



## FSA FAQ

**Why should I join the FSA?** For a nominal annual fee per family, you will receive a school directory which will be an extremely useful reference for all school and family contact information, as well as important dates, and class information. In addition, you will have voting privileges at the FSA meetings.

**Why should I attend FSA meetings?** There is no better way to learn what's going on, what's coming up, and what new ideas are being considered than attending the bi-monthly FSA meetings (there's only 6 per year!). Also, in order to maintain your voting privileges, you can't miss more than two consecutive meetings.

**Where, when, and how often does the FSA meet?** The FSA meets every other month (six times per school year) usually on the third Thursday of the month. The meetings begin at 7:30 and will be offered remote for the 20-21 school year. All of the dates are listed on this website and our school calendar.

**Why should I volunteer for FSA committees and chairperson positions?** The success of all the FSA programs is not possible without volunteers. The great thing is that there are opportunities to fit every schedule.

**Where do the FSA fund raising dollars go?** The money the FSA raises is used to enhance our children's education. Just a few recent examples of FSA dollars in action are: cultural arts assemblies; class trips; new Panther door mats at the three school entrances; and a phenomenal new writing program that was expanded to all grades based on the success of the pilot program in the third grade.

**What is the Sunshine Fund?** It is a small fund set aside for the recognition of faculty and staff. Money from this fund is used to pay for birthday cards, retirement, wedding, and new baby gifts. It is also used for recognition on Secretaries Day, Nurses Day, and for the Teacher Welcome Breakfast provided for the faculty and staff each September.

**How do I find out more about specific events and programs?** All of the program and event descriptions and details can be found on this website. A calendar of events can be found in the directory and on this website. Please contact us with any questions!

**When do I let the FSA know which events or programs I am interested in?** Our Helping Hands form will be sent home at the end of the school year. It lists all of the chair and committee volunteer positions available. Please fill this out so we can consider you for each committee. Over the

summer, the executive board will review the forms and set up the committees. If you are the parent of a new kindergarten student, you will receive your form at the kindergarten orientation in May.

**I never sent in my Helping Hands form, but I would like to volunteer. What should I do?** Contact any FSA board member and let us know what you are interested in assisting with.

**I work full time. Which volunteer positions are suited to my schedule?** Anything that takes place in the evening, on the weekend, or “behind the scenes” is a great way for working parents to volunteer. Some examples are: American Clothing Drive, Bingo Night, Bowling Day, Directory, DJ Night, 50/50 Raffle, Gertrude Hawke, Jackal’s Game, Merchant Days, Movie Day, Newsletter, Panther Clothing Sale, Saturday Pre-School, School Supply Sale, and Trick or Trunk.

**What is the volunteer policy?** If you are volunteering for an FSA event or program, you must be a member in good standing. When you arrive at the school, you must enter through the main door and sign in at the office. You must go directly to the room in which you are volunteering. When you are finished, you must exit through the front door.

**How do I make a suggestion to the FSA?** The FSA is always open to new ideas and suggestions! You can share your ideas at one of the bi-monthly meetings, or contact a board member directly. All of the board member contact information can be found in the directory and on this website.

**What is the FSA executive board, how is it selected, and how can I get more involved?** The FSA executive board (e-board) consists of a president, vice-president, treasurer, recording secretary, and corresponding secretary. They are elected for a term of two years. A search committee is formed to find FSA members in good standing who they feel would be an asset to the board. Those people are then nominated. The nominations are voted on at an FSA meeting by members with voting privileges. The new board is sworn in at the last meeting of the school year. If you are interested in finding out more about the executive board or a specific position, you may speak to a current board member.

**How does the hot lunch program work?** Two FSA volunteers coordinate the hot lunch program. Many volunteers are needed for it to run smoothly. There are between four and six “teams” that administer the hot lunch on the designated days. Each team works approximately 10 times during the entire school year. Your time commitment is about one hour each time and if you can’t make it on one of your assigned days, you simply find another volunteer to take your place.

**When do I order hot lunch for my child?** The ordering process is quite simple. You will receive an email from the principal and/or FSA indicating the dates within which you can order hot lunch. You will order for the upcoming month period. You go to <https://www.simplygourmetlunches.com/> and set up an account for each child if you haven’t already done so. Then you view the hot lunch dates and food choices and place your order. You can securely pay by credit card right online. For even more convenience, there is a text reminder that you can subscribe to where you will receive monthly text alerts about order windows. You can order or modify orders up to 72 hours prior to lunch services on the website. Also, if your child is sick, if you call Simply Gourmet at (973) 891-1955 by 9am that day, you will receive a credit for that day.

**How does ice cream lunch work?** Ice cream lunch takes place every Wednesday. There is no need to sign up in advance. Simply put a dollar in your child’s lunchbox on Wednesday morning and he or she gets to choose an ice cream treat at lunch time. Volunteers are not allowed to pay for another child’s ice cream if their parent did not put a dollar in their child’s lunchbox.

**Is ice cream lunch allergy safe?** All of the ice cream treats that are offered are nut free and are not manufactured in facilities that use nuts.

**How does the regular lunch program work?** Lunch takes place from 11:00 to 12:30 every day except early dismissal days. PreK eat from 11:00 to 11:30, then they go to recess. Third and fourth grade students eat from 11:30 to 12:00, then they go to recess. Kindergarten, first, and second grade students go to recess first, then they eat lunch from 12:00 to 12:30. Students may bring lunch from home or receive their previously ordered hot lunch on designated days. There is no microwave oven, and students should bring whatever utensils, straws, and napkins they need.

**Who selects the class parents and what are the criteria?** Class parents are selected by the class parent chairs. To qualify, a parent must chair one committee and/or assist on three committees during the current school year. New kindergarten parents must assist on three committees during the current school year. A parent cannot serve as class parent for two consecutive years unless no other parent has volunteered for that class.

**What are Merchant Days?** Merchant Days are a great way for families to give back to North End. Local merchants like Esposito's and New Kitchen will donate 20% of their sales to North End School. The dates will be shared via email, on the calendar and on this website. In addition, the five Below store on Route 3 in Clifton offers a percentage of its sales to North End five times a year during a three day period. Again, just bring in the flyer and the store employee will do the rest.