused on building these important skills. This year, we are excited to introduce Character Strong, our new SEL and character development program. Character Strong helps scholars develop kindness, empathy, responsibility, strong relationships, and positive decision-making skills. To monitor growth, scholars complete an SEL assessment at the beginning and end of the school year that measures skills such as emotion recognition, social perspective-taking, social problem-solving, and self-control. Scholars who need additional support may participate in interventions such as Eagles Take Flight mentoring, Check-In/Check-Out (CICO), or SEL small groups. These supports help ensure every scholar has the tools needed to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally. EA & JA will have additional SEL support from two new Scholar Support Specialists this year (counselors).
25	What will parent communication look like at this campus?	Parent Weekly digital newsletter, Dojo (class and schoolwide), & the One Call System.
26	What's the meal arrangement for next year?	ALL scholars will be offered FREE breakfast and lunch! Meals will be prepared at the Elementary & Junior academy campus this year. Our brand new state of the art cafeteria that will seat 1,000 at capacity will be ready in early Spring 2027.
27	Where can I find all the back to school info as it is coming over the summer?	Great question! All back to school information will be shared on social media but also kept on the home page of the LSC website.

28	What can my child do this summer to avoid the summer slide and be ready for the first day of school?	Continue to read at least 20 minutes per day! Complete the Summer Challenge packet that was sent home with all scholars.
29	What is the theme for the Elementary and Junior Academies?	We are Eagle Airlines, taking flight to S.O.A.R. to new heights! Each grade level has chosen a different continent. Each homeroom class has chosen a different destination located on that continent to build their classroom theme.
30	When will we find out who our scholars' teachers are?	Our teachers return from Summer break on July 22nd. They will receive their rosters and send a welcome back postcard in the mail that day. On July 27th, from 2-6 pm (drop-in style: 2nd-5th grades 2-4pm and 6th grade 5-6pm), we will hold our "Nest Fest" and Meet the Teachers event. We can't wait to host you on Eagle Airlines!
31	Who are the teachers?	<u>2nd Grade Flight Crew:</u> Mrs. Purcell and Ms. Cousar (SPED inclusion) Ms. Vaughn Ms. Harrell (ELA/SS) Ms. Pringle (Math/Science) Mrs. Fulwood Ms. Beauchamp <u>3rd Grade Flight Crew:</u> Ms. Lim (ELA/SS) Mrs. Page (Math/Science) Ms. Raby and Mrs. Pack (SPED inclusion) Mrs. Thompson Mrs. Stanfield Mrs. Johnson <u>4th Grade Flight Crew:</u> Mrs. Dixon (ELA/SS) Mr. Archie (Math/Science) Mrs. Lucas and Mrs. Ploe (SPED inclusion) Mrs. K. Williams Ms. J. Williams (Math/Science) Ms. Hallman (ELA/SS) <u>5th Grade Flight Crew:</u> Mrs. Joe (ELA/SS) Ms. Johnson (Math/Science) Mrs. Prescott and Ms. Gebhardt (ELA/SS SPED inclusion) Mrs. Prescott and Dr. Douglas (Math/Science SPED inclusion) Mrs. Butler Ms. Castillo <u>6th Grade Flight Crew:</u> Mrs. McKnight (Inclusion) Mr. Pea (Social Studies) Ms. Johnson-Walters (Science/PLTW) Ms. Graves (Math) Mrs. Munn (Reading) Mrs. Adams (Writing)

