

WEEKLY FALCON NEWS

FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 3, 2023



Welcome back, SEED Falcons & Falcon Families!

Please take a moment to read the email sent by Ms. Hood, our new head of school, regarding the update to the uniform policy.

STUDENT LIFE REMINDERS AND UPDATES

- No check-in on Sunday, September 3, 2023.
- No check-in on Monday, September 4, 2023
 - SEED DC will be closed in observance of the federal Labor Day holiday
- Check-in on Tuesday, September 5, 2023
 - Students will check-in to the dormitory **between 6:00 - 7:00 a.m.**
 - No dormitory access permitted after 7:00 a.m.
 - Students must remain in the Dining Hall until 7:57 AM before they transition to their 1st period class.
- Students are only permitted to check-in with ONE duffel bag/suitcase and ONE backpack. Additional bags or items are not permitted.
- Scholars may not enter another scholars room at any given time.
- Students are not permitted to leave campus without permission or for non-emergencies for any reason.



UNIFORM POLICY UPDATE

Please read to the email from Ms. Hood regarding the updates to the uniform policy and refer to the chart below regarding proper uniform attire.



The SEED School of Washington, D.C.
a public charter school

UNIFORM POLICY

The SEED Uniform Policy

All SEED scholars are expected to be in the full appropriate SEED uniform throughout the academic day. The SEED uniform contributes to ensuring a safe and secure campus in addition to the overall sense of unity as a school community. It enhances the learning atmosphere, adds a sense of pride, and promotes respect for oneself and others. It also builds school and community spirit, and, more significantly, helps to maintain high academic standards and social-emotional development among scholars.

Scholars must check into school with the appropriate number of uniforms for the week and have appropriate clothing for the boarding program. Each week at check-in, student life staff will make every effort to ensure that scholars are properly outfitted for the week, although it is the responsibility of parents and scholars to come to campus fully prepared for the week ahead. In the event your child is not properly outfitted for the week, parents will be called and asked to bring appropriate uniforms and other clothing to campus by 7:00 a.m. the next morning.

Scholars will not be allowed off the residence hall floor without being in proper SEED uniform. If for some reason, scholars make it off the residence hall floor without the appropriate uniform item(s), parents should expect to receive a call regarding their child's uniform violation.

In the event that a scholar does not have the appropriate uniform at school, parents will be expected to bring their child all of the needed uniform pieces.

⊕ Scholars not in proper school uniform during the academic day will receive a disciplinary response from an administrator.

SEED UNIFORM	
Shirts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All school scholars must wear a burgundy polo shirt that bears the SEED DC logo. Shirts must be tucked in at ALL times. Seniors may wear the striped senior oxford
Pants/Skirts/Shorts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tan khaki uniform pants, skirts, shorts or jumpers (knee length only) must be worn throughout the school year. All tan khaki pants and shorts must have belt loops. Tan khaki uniform shorts may only be worn as a part of the fall uniform (August – Thanksgiving Break) and as a part of the spring uniform (Spring Break – June).
Belts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belts must be worn with pants, shorts or skirts with belt loops. Belt buckles must be plain and appropriate.
Head Gear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scholars cannot wear any of the following headgear: baseball caps, skull caps, doo-rags, head wraps, bonnets, hair curlers, scarves of any kind, or knitted caps. Scholars are permitted to wear any solid color headband
Outerwear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scholars may ONLY wear SEED uniform sweaters, sweatshirts and/or fleece jackets as sold at Risse Brothers, located at 9700 Martin Luther King Jr. Hwy B, Lanham, MD 20706. Scholars must wear polo's underneath ALL outerwear. Scholars are not allowed to wear hooded sweatshirts
Shoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scholars can wear shoes of their choice with the exceptions listed below. Scholars may not wear high heel shoes or wedges (exceeding 1") flip-flops, sandals, slippers, or any other open-toed or heel out shoes.
Physical Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All scholars must change into athletic skid-free sneakers, a t-shirt, and athletic shorts (must be knee-length) and/or sweatpants.

Clothing, jewelry, or appearances that are determined to be distracting to the learning environment will not be permitted.

Purchasing Uniforms

All SEED uniform items, with the exception of khaki belt loop pants and skirts, must be purchased from Risse Brothers. Khaki belt loop pants and skirts may be purchased from Old Navy, JCPenney, Parker Uniform, or other department stores.

