

The background of the page features a dark gray topographic map with white contour lines. At the bottom, there is a silhouette of a forest of evergreen trees in white and light gray. A vertical orange bar is on the left side, partially overlapping the topographic map.

Flatirons Academy

2024/2025 MIDDLE SCHOOL OVERVIEW



AN INTRODUCTION TO MIDDLE SCHOOL AT FLATIRONS ACADEMY

Dear Middle School Families,

Whether your student is returning, transferring, or making the transition from elementary to middle school, I want to invite you to the class registration process and share some important information to help students thrive next year.

Middle school is a crucial step in a student's academic journey as they grow, mature in Christ, and position themselves for a successful high school experience.

Our middle school academic program is designed to support students as they navigate this season with a supportive, challenging, and meaningful experience. Through our program, students learn the fundamental content of traditional disciplines as they are trained in the key skills of a liberal arts education: theology, reading, composition, and logical reasoning. Moreover, students are trained in the habits of an educated mind: executive functioning, metacognition, personal responsibility, etc...

To best understand the student experience, you will find an overview of our core curriculum, options in the arts, the co curriculum, and the role of Bison Day in the following pages.

A hallway with a large mural on the wall. The mural features a large bison in the upper half and a row of evergreen trees in the lower half. The bison is drawn with orange outlines on a light background. The trees are dark silhouettes against a lighter background.

AN INTRODUCTION TO MIDDLE SCHOOL AT FLATIRONS ACADEMY

Proper engagement in all of these opportunities work together in harmony to grow students in maturity, knowledge of God and His creation, and the skills required for success in high school at Flatirons Academy. If you have questions about our advanced coursework offerings in high school, please read through the High School Course Catalog.

Thank you for choosing to belong at Flatirons Academy. I trust that the following information will help you better understand and orient toward our program. Thank you for completing the middle school registration form as we work together to provide a meaningful experience for our students.

I look forward to seeing our middle school students thrive as they take the next steps in their educational journey.

Go Bison!
Jared Wallen
K-12 Principal

**"THANK YOU
FOR CHOOSING
TO BELONG AT
FLATIRONS
ACADEMY."**

MS SCHEDULE BASICS

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday		Bison Friday
8:10 - 9:55	M/W BLOCK 1	T/TR BLOCK 1	M/W BLOCK 1	T/TR BLOCK 1	8:45 - 9:15 ** (optional)	ACCESS ** (optional)
10:05 - 11:50	M/W BLOCK 2	T/TR BLOCK 2	M/W BLOCK 2	T/TR BLOCK 2	9:15- 10:00	SOCIETIES
11:50 - 12:15	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	10:00 - 10:45	CHAPEL
12:15 - 2:00	M/W BLOCK 3	T/TR BLOCK 3	M/W BLOCK 3	T/TR BLOCK 3	10:50 - 11:45	BISON 1
2:05 - 2:55 *Sports dismiss at 4:00	M-F BLOCK 4 CO-CURRICULAR	M-F BLOCK 4 CO-CURRICULAR	M-F BLOCK 4 CO-CURRICULAR	M-F BLOCK 4 CO-CURRICULAR	11:50 - 12:15	LUNCH
<p>Students take 5 core classes and an arts elective during the first 3 blocks of the day. Each of these classes are 1 hour 45 minutes in duration and are scheduled on either Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday. During the shorter 4th block of the day, students have time for a co-curricular activity. If a student is participating in a Flatirons Academy sport, their school day will end at 4:00 rather than 2:55.</p> <p>Any Friday of a full 5-day school week is Bison Friday, which features an alternate schedule including a later start time. On the occasion of a scheduled Monday-Thursday day off, Friday will follow the schedule of the missed school day from that week.</p> <p>The 3 Bison periods consist of classes contributing to students' Liberal Arts Seminar.</p>					12:15 - 1:05	BISON 2
					1:10 - 2:00	BISON 3
					2:05 - 2:55 *Sports dismiss at 4:00	M-F BLOCK 4 CO-CURRICULAR

GO BISON!

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GO BISON!

BISON DAY

Bison Day begins a transition to the weekend, providing students with a meaningful close to the week and a greater opportunity to fully engage family life and other activities on the weekend.

Bison Day provides the opportunity for students to engage with the core of a Christian liberal arts education. This alternate format is designed to nurture intrinsic motivation and authentic engagement in students.



ACCESS

Access is time that is set aside for students to access their teachers in person with homework or concept questions. Make-up tests are also administered during this time.



SOCIETIES

Societies are clubs where students engage with friends and teachers around shared interests. Societies are refreshed annually based on student and staff feedback.



