

Front Range Christian School (Littleton, CO) – FAQ's

For additional info, call our admissions department (303.531.4541) or visit (www.frontrangechristian.org)

Where is FRCS located?

All K-12 students are located on the Pierce Street Village campuses, just southeast of the intersection of Coal Mine Avenue and Pierce Street in Littleton, CO. As the owner of the PSV shopping center, FRCS has renovated the former Cooper 7 movie theater complex and has built a relationship with several secular and Christian-owned businesses located on-site which enhance our community by providing useful services to our students and school families. The Christian-owned businesses include the Baseball Training Center, Holy Grounds Coffee shop, FRCS Music Academy, Revive Dance, and Revolution Martial Arts.

What grades does FRCS offer?

Kinder - 12th grades. We are currently preparing to open a Pre-K class for four year olds in August, 2010. More information will be available at a later point.

What are the school hours?

All full-time students meet Monday through Friday. For days off, holidays, etc. view the school calendar on our web site.

K-6th grades: 8:00am – 2:55pm (Early drop-off: 7:50 am, Late pick-up: 3:05pm)

Part-time Kindergarten: 8:00am–11:15am Monday's. 8:00am-2:55pm Wed & Fri

7th-12th grades: 7:50 am – 3:00 pm Monday-Friday

Is FRCS affiliated with a church?

No. FRCS is an independent, non-denominational Christian school. Our school families represent over 75 churches within the surrounding communities.

How many students attend FRCS?

Full-time + homeschool enrollment is nearly 400 students, Kindergarten – 12th grades.

How many students are in a classroom?

Kindergarten -----	18 students
1 st – 2 nd grade -----	18 students
3 rd grade -----	20 students
4 th – 5 th grade -----	22 students
6 th grade -----	24 students
Junior High (7 th -8 th grade)	25 students
Senior High (9 th -12 th grade)	25 students

Should the class size exceed the maximum number of students, a teacher's aide will be hired or an additional class added, depending on enrollment numbers.

Does FRCS offer before and after school Childcare?

No. However, Kingdom Kids Academy (located in Pierce Street Village) provides a before and after school care program. Their phone number is 303-971-0011.

What is the birthday cutoff for Kindergarten?

All students enrolled for Kindergarten at FRCS must turn 5 prior to September 1st of the upcoming school year. We will conduct a screening to determine the readiness of all Kinder applicants.

Besides the cost, what is the difference between part-time Kindergarten and full-time Kindergarten?

Part-time Kindergarten students attend classes only two and a half days per week (8:00am–11:15am on Mondays and 8:00am-2:55pm on Wednesdays & Fridays). During this time, part-time students attend specials classes (art, music, PE, library) once during the week, whereas full-timers receive specials twice per week in their five day a week, 8:00am-2:55pm schedule. In addition, full-time Kindergarten students receive more hands-on learning time. For instance, if they're learning about outer space, there would be more extensive study on that subject with extra projects. Both the part-time and full-time Kindergarten program readily prepares most students for entrance into 1st grade the following year.

Is FRCS accredited?

Yes. FRCS is fully accredited in grades K-12, through ACSI (Association of Christian Schools, International) and NCA (North Central Association).

Are FRCS teachers certified?

The majority of our faculty has a state certification and/or ACSI certification. All of our full-time teachers (K-12) have a minimum of a Bachelor's degree. FRCS hires individuals who are called to serving Christ through Christian education.

How does FRCS compare with other schools in regards to national testing?

Our students score above average, as compared with other students in the same grades across the country, both in public and private/parochial schools. We administer Stanford 10 Achievement Tests and the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test in grades 3, 5, and 7. In high school, students take the Explore, Plan, and PSAT in preparation for either the ACT or SAT college entrance tests.

What foreign languages are offered?

Spanish is offered at the Junior and Senior high school levels. An optional Spanish Immersion program (Speak Easy) is available for Kindergarten-2nd grades. At the high school level, FRCS requires three years of foreign language in order to graduate.

What are your homework guidelines?

Elementary: An average of 10 minutes per grade level per year is a guideline. So, an average 1st grader would spend about 10 minutes on homework a night; a 6th grader would average about an hour. Of course, each class has a wide range of personalities and abilities. What might take one child 10 minutes could take another one 30 minutes or even longer. Our philosophy is to avoid assigning busywork and to focus on assigning only relevant homework.

Jr. High: An average of 15 minutes per subject per evening (or a weekly total of 60 minutes per subject, with the exception of Saxon Math). For an elective course, the expected homework load is 30 minutes per week. If homework is assigned in every class in a given day, you could expect that a JH student will spend approximately 90 minutes per evening completing the work.

Sr. High: 20 minutes per evening, weekly total = 80 minutes per subject. For most elective courses (exceptions for Speech or Honors Spanish), the expected homework load is 40 minutes per week. If homework is assigned in every class in a given day, you could expect that a SH student will spend approximately 2 hours per evening completing the work.