**Should the parent/guardian need assistance purchasing, please contact the Office of Family & Community Engagement at (202) 248-3005.*

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) COURSES

1. What are AP Courses?

- a. Advanced Placement is a program run by the College Board (the makers of the SAT) that allows you to take rigorous high school courses that can earn you college credit and/or qualify you for more advanced classes when you begin college.
- b. They are designed to give you the experience of an intro-level college class while in high school.

2. What is an AP Exam?

- a. Each AP Course culminates in a corresponding AP Exam at the end of the school year in May. Scholars can earn scores ranging from 1-5. A score of at least 3 or above will typically earn a scholar college credits depending on what university they ultimately attend.
- b. At SEED, scholars enrolled in AP courses are required to sit for that course's corresponding exam at the end of the school year to receive a weighted GPA.

3. Benefits of taking AP Courses

- a. Earn College Credit
 - i. Your AP score could earn you college credits before you even set foot on campus which in turn will save you time and money on your college journey.
- b. Potentially Boost Your GPA
 - i. Due to the level of rigor required by these courses, grades in these courses carry a weighted average. Meaning high performance in these courses more positively impacts a scholar's overall GPA than earning that same grade in that course's non-AP equivalent.
- c. Stand Out to Colleges
 - i. "AP" on your high school transcript shows colleges you're motivated to succeed, and taking the exam demonstrates your commitment to tackle and complete college-level work.

4. What AP Courses are offered at SEED?

- a. For the 23-24 school year, scholars have the opportunity to participate in the following AP Courses depending on their grade level:
 - i. 11th Grade
 1. [AP Language and Composition](#)
 2. [AP US History](#)
 - ii. 12th Grade
 1. [AP Literature and Composition](#)
 2. [AP Statistics](#)



5. How do I apply to be placed in an AP Course?

- a. Scholars interested in participating in AP Courses need to complete the following **form no later than Thursday 9/7**
- b. Applicants will be reviewed by the Principal, AP Coordinator, and relevant AP course teachers. Admission decisions will be made based on a scholar's past performance in corresponding prerequisite courses as well as schedule availability.

Interested scholars and families should contact Mr. Meek, Instructional Coach.

Office: 202.248.7773 (ext. 3035)

Email: bmeek@dc.seedschool.org



**WE ARE COMMITTED TO KEEP OUR CAMPUS AND STUDENTS SAFE AT ALL TIMES.
AND WE NEED EVERYONE'S SUPPORT TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN.**

Friendly reminders:

- **Tuesday morning check-in (9/5/23):** Curb drop off from 6-7 a.m. No families will be permitted to come into the campus area this week or going forward unless escorted.
- **Bag Checks and Wanding:** All students and guests are required to undergo bag checks
- **No weapons permitted:** This includes the following: self-defense objects, knives, tasers, pepper spray, mace, ice breakers, rattail combs w/metal tips, etc.
- **No Drugs Permitted (including OTC meds):** Prescription medication must be turned in to the school nurse upon entry & must be accompanied by Medication Authorization Form signed by a doctor.
- **No outside prepared food is permitted:** Students may bring a week's worth of snacks or other non-perishable items, but not in bulk. Snacks will be housed in the community kitchen on their floor, not in their rooms.
- **Scholars are not permitted to order outside food** like Uber Eats or other food delivery service. Families, please do not deliver food or have food delivered to the school for your scholars or pass items through the campus gates. **All outside food will be confiscated.**
- **Item Drop-offs:** If you have items that you need to drop off to your scholar, please do so before 9 p.m. Security will contact the appropriate adult to pick it up for them or have your student to pick it up.

ACADEMIC ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES



EARLY DISMISSALS AND PLANNED ABSENCES

In the event, a scholar needs to leave campus during the school week and will miss any part of the school programming (academic or student life), including Sunday check-in, families should send an email to attendance@seedschooldc.org. The email should include the following:

1. Scholar's name
2. Date(s) of absences
3. Date and time of pick-up and drop off
4. Name of an adult who will pick up the scholar (proof of identification will be required)
5. If student is departing on their own, please indicate the mode of travel (Uber, Lyft, Metro, etc.)
6. Reason for absence/appointment

Please note:

All communication regarding absences must be submitted in written form by the parent/guardian/caregiver on file. SEED DC will not allow a scholar to leave campus without a prior written communication from the parent/guardian/caregiver on file. Scholars must be signed out at the front desk in the lobby for early dismissal and signed in when returning to campus. All written communication should be sent to attendance@seedschooldc.org and should include the time the student will depart and return, mode of transportation, and contact information for an adult authorized to pick the student up. This includes transportation via Metro, Uber, Lyft, or riding with other families. Staff may be directed to conduct a follow-up phone call, to confirm details or ask clarifying questions. When a scholar returns to campus following a medical visit, a signed medical note from the medical facility must be presented to the receptionist stating the reason for the absence.