CHAPEL

Chapel provides an opportunity for worship by gathering together, singing praise to God, praying and pondering God's truth.



LIBERAL ARTS SEMINAR

The Liberal Arts Seminar emphasizes the interconnectedness of knowledge and essential cognitive and literacy skills of a Christian liberal arts education. Students engage in 3 separate Bison periods focusing on language usage, independent reading, and the tutorial process.



FLATIRONS
ACADEMY

THEOLOGY PROGRESSION

Theology is the queen of the sciences and the cornerstone of a Christian liberal arts education. Our middle school theology program is designed to root students in the Bible, provide a comprehensively Christian framework for understanding, and provide the skills to think theologically about all of life. Sixth grade students complete a survey of the entire Bible. Seventh grade students systematically approach the text through the basics of orthodox Christian thought. Eighth graders investigate the implications of a Biblical Worldview in our modern context.





ENGLISH PROGRESSION

Our middle school English program is designed to develop the literacy skills required for success in academics, effective citizenship, and lifelong study of the Bible. Instead of a whole-language curriculum, we systematically instruct students in the various threads of literacy that combine to create persuasive writers, clear communicators, and truthful story-tellers. These threads include instruction in vocabulary development, syntax, organization, logic, rhetoric, and literary analysis. In concert with Bison Day reading, we expect students to read widely and deeply including in-depth analysis of contemporary and literary classics.





FLATIRONS
ACADEMY

MATHEMATICS PROGRESSION

Our middle school mathematics program is designed to provide a solid algebraic foundation for all students as they enter high school so that they can access rigorous college-level math courses before they graduate high school. Moreover, students are invited to understand mathematics as the language of the natural world written by our Creator. Similar to the honors track in other school systems, all students move toward completion of Algebra I by the end of the eighth grade year. Working in concert with tutorial on Bison Days, students are provided additional support and challenge for continual growth no matter where they start. Students who master Algebra I are enrolled in Geometry in ninth grade. Students who need additional practice are provided the opportunity to complete Algebra I as a ninth grade student before moving on to more advanced concepts.





FLATIRONS
ACADEMY

SCIENCE PROGRESSION

Our middle school science program is designed to provide a rigorous introduction to the fields of science that leave us in awe of the Creator. With a focus on the power and limitations of the scientific method, students begin by studying scientific principles before moving on to earth science and life science. Students engage in learning through a balance of traditional lecture and hands-on experimentation and inquiry.





FLATIRONS
ACADEMY

HISTORY PROGRESSION

Our middle school history program is designed to tell His-story as students learn the knowledge and skills required for diligent citizenship. Sixth grade students survey the major historical movements B.C., and seventh grade students continue this journey from the life of Christ to the Enlightenment. In eighth grade, students focus on the formation, design, and systems of the United States. All along this journey, students don't just memorize facts; they learn the story of humanity's relationship to God and each other, a practical foundation of geographical knowledge, and a chronological framework for a more mature and in-depth investigation into history in high school.



US HISTORY 08

ID: 668



WORLD HISTORY AD &
GEOGRAPHY 07

ID: 667



WORLD HISTORY BC &
GEOGRAPHY 06

ID: 657



FLATIRONS
ACADEMY

THE ARTS PROGRESSION

Our middle school arts program emphasizes the aesthetic aspect of our humanity and learning. God created us, not just as minds, but as embodied persons with creative capacity. Students have the opportunity to engage in visual arts, choir, and/or band regardless of their initial skill level. These learning experiences provide students the opportunity for personal and corporate expression while also equipping them with skills that will yield greater creativity in the future. Whether students continue with advanced training in high school or not, all students benefit from exposure and training in a crucial aspect of a Christian liberal arts education.

8

ART 08

ID: 678

CHOIR 08

ID: 826

BAND 08

ID: 1120

7

ART 07

ID: 677

CHOIR 07

ID: 1186

BAND 07

ID: 1119

6

ART 06

ID: 658

CHOIR 06

ID: 1117

BAND 06

ID: 1185



FLATIRONS ACADEMY

CO-CURRICULARS PROGRESSION

Co-curriculars are offered during the final block of the day. These options include Middle School Pep Band, Physical Education and Athletics. There are three sports seasons at Flatirons Academy. In the fall we offer football for boys and volleyball for girls. During the winter we offer basketball for both boys and girls, separately. Spring offerings are soccer for girls and baseball for boys. When not on a sports team, students may choose either MS Pep Band or Physical Education.

