

FITZGERALD HIGH SCHOOL COLLEGE & CAREER ACADEMY

553 Ocilla Highway
Fitzgerald, GA. 31750
Phone: 229-409-5530
<https://www.ben-hill.k12.ga.us/fhseca>



Dr. David Sims, Principal
Payton Dix, CEO
John Gamble, Assistant Principal
Haley Luckie, Assistant Principal

SAFETY CHECKPOINTS, STUDENT IDs, & CLEAR BACKPACK POLICY:

At FHSCCA, safety and security are paramount for our students and staff. In alignment with our commitment to maintaining a safe learning environment, all students entering FHSCCA will go through ***Safety Checkpoints, must wear their Student ID***, and must have a ***Clear Backpack*** effective Monday, August 21st, 2023. This policy is designed to enhance campus security while ensuring transparency and ease of inspection. We kindly request the cooperation of all students, parents, and guardians in adhering to this policy to facilitate a secure and efficient educational experience for everyone.

All FHSCCA students will be given a Clear Backpack on Friday, August 18th free of charge. Student IDs have been ordered and will be here ASAP.

CLEAR BACKPACK POLICY GUIDELINES:

1. Clear Backpacks: All students must use clear backpacks made of transparent material. This allows for easy visibility of the bag's contents during routine security checks.
 - a. Mesh backpacks: Are not permitted.
 - b. Colored backpacks: Are not permitted—only fully clear backpacks.
 - c. Colored Straps: Clear backpacks with colored straps are permitted.
2. Reasonable Size: Backpacks should be reasonably sized to accommodate essential school items while ensuring easy inspection. Extra-large backpacks or bags that exceed reasonable dimensions are discouraged.
3. Non-Clear Lunch Boxes, Purses, and Pouches: Are permitted, but the maximum size is 6” x 9”.
4. No Hidden Compartments: Backpacks with hidden compartments or excessive layers obstructing visibility are prohibited.
5. Athletic/Duffle Bags: Athletic or duffle bags are permitted but are subject to search upon entry into the building. Athletic or duffle bags must be stored in the area assigned for that sport/activity—for example, Band - Band Room, Football - Coaches Office, etc.
6. Personal Items: Personal items brought to school should be school-appropriate and relevant to educational activities. Students are discouraged from bringing unnecessary items to campus.
7. Search and Inspection: By entering school premises with a backpack, students consent to have their backpacks visually inspected by school staff or security personnel. This procedure aims to maintain a secure environment without infringing on students' privacy rights.



8. Valuables: Valuables such as electronics, money, and personal items should not be left unattended in backpacks or visible in common areas. Students are encouraged to keep valuables secure and only bring items necessary for the school day.

BENEFITS of CLEAR BACKPACKS:

1. Enhanced Security: The Clear Backpack Policy aids in identifying potentially prohibited items, ensuring a safer environment for all.
2. Transparency: The policy promotes open communication and trust among students, staff, and parents by fostering transparency in students' belongings.
3. Timely Responses: In an emergency, security personnel can quickly assess the situation due to the clear nature of the backpacks.
4. Easy Identification: IDs allow staff to quickly identify students and staff members.

FHSCCA is dedicated to providing all students with a secure and conducive learning environment. We appreciate your support and cooperation in upholding these safety measures. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school administration.

Students who do not wear their student ID or have a clear backpack will be in violation of the student handbook.

PERMITTED:



NOT PERMITTED: MESH or COLORED



Example of colored transparent backpacks that ARE NOT allowed.