If a scholar needs to leave early on a Friday, families should send an email to attendance@seedschooldc.org no later than 8 p.m. on Thursday evening.

Student Life staff will be notified to have scholars bring their belongings from the residence halls in the morning to place in the academic building. Please note that emails sent after 8 a.m. will not be honored, as the residence halls are closed from 8 a.m. until student life staff arrives for check-out, 4 p.m. If you still have to pick-up your scholar, you will have to return to pick up their belongings between 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Absent for three (3) or more days? Please contact the Attendance Coordinator at (202) 248-7773 x5116.

ATTENDANCE INCENTIVES

All scholars who are **present every single day** of the next **PRECEEDING** the dates shown below will receive an attendance incentive on that date.

Attendance Incentives Calendar 2023-2024 School Year

<p>September 8:</p> <p>SWAG GRAB</p> 	<p>September 22:</p> <p>COOKIES</p> 	<p>October 6:</p> <p>PIZZA OR NACHOS</p> 
<p>October 20:</p> <p>DENIM DAY</p> 	<p>November 7:</p> <p>Attendance Board Design: Scholars will design name tags for board</p> 	<p>November 17:</p> <p>BROWNIES</p> 
<p>December 1:</p> <p>Fidget Spinner</p> 	<p>December 15:</p> <p>HOT CHOCOLATE</p> 	<p>January 5:</p> <p>Free Period!!</p> 
<p>January 19:</p> <p>CANDY</p> 	<p>February 2:</p> <p>Donuts</p> 	<p>February 14:</p> <p>movie</p> 
<p>March 1:</p> <p>Chips</p> 	<p>March 14:</p> <p>cup noodles</p> 	<p>March 29:</p> <p>Popcorn</p> 
<p>April 11:</p> <p>GUMMY BEARS</p> 	<p>April 26:</p> <p>Grade vs Grade Events Week of 4/22-4/26 Compete in different events to see which grade wins!</p>	<p>May 10:</p> <p>SMOOTHIE DAY</p> 
<p>May 24:</p> <p>Field Day!!</p> 	<p>June 7:</p> <p>ATTENDANCE CELEBRATION!</p> 	

*Please note that these incentives are subject to change

SEED FALCON THEATRE



FALCON THEATRE INTEREST

meeting

**Come learn more
about SEED DC's
AWARD-WINNING
theatre arts
program**

**Thursday,
September 21
7pm**

**Media Center
@falcontheatre_seed**

STUDENT LIFE ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES

This information was shared with students & families at orientation and during the first week of school. Here is a friendly reminder about Student Life expectations & guidelines.

If you have any questions, contact Mr. Rooks.

For student safety and security, students are not permitted to leave campus for any reason, except for pre-approved appointments. If a scholar leaves campus for a pre-approved appointment, the parent/guardian must return with the scholar and provide the appropriate documentation by no later than 8:00 PM on the day of sign-out.

- With the exception of check-out days, parents/families are not permitted to grant permission for a student(s) to leave campus without an adult. Students will not have early access to the dormitory on any day.
- If students need to leave early on a check-out day, parents/guardians must contact the school the night before no later than 9 p.m. so staff will know to allow your scholar to bring his/her belongings to the designated location in the academic building in the morning when they transition from the dormitory.
- Students must check-in during their designated date and time. Only students with excused absences will be permitted to check-in the following morning between 6-7 a.m. or immediately after school. Please contact Ms. I. Brown, Student Life Coordinator at (202) 617-0513 to report any issues that may impact your scholar's attendance for check-in. Scholars with unexcused absences will not be permitted to check-in for the week but must still attend school during the academic day.
 - Transportation will not be provided.
- With the exception of a prearranged student pickup or appointment, individuals who are not listed as parents/guardians of a student are not permitted on campus or the school premises.
- SEED is committed to establishing a non-violent school community. Therefore, any student who engages in behavior that is violent (e.g., physical altercations) or could lead to violence (e.g., verbal threats, social media conflict, etc.) will face disciplinary consequences up to and including dismissal from SEED.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to Mr. Christopher Rooks, Asst. Head of School - Student Life at (202) 248-7773 X5003,

crook@dc.seedschool.org

WELLNESS SUITE MEDICATION REQUIREMENTS

Please be reminded that that only parents/guardians/caregivers or authorized adults can bring medication to the Wellness Suite. Medication will not be accepted from students and students are not allowed to carry medication on their person, with the exception of an asthma inhaler.

