



Monthly Update

February 2023

Save on ECS School Expenses?

You could pay your child's entire school bill tax-free through a 529 savings program! Current VA tax code allows families to spend up to \$10,000 a year per beneficiary from tax-advantaged 529 savings plans to cover the costs of *K-12 expenses* at private or religious schools. Learn more about this potential savings to you at <https://www.virginia529.com/>.

Legislative Information from ODACS

ODACS provides ECS much more than Bible, Fine Arts, and Academic competitions. One of the primary functions of ODACS is to monitor legislation on the state level that impacts Christian education. In recent years, ODACS has provided valuable assistance to ECS with VA code requirements for religious exempt programs and a variety of other critical issues ranging from school choice initiatives and tax credits for Christian education to student vaccination requirements and school van use. Please visit the ODACS website (www.vaodacs.com) to see how their work directly impacts you. If you wish to receive regular email updates from ODACS, please notify ECS (secretary@englesidebaptist.org) to be added to their contact list.

General Reminders

Child Safety

According to current VA law, children under the age of 8 regardless of height and/or weight must be restrained with an approved child restraint device (not merely a seatbelt) in accordance with Department of Transportation standards when riding in vehicles. Safety authorities generally agree that children under age 13 should sit in the back seat of the vehicle.

Cold Weather

ECS classes generally take outside recess breaks unless it is raining. While we will modify the length of our outdoor activities when it is windy or cold, we still expect students to be prepared to go outside (coat, gloves, hat, and snow boots when appropriate) for AM and PM recess as well as PE classes.

Calendar Notes

Presidents' Day – Monday, February 20

ECS observes the Presidents' Day holiday on Monday, February 20. Classes will not meet and extended care is cancelled. Engleside Baptist Church and School offices will be closed.

ODACS Competition – Friday, March 3

Our annual ODACS Bible, Fine Arts, and Academic Competition for elementary students is scheduled for Friday, March 3, at Fairfax Baptist Temple Academy. ECS students in grades 4 through 6 are eligible to participate in this annual event. ECS will release detailed information about the day's activities to these students separately and will provide supervision only for participating students. We will permit siblings of participating students to attend the competition at FBTA only if accompanied and supervised by a parent. ECS will open extended care on this competition day as necessary *for participating students only*.

K3 through Grade 3 classes and regular extended care will not meet on Friday, March 3.

Inclement Weather Reminder

ECS follows all initial inclement weather closings and delays as announced by Fairfax County Public Schools, adjusting its schedule as follows:

Delayed Entry

Extended care opens for regular users at 8:30 AM. Other students dropped off at ECS before 10:00 AM will be escorted to extended care and billed at the daily drop-in rate.

Doors open for student entry at 10:00 AM with classes starting at 10:15.

School Cancellation

No extended care or classes will meet. School office will be closed.

Early Dismissal

ECS will serve its standard lunch to students and close at 1:10. PM extended care will be cancelled. Please plan to pick up your child during the 1:10-1:25 dismissal window. Students not picked up by 1:30 PM will be charged for late pickup at \$15/quarter-hour or portion thereof. ECS encourages parents to find emergency contacts near ECS who can pick up their children in case weather or your work schedule prevent student pickup before ECS closes.

Additional Notes

ECS will confirm its inclement weather plan by releasing a TuitionEP notification and notifying WTOP (103.5FM and wtop.com).

When the FCPS system is closed for an extended period of time after significant snow fall, ECS *may* reopen sooner than county schools if our parking lots have been cleared, area roads are deemed safe for travel, and other private schools are reopening. ECS students will not be penalized if they are unable to attend classes when FCPS is closed for inclement weather. If ECS departs from the FCPS system by returning to school early, ECS will notify parents via TuitionEP.

ECS does not observe FCPS calendar adjustments relating to inclement weather.