



Francis Scott Key Recess Protocol

Recess is an essential part of the daily schedule for students across our school. An overwhelming amount of research shows that recess supports the whole child with an emphasis on cognitive, social, emotional, and physical growth. With high stakes assessments and increased accountability of student performance, many schools replace recess with more academic time. Our belief is that recess is an essential part of the daily schedule that actually helps improve overall student performance. To this point, we have elected to create an elementary recess protocol to make sure we are meeting the needs of our students.

- Teachers are able to hold students from recess for up to 5 mins with the use of Fit Deck Cards or other physical activity. Students will be able to join their peers for the rest of the recess block once they successfully engage in the alternate physical activity to start the recess block.
- Students may lose recess if they **hit or harm** another student intentionally. This ensures that students are playing safe at all times. If a student intentionally hurts another student, the parent will be contacted to discuss.
- Students will **not** lose recess for not completing their classwork or homework.
- Recess will not be taken from an entire class because of the actions of a few students.
- This policy is for Outdoor Recess as well as Indoor Recess.
- Teachers reserve the right to reintegrate students back into recess with teachable moments.
- Unless there are mitigating circumstances, students will have their daily recess as outlined by the individual teacher's schedules.
- For the 18-19 SY and per MSDE recommendations, students will not be going outside for recess unless it is 40 degrees or warmer. The teacher will have autonomy to take students out as low as 35 degrees based on wind-chill and overall conditions. We will be flushing out the protocol more with potential expansion of the Polar Bear and Brown Bear Clubs.