In order for the school to administer prescription medication, a [medical authorization form](#) must be filled out by the doctor. Parents must also sign the form before school medical personnel can administer medication. Only creams, antibiotics, or medical equipment will be sent home on Fridays during checkout and that no student will be allowed to take medication home. Be sure to request for your pharmacist to divide the medication in two (2) bottles, one to keep at home and one to be left at school. Also we have over the counter medications here and all parents should fill out the form if their student needs to take any over the counter medications. All of the medical forms mentioned here can be found on the [health & wellness suite page](#) of the school website.

Click here to review the full [medication policy](#).

Thank you,

The Wellness Team:
Nrs. Colbert & Ms. Faison
202-248-3008 (phone)
202-318-8625 (fax)

Maintaining Your MENTAL HEALTH

Need someone to talk to? We're here to help! Certified clinicians are available for you 24/7. Call the Department of Behavioral Health mental health hotline: 1-888-793-4357.

Tips for Reducing Anxiety:

-  Reach out for help; your mental health is important.
-  Exercise regularly.
-  Limit time spent in public places.
-  If working from home or in self-quarantine, arrange your space so it's calming. Make sure you shower and get dressed like you're going to work.
-  Moderate news intake.
-  Practice deep breathing exercises or other methods of meditation.

CORONAVIRUS.DC.GOV

DC HEALTH
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

JOIN THE F.A.S.T. - FAMILY AMBASSADOR SUPPORT TEAM

Please take a moment to learn about & sign up for volunteer opportunities at The SEED School. There are lots ways for families to be engaged with the school, from simply attending a meeting, to taking on a leadership role, and everything in between.

Click here to learn more: <https://forms.gle/sfehokAdX1gYK74x5>.

ATTENDANCE ALERTS



Attendance alerts go out daily to the parent/guardian(s) of all scholars who are marked absent in their first and second period classes. We understand that some absences are unavoidable, but please remember to send an email to attendance@seedschooldc.org in all cases.

See below for some more reminders:

- School starts promptly at 8:00 a.m. each morning and scholars should be in complete uniform which includes the maroon polo (5 provided for all scholars), khaki pants and any closed-toe appropriate shoe.
- Teachers' complete attendance within the first 30 minutes of class, any scholar who arrives after 8:30 a.m. will be marked absent until the Attendance Coordinator goes back at the end of the day to rectify attendance.

If you have any questions and/or concerns, don't hesitate to contact Ms. Holloway (202-381-8065) or Mrs. Holman-Jones (202-329-8961).

PowerSchool Portal for Parents & Families

The SEED School of Washington, D.C. is proud to offer a tool that parents and family members may use to stay connected to their scholar and their school.

The PowerSchool Parent & Family Portal gives you real-time access to valuable information such as grades, assignment details, & messages from teachers.

Through the portal, view your scholar's:



ACADEMIC HISTORY



TEST RESULTS



ATTENDANCE



& MORE!



You can log in any time from any computer, tablet, or mobile phone.

GET ALERTS VIA:



TEXT



PHONE



EMAIL

Receive alerts about attendance, school events, & weather-related closures.

Turn over for more info on how to set up your Parent Portal,

Parent & Family Portal: Getting Started

How do I sign up for the Parent & Family Portal & set up my account? You must have a personal email address to sign up for a Parent & Family Portal account.

You can register for a free email account using Gmail, Outlook, Yahoo, or a similar service..

WHERE DO I START?

Visit <https://seedschool.powerschool.com/public/>

1

- Click "Create an account"
- Enter your first & last name and email address
- Create a password - at least 6 characters
- Re-enter password
- Enter student's name (If you have multiple student's @ SEED, each will have their own access ID & password)

2

HAVE YOUR CONFIDENTIAL ID READY

- Enter Confidential ID (provided by school)
- Enter Access Password (provided by school)
- Select appropriate relationship to student

Once completed, you will be taken to the login page of the Parent & Family Portal

3

DOWNLOAD THE MOBILE APP

- App Store or Play Store
- Enter district code: **FQGN**
- Click Continue
- Enter Confidential ID
- Enter Password
- You're all set to go!

Still need help?

Contact the registrar:

ctyson@seedschooldc.org