

ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL LATCHKEY PROGRAM 2024-2025



Latchkey is our before and after school care program at SFS. It is designed to aid working parents to provide a safe, Christian environment where kindness and respect take top priority. Students have time to grow friendships through unstructured play time. The program is offered to all St. Francis School students, from Preschool 3's through eighth grade.

Latchkey is staffed by one coordinator and many dedicated teachers and employees. All have been screened and have the appropriate clearances and mandated reporter trainings.

You do not have to “plan” to attend Latchkey. Services are always in place so that it is available when needed.

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Arrival:

All students, Preschool through 8th grade, may be dropped off as early as 7:00 AM. Please **DO NOT** arrive before 7:00 AM. When arriving at Latchkey, all students should sign in with the Latchkey teacher on duty in the cafeteria.

Students in grades Kindergarten through 8 will incur Latchkey charges until 7:30 AM. Preschool students will incur charges until 8:00 AM. (This is due to the difference in start times among the grades, as Preschool doesn't begin until 8:30)

Dismissal:

Latchkey is available until 5:30 PM. Please be sure that your child is picked up by that time. Penalty fees will be incurred if your child is picked up after 5:30.

When leaving Latchkey, an authorized pickup person must sign the student out. Anyone who you have listed as “Authorized for Pick-up” on your Gradelink registration are automatically approved. Please notify Latchkey if anyone out of the ordinary will be picking up your child. This can be done with a note sent in with the student or by calling the school office at 765-2618. If the person picking up your child is unfamiliar to the Latchkey teacher, the person will be asked for photo identification. Please inform your pickup person, so they will have identification with them. If they don't have proper identification, a parent will be called.

Please keep the school and Latchkey informed if there are any custody issues or anyone who is NOT permitted to pick up your child.

For after school Latchkey, the students will have the opportunity to use the playground, school gym, and the cafeteria. Students are NOT PERMITTED to have cell phones, iPads, or any electronic devices at Latchkey. Please leave these items at home and let the kids play in an active and creative way! If any home basketball games are played during Latchkey hours, the students will attend and cheer on our school. There will be a sign posted in the cafeteria notifying parents of the location of Latchkey students if they are not in the cafeteria.

Latchkey students will be given a snack each day at approximately 4:00. There is no charge for the snack, as it is covered in the Latchkey fee.

LATCHKEY FEES

Fees:

The charge is \$5.00 per hour, per child, and regular billing times for K-8 are 7:00 – 7:30 AM and 3:15 – 5:30 PM. Preschool students arriving early will be billed until 8:00 AM.

Our sign-in system will calculate the exact hours of Latchkey, and this will be multiplied by \$5 per hour. For example, if your child attended Latchkey for 2 hours and 15 minutes, your charge would be 2.25 hours times \$5 for a total bill of \$11.25. Latchkey fees will be added via Gradelink on