



Monthly Update

February 2019

School Year 2020 Enrollment

ECS is mailing re-enrollment information for the 2019-20 school year to our current student body family. If you don't receive your info packet by Friday, February 1, please check at the school office. ECS offers a discounted registration rate of \$50/student for current ECS students who re-enroll during the month of February. The deadline for this year's special \$50/student registration rate is at the end of business on Thursday, February 28. Your student's timely re-enrollment greatly helps us plan for next year.

Financial Reminder

Current tax code allows families to spend up to \$10,000 a year from tax-advantaged 529 savings plans to cover the costs of K-12 expenses for a private or religious school. Prior to 2018, tax-free distributions from those plans were limited to college costs. Virginia also offers up to a \$4000 state income tax deduction for K-12 tuition (see www.virginia529.com). Please check with your financial advisor to see how these items might impact you and your ECS tuition expenses.

Legislative Information from ODACS

ODACS provides ECS much more than sports and Bible, Fine Arts, and Academic competitions. One of the primary functions of ODACS is to monitor legislation on the state level that impacts Christian education. During this current school year, ODACS has provided significant assistance to ECS with the implementation of new VA code requirements for religious exempt programs. In previous years, ODACS has worked on a variety of other critical issues ranging from school choice initiatives and tax credits for Christian education to student vaccination requirements and school van use. Please visit the ODACS website (www.vaodacs.com) to see how their work directly impacts you. If you wish to receive regular email updates from ODACS, please notify ECS (secretary@ebcecs.com) to be added to their contact list.

Reminders

Child Safety

According to current VA law, children under the age of 8 regardless of height and/or weight must be restrained with an approved child restraint device (not merely a seat-belt) in accordance with Department of Transportation standards when riding in vehicles. Safety authorities agree that children under age 13 should sit in the back seat of the vehicle.

Cold Weather

ECS classes generally take outside recess breaks unless it is raining. While we will modify the length of our outdoor activities when it is windy or cold, we still expect students to be prepared to go outside (coat, gloves, hat, and snow boots when appropriate) for AM and PM recess and PE classes.

Calendar Events

Presidents' Day – Monday, February 18

ECS observes the Presidents' Day holiday on Monday, February 18. Classes will not meet and extended care is cancelled. Engleside Baptist Church and School offices will be closed.

Elementary ODACS Competition & Related Class Closings – Friday, March 1

Many of our students in grades 4 through 6 will participate in the annual ODACS Bible, Fine Arts, and Academic competition on Friday, March 1.

Participating students will receive detailed information about the day's activities by mid-February. ECS will supervise participating students; however, siblings of participating students and all non-participating students in grades 4-6 may attend the competition at FBTA only if accompanied and supervised by a parent. Extended care will operate on its normal schedule *ONLY* for students participating in the ODACS competition with ECS. **Classes and extended care will NOT be provided for STUDENTS IN PREK THROUGH GRADE 3 on Friday, March 1.**

Inclement Weather Procedures

ECS will follow all initial inclement weather closings and delays as announced by Fairfax County Public Schools, adjusting its schedule as follows:

Delayed Entry

Extended care opens for regular users at 8:30 AM. Other students dropped off at ECS before 10:00 AM will be escorted to extended care and billed at the daily drop-in rate.

Doors open for student entry at 10:00 AM with classes starting at 10:15.

School Cancellation

No extended care or classes will meet. School office will be closed.

Early Dismissal

ECS will serve lunch to students and close at 12:15. PM extended care will be cancelled. Parents may pick up their children without penalty any time after the FCPS decision has been announced. Students must be picked up by 12:30 PM. ECS encourages parents to find emergency contacts near ECS who can pick up your children in the event that the weather or work schedules will not allow you to pick up your child before ECS closes.

Additional Notes

ECS will confirm its inclement weather plan by activating its OneCallNow Inclement Weather notification system and notifying WTOP (103.5FM and wtop.com).

When the FCPS system is closed for an extended period of time after significant snow fall, ECS *may* reopen sooner than county schools if our parking lots have been cleared, area roads are deemed safe for travel, and other private schools are reopening. ECS students will not be penalized if they are unable to attend classes when FCPS is closed for inclement weather. If ECS departs from the FCPS system by returning to school early, ECS will notify parents via OneCallNow.

ECS does not observe FCPS calendar adjustments relating to inclement weather.

If you are not receiving text notifications from OneCallNow and would like to activate that service, please text the word "alert" (no quotes) to 22300. OneCall text notifications generally go out more quickly than email and phone calls.