How does one's faith grow at FRCS?

As a discipleship-based Christian school, Biblical principles are integrated into *all* subject areas. We offer a detailed Bible curriculum for students K-12 and appropriate time is devoted each day to Bible instruction. Our teachers encourage students to have their own personal devotions and to attend church regularly. In addition, students attend chapel once a week. Spiritually, FRCS provides an atmosphere where students begin to "own" their faith and transition from a faith inherited from their parents. Ask about our Jr/Sr High discipleship groups.

Does FRCS offer fine arts?

Yes! FRCS offers numerous opportunities for students through our excellent fine arts program. Vocal music, praise and worship band, and art are components of the elementary curriculum. An honor choir is available for 5th & 6th grades as a 12 week after school enrichment class from Sep. 21- Dec.7 (fee is \$75 plus \$15 for supplies). Choir, visual arts, musical theater, digital photography and drama are offered in grades 7-12. FRCS proudly presents engaging drama and musical programs each year.

What sports does FRCS have?

Elementary: The FRCS Athletics department helps facilitate team placement of students into community leagues for Basketball, Baseball, Volleyball and Soccer.

Junior High: We have FRCS teams in Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Volleyball, Cheerleading, Baseball, Football and Soccer through community leagues.

Senior High:

Boys

Football
Golf
Basketball
Baseball

Girls

Volleyball
Cheerleading
Basketball
Soccer

*FRCS is a member of CHSAA (Colorado High School Activities Association) and it competes with public and private schools in 2A.

Do you have a homeschool program?

Yes! FRCS offers a terrific Homeschool enrichment program for K-12th grades. Elementary students (K-6) may participate in a one day per week program featuring chapel, art, music, PE, sign language, guitar, and creative writing. Jr. /Sr. High students (7th-12th) may choose from either core or elective courses (on a space available basis). **More info is available under DISTINCTIVE PROGRAMS at www.frontrangechristian.org.**

Do students wear uniforms?

No, we do not require uniforms. Our dress code is based on Christian standards of modesty and neatness. **A detailed description is available to review under the Parent-Student Handbook link at www.frontrangechristian.org.**

Do you have a hot lunch program?

Students have the choice of purchasing lunch (either hot or cold) from the school caterer or they can bring their own lunch. Lunch schedules are available one month ahead and prepayment of meals is required. Microwaves are available for student use.

How much is tuition?

Current rates are available on the **Tuition Information link on the Admissions tab** at www.frontrangechristian.org.

Does FRCS offer financial assistance?

Yes, tuition scholarships are designed to meet a short-term financial need for qualified families who desire to have a Christian education for their child(ren). Tuition scholarship applications are only accepted and processed after the prospective family enrolls their child(ren) at FRCS. Tuition assistance funds are limited, so the sooner you enroll your child(ren), the better your chances are (if qualified) to receive assistance.

How does SCRIP reduce my tuition rate?

Front Range Christian School sells merchant retailer certificates (**SCRIP**) to FRCS families. This program functions for the sole purpose of reducing tuition costs to families by allocating and accumulating a portion of money being spent for normal weekly living expenses: food, clothing, dining, and even gifts! **More info is available under SCRIP** at www.frontrangechristian.org.

May parents work off tuition?

No, however, a parent may apply for a job when available, and if hired, use the paycheck to pay school bills just with any other job.

How is the leadership structured?

FRCS is governed by an elected Board of Directors comprised of parents of the school. The administrative staff includes a Director of Spiritual Formation & Education (Dan Sarian), Executive Director (Dave Sherman), Director of Operations (Rod Ross), Elementary Principal (Julie Melton), and Jr. /Sr. High Principal (Rogene Lowe).

My child has special needs; can you accommodate him/her?

Possibly. FRCS views special needs to include students on both ends of the learning spectrum; those who are extraordinarily gifted and those who have learning difficulties.

Explore program - This program is FRCS Elementary and Jr. High School's tool for addressing the unique needs of highly capable learners. Specific services offered vary according to grade level and employ a variety of tools including pull-out classes, differentiated work, cluster classes, leveled classes, apprenticeships, and servant leader opportunities. Students are identified for the Explore program through the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test scores (above the 90th percentile), teacher recommendation, and parent recommendation.