		Mr. Blanding (Eagles Excel) Special Populations: Caroline Rogers Andrew Russell Stephanie Hickmon Kerry Fuller Robbie Derk Emily Burns Kaitlyn Ward Stacey Mooneyham
32	Who are the Encore (Enrichment) teachers?	Mrs. Andrews, 2nd-5th Physical Education Mr. Odom, 2nd-6th Physical Education Mrs. Denny, 2nd and 3rd STEAM Project Lead the Way Ms. Wilson, 4th and 5th STEAM Project Lead the Way Ms. Jones, 3rd-6th Performing Arts Mr. Brown, 2nd-6th Music Mr. Hatfield, 2nd-6th Music Mrs. Mahon, 6th Orchestra (part-time) Ms. Tellez, 2nd-4th Spanish Mrs. Marquez, 5th and 6th Spanish Ms. Edwards, 2nd, 4th-6th Art
33	Who are the intervention teachers?	Ms. Hickmon, Mrs. Fuller, Ms. Derk, Mrs. Ward, & Mrs. Burns
34	Will LSC offer speech, OT, and PT this year?	Yes! Any scholar whose IEP requires this accommodation will be provided these services. LSC has a full-time speech language therapist, occupational therapist, and psychologist on staff!
35	Will there be technology?	Yes, each classroom will have a classroom set of chrome books that will not go home, as well as an interactive display board!
36	I have heard about changes to the school's attendance policy. Can you share more?	Yes! Attendance is going to continue to be a major focus area for the new school year with additional incentives as well as parent consequences to reinforce attending the full school day and arriving at school on time. We have very high expectations for scholar & staff attendance. For example, scholars will be allowed five parent notes & medical notes (excluding those with additional medical certification). Parent notes must be submitted within three days of the absence. Violation of attendance policy will result in attendance intervention plans (AIPs) if continued there will be an attendance hearing before our Board of Directors as well as notification to SC Department of Social Services. Any scholar who has 10 or more unexcused absences will automatically be retained for the following school year. Any scholar who has 10 or more medical notes will be required to participate in an intervention plan meeting to learn more about what additional supports are needed to ensure the scholar is meeting grade level mastery standards. Any scholar who missed 10% or more (19 or more days) that are medically excused will be required to attend summer school (PRIDE). Any scholar who violated an attendance plan in place during the 2025-26 school year or was chronically absent for any reason will be required to begin the year on an Attendance Success Plan. Summer PRIDE Camp (our version of summer camp) will

		be required for any scholar who is on the Chronic Absenteeism List this year unless medical homebound services have been provided and the missed seat time has been accounted for. If a scholar is required to attend Summer PRIDE Camp for attendance but does not attend with 95% ADA, then s/he will be retained in the same grade for the following school year. We will continue to follow the “rule of five,” but tighten up on overnight suspensions that will be required to force a family conference the day the violation occurs that triggers the next step in the policy. The “rule of five” means that scholars should only have five absences with a parent note, five late arrivals, five early sign outs, and five late pick ups.
37	Are there any changes with the Code of Conduct?	The revised Scholars Code of Conduct from Spring 2023 reflects the Board of Directors renewed commitment to maintaining a high standard of behavior expectations for scholars that offers a balance of consequences to deter unacceptable behavior but also additional social-emotional learning supports. Scholars in grades 6-8 can expect stronger consequences for behavior violations.
38	I’ve heard about possible changes in the Discipline Model?	Starting this school year, we will be implementing Conscious Discipline, a research-based approach that helps scholars build self-regulation, emotional awareness, positive relationship skills, and responsibility. Through this approach, scholars will learn how to manage emotions, solve problems, make responsible choices, and contribute to a safe, supportive, and respectful school community.
39	Who is Dr. Hafner & Mrs. Cribbs? What happened with Dr. Ivey?	Liberty is excited to welcome Dr. Brenda Hafner as Superintendent and Mrs. Jennifer Cribbs as the founding Academy Director of our Junior Academy. As Liberty enters its next chapter, Co-Founder Dr. Trevor Ivey has transitioned from the organization to launch the Liberty STEAM Charter School Foundation, where he will support fundraising, high school development, and advocacy efforts that advance Liberty's mission. Sally Harris will serve as the “principal” of grades 2-5 while Jennifer Cribbs will serve as the “principal” of grades 6-8.
40	What happened to Corporal Pinckney at the Mall Campus? Is Officer Horton going anywhere?	He received a promotion to be an Investigator with the Sumter County Sheriff's Office and will no longer serve as an SRO at LSC. We are hoping to welcome a new SRO to our team & family soon for the mall campus. No changes are expected with Corporal Horton's assignment at the PA campus.
41	When do I get to meet my scholar's teachers and drop off the back to school supplies?	On July 27 from 2-4 pm (grades 2-5), all VIPs and scholars can stop by the EA campus to meet teachers, leaders, and other staff members. Our 6th grade families are asked to come between 5-6:15 pm. It's a drop-in, so come when you can. We'll have Kona Ice there for a cool-down treat! You can bring your scholar's school supplies bagged & tagged with their name.
42	What's left with the renovation at the mall?	We are awaiting the issuance of our Certificate of Occupancy from the Office of School Facilities at SC Department of Education later this month. We will be acquiring 14 new classrooms, a set of new restrooms, and 3 new project labs. The cafeteria, multipurpose gym, & performance arts center on the backside is still in the phase 5 renovation project. Dr. Ivey will be working on the high school project & will share more details soon. Exciting!
43	I heard scholars get to pick enrichment classes this year. Is that true?	Yes, as part of our charter, scholars are allowed to select one enrichment class called an “encore” class beginning in 6th grade that they will take all year long. We will be launching a band, orchestra, drama, choir, piano, dance, & art in our first year. Scholars in grades 2-5 can look for some extra curricular opportunities.