8

GIRLS OR BOYS
ATHLETICS

MS PEP BAND

ID: 1187

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
FITNESS - BOYS/GIRLS
PE - BOYS/GIRLS

ID: 1158

ID: 1156

7

GIRLS OR BOYS
ATHLETICS

MS PEP BAND

ID: 1187

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
FITNESS - BOYS/GIRLS
PE - BOYS/GIRLS

ID: 1158

ID: 1156

6

GIRLS OR BOYS
ATHLETICS

MS PEP BAND

ID: 1187

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
FITNESS - BOYS/GIRLS
PE - BOYS/GIRLS

ID: 1158

ID: 1156



LIBERAL ARTS SEMINAR PROGRESSION

The essence of Christian liberal arts education is the interconnectedness of knowledge, the value of language for learning and expression, and the truth of the Bible. To this end, all students are automatically enrolled in a pass or fail grade-level Liberal Arts Seminar each year. This seminar consists of three classes that meet each Bison Day: Reading, Language Expression, and Tutorial.

- In Reading, students are supported to engage in wide-ranging independent reading for enjoyment and learning. Families are encouraged to create reading lists for students based on interests and values. We also provide access to a curated collection of age-appropriate fiction.
- Language Expression is designed to provide additional focus and practice to meaningful composition. In sixth grade, students engage in reading and writing activities and then receive immediate feedback on sentence fluency and clarity. In seventh grade, additional focus is given to logical organization. In eighth grade, students are introduced to the elements of formal logic to strengthen their ability to argue and reason.
- Tutorial periods train students in the skills of an educated mind. Students complete “tutorial request forms” before each period based on content from core classes. Students are then led through the tutorial process of presentation, peer support, the use of appropriate resources, and reflection.

8

LANGUAGE EXPRESSION 08
FORMAL LOGIC

ID: 1195

READING 08

ID: 1189

TUTORIAL 08

ID: 1194

7

LANGUAGE EXPRESSION 07
THE WELL FORMED
PARAGRAPH

ID: 1196

READING 07

ID: 1190

TUTORIAL 07

ID: 1193

6

LANGUAGE EXPRESSION 06
THE PERFECT PARAGRAPH

ID: 1197

READING 06

ID: 1191

TUTORIAL 06

ID: 1192

ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

To ensure a rigorous academic program and continual student growth, student performance is routinely assessed through a traditional grade book and standardized assessments. Each assessment piece combines to provide a clear picture of student academic growth and achievement.

CLASS GRADES

The middle school year is divided into 2 semesters. Students receive a report card grade at the end of each semester. Report Cards are accessed through FACTS Family Portal. Each semester is a stand-alone grade reflective only of the work done that semester.

Progress reports are provided mid-way through each semester. These are distributed at Parent/Teacher Conference.

Parents and students are encouraged to check class grades routinely via FACTS Family Portal.

MAPS TESTING

Measures of Academic Progress (MAPS) by NWEA(c) is offered at Flatirons Academy 3 times per year. Students are assessed in language use, reading, and mathematics to assess growth. All testing results are available by request.

COLLEGE BOARD: PSAT

The College Board suite of assessments are offered 8th-11th grade at Flatirons Academy. This means that 8th graders will be taking the PSAT 8/9 in preparation for the SAT their 11th grade year. Results are available directly through student College Board accounts.

F A C T S FAMILY PORTAL

To log in visit:
www.factsmgt.com
>Family Log In
>FACTS Family Portal

District Code: FIA-CO (Flatirons Academy, Colorado)

In the FACTS Family Portal
you may view:

- Student Grades (a detailed grade book view is available by clicking on the grade in blue)
- Student Attendance
- Student Class Schedule
- Documents such as:
Student-Parent Handbook
and access blank Medical
Authorization Forms
- Student Google Account
User Name and Password
(access under Web Forms)
- Instructor email addresses
- Financial information and
set up payment plans

FACTS Family Portal is a private and secure portal that allows parents and students to view student-specific academic information while protecting student information from others.

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Flatirons Academy families find FACTS Family Portal a valuable resource for staying in touch with their student's performance in school.

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It is a good habit to set a routine of checking the grade section of FACTS Family Portal with your middle school student. Together you can see if there is missed work or discuss trends in class performance.

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The FACTS Family Portal is a go-to resource for all Flatirons Academy families.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



F O R F A M I L I E S

How can I best support my student in middle school?

The best way to support your student is by ensuring consistent attendance. The more they are here the more they learn. Second, provide a consistent at-home structure for homework. Third, establish and maintain good communication with your student's teachers. This can be done via email, parent/teacher conferences, and by checking grades in the FACTS Family Portal. Finally, encourage your student to get involved by participating in sports, Pep-Band, the Arts, and by attending school events.