For students who struggle with learning, FRCS offers four different levels of services:

- 1) **Search & Teach** –An early intervention program developed to meet the educational needs of young learners before they experience the frustration of learning failure. The Search scan is administered to all kindergarten and new first grade students in September of each school year. This program is designed to *prevent* learning failure and its emotional consequences through early identification, diagnosis and educational intervention. The Search scan measures perceptual abilities and if vulnerable students are found, the Teach program is recommended to the parents. Each student enrolled receives 1.5 hours of individual therapy per week. This program is only available for kindergarten through 2nd students.
- 2) **Resource assistance** – The goal of resource support is to provide small group instruction to students in need of remediation for specific gaps in basic skills. Additionally, the resource room teachers partner with classroom teachers and parents in determining necessary classroom accommodations as well as extra curricular support and services to help students experience success in learning.
- 3) **NILD (National Institute for Learning Development)** – NILD educational therapy is a supplementary program established to help students with learning difficulties who have experienced frustration and / or failure in school. During therapy, intervention techniques are used in one-on-one educational sessions for approximately three hours per week. The focus of the intense individual sessions is on continual stimulation and development of the deficit areas of perception, basic skills, and cognitive problem solving.
- 4) **The Learning Center – TLC** services students in a setting which offers a modified and differentiated curriculum, as well as opportunities for students to attend regular classroom settings for electives including: P.E., art, music, chapel and discipleship groups. In addition, students may participate in sports and clubs. One of the features of our program is our pre-vocational and vocational program. Our goal is to have students work within a tiered program starting with working in the Front Range Christian School community and then reaching further out in the community with a job that fits each particular student.

What is the community like at FRCS? FRCS offers a family atmosphere – we are a close-knit community of believers who possess a common vision for K-12 education.

Does the school have a parent volunteer program? Yes, the Parent Partnership Program (P3) is a vital component to the operation of our school. Realizing that our tuition rates do not fully cover the cost to educate children at FRCS, our school relies on charitable contributions and gifts-in-kind from parent partners to remain financially healthy. All FRCS families are asked to commit to one (or both) of the following: Charitably contributing \$600 or serving 60 hours per family during the fiscal year (80 hours per family if receiving tuition assistance). Charitable gift to FRCS (Monetary donations are receipted and tax deductible. FRCS is a 501c3). Many P3 roles can be fulfilled together as a family and as a community. If you have extenuating circumstances that prevent you from being fully involved in one or more of these areas of involvement, please notify the admissions office for assistance. **For a list of areas in which to serve, click on the P3 link at www.frontrangechristian.org.**

How do I schedule a tour, a classroom observation or a student shadowing?

You may schedule a family tour or classroom observation by calling the admissions office at 303.531.4541. FRCS also offers Drop In Mondays - During the school year, your family may simply drop by one of our offices on any Monday from 12:00pm-2:00pm (when school is in session) and you will be given a tour of our school. Prospective 3rd-12th grade students may shadow a peer student by first submitting a New Student Application to the admissions department.

Does the school utilize carpools?

Yes, since the school does not have any transportation available for students, many of our families car pool. FRCS provides a list of families (separated by zip code) on Parents Web, the school's interactive software program.

Are computers available for students?

Desktop computers are available in the elementary library for students in grades 4-6. The curriculum for these grades focuses on keyboarding and computer skills. A computer lab at the Jr./Sr. High School is for 7th-12th grade students. In addition, 20 laptops are available for student use in the high school library for internet research and classroom assignments.

How many alumni do you have?

218 alumni (includes the 46 students who made up the class of 2010).

What holidays does FRCS celebrate?

Because of the strong secular emphasis given to certain holidays, the following guidelines will be followed in respect to celebration:

Halloween

Because of the controversial nature of Halloween, we choose not to recognize this holiday. Instead, we will focus on the harvest theme of the season. Also, recognition and celebration of the Reformation (occurring on Oct. 31, 1517) is an option for Teachers.

Thanksgiving

Before Thanksgiving we will observe a time of prayer and thanks to God for the many blessings He provides. The historic Christian roots of this holiday will be emphasized. A service project will be planned in which all students are expected to participate.

Christmas

We want the students to focus on the true meaning of Christmas and, therefore, we will emphasize and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, God's precious gift to us. There will be no promotion of Santa Claus at the school.

Valentines Day

We will focus on friendship and God's love.

Easter

We will emphasize the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. There will be no promotion of the "Easter Bunny" at the school.

Birthday Parties

Students who have birthdays during the school year may bring treats for the entire class if desired. Birthday treats may be distributed at a convenient time as determined by the classroom teacher. A day near the end of the school year may be designated to celebrate summer birthdays. If you are inviting students from school to a birthday party and want to give out invitations, please mail them or hand them out personally instead of using the teachers or the classroom for this purpose. Birthday parties shall not be held at the school.

Are high school students allowed to leave campus for lunch?

Only Seniors are allowed to drive off campus at lunch and they are not allowed to take underclassmen with them. 10th - 11th grade students are given off-campus walking privileges. **More info is available under the Parent-Student Handbook at www.frontrangechristian.org.**

What grading scale does FRCS use?

90-100 A (4pts), 80-89 B (3pts), 70-79 C (2pts), 60-69 D (1pt), 0-59 F (0pts). A grade point average of at least a 2.0 is required for admission into FRCS and to remain eligible for enrollment.