How do I check my student's grades?

Student grades are available in the FACTS Family Portal. You can access this resource at www.factsmgt.com. For detailed information on student grades and classes, click on their number grade linked in blue.

Are there honors courses in middle school?

Our entire middle school curriculum has a similar rigor to honors programs in other school systems. Our program is designed to accelerate the growth of all students regardless of their previous experience so that they can successfully engage with advanced offerings in high school at Flatirons Academy.

What is block scheduling?

In block scheduling, students attend half of their core classes every other day. This creates a simplified class schedule and homework routine for students. These longer classes provide the opportunity for deeper inquiry through class discussion, science labs, and student presentations.

What do I do if my student needs academic support?

If this is unique to one class, reach out to the teacher directly via email and encourage your student to attend ACCESS for additional support. If the struggle is consistent across classes, contact administration via email.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



F O R S T U D E N T S

What should I expect on the first day?

Middle school students will begin their first day with other middle schoolers at the normal start time. From the moment you exit the car, welcoming staff are stationed along your way to direct you where to go. While you will have received your schedule over the summer, you will also be provided a copy at the opening Middle School Assembly. Staff will guide students throughout the day to ensure everyone is in the right place.

What supplies will I need?

Most students like to have 2 binders with dividers for 3 classes each and full of loose leaf notebook paper. This enables students to alternate bringing a Mon/Wed binder and a Tues/Thurs binder to school. A planner is a basic organizational necessity. Find your preferred writing utensil and bring several.

How do I access my email?

Each student has a unique email address and password. You should learn this once you receive it as it will give you access to your email and FACTS Family Portal. The same email address and password are used for both of these resources.

If you forget your email address or password it can be accessed through the FACTS Family Portal (under Web Forms). Your parents also have access to this information in their FACTS Family Portal.

What happens at lunch?

We gather in the Atrium and have access to the outdoors (weather permitting). You can sit with friends at a table or choose to play a group game outside.

We offer hot lunches from a variety of restaurants or you can bring your own.

What if I miss a day of school?

The first step is to check Google Classroom for the classes you missed. You will be invited to join the Google Classroom for all of your classes through your school email during the first week of school. If you still have questions, email your teacher directly. If you need to make up a test, plan on attending ACCESS on the upcoming Bison Day.

Can I bring my phone or smartwatch to school?

No, students are not allowed to have network-connected devices at school (this includes phones, smartwatches, earbuds, etc...). The goal of this policy is to create the best distraction-free learning environment for students. If a student needs to make a phone call, they may seek permission to use the phone in the front office.

Is there anything else I should know?

So glad you asked, please see the Top 10 Tips to rock Middle School at Flatirons Academy.

TOP 10 TIPS

to rock Middle School at Flatirons Academy

1. Use your planner daily

- Own and use a hole punch.
- Planners should be out at the beginning of each class to take note of homework.
- All assignments and worksheets should be kept in your binder in your backpack.
- Consider using one large binder with a M/W and T/R divider until you are ready to keep up with 2 separate binders.

2. Bring only what you need to survive

- Keep your things in one bag.
- You will have access to unassigned, open cubbies.
- Most books will stay in classrooms and don't need to be carried in backpacks.

3. Trust the process, follow your schedule

- Students are mixed as much as possible in classes.
- Making new friends is a part of belonging and engaging.
- Classes are rearranged at semester break.

4. Log in to FACTS each week to access your grades and check for missing work

- Memorize your Login information
- Students carry the responsibility of reaching out for missing/makeup work.
- If you have questions, bring your planner and meet with your teacher ASAP.

5. Use Friday morning ACCESS to check in with teachers

- ACCESS is a voluntary class period on Bison Fridays for make-up work, and to get extra support.

6. Check your email and Google Classroom daily

- Classwork and assignments are listed in Google Classroom.
- Google Classroom is the place to check for homework and work missed when absent.

7. Plan for Chapel to be a time to connect with God

- Chapel meets in the Atrium, where students sit in rows to pray and listen to a message. Students stand during worship.
- Student items including water bottles are placed in cubbies.

8. Remember to pay attention to the dress code when coming to school, Fitness class and all school functions

- Come to school in clothing that demonstrates a readiness to learn.
- Refer to the Student/Parent Handbook for details.

9. Use passing periods for restroom breaks

- No food or drink other than water is permitted in classrooms.
- Use your lunch break and passing periods to use the restroom, fill up your water bottle, and eat. Students have 3 restroom passes per quarter for emergencies.

10. When in doubt, reach out

- Contact your teachers and/or administrator with any questions or concerns you may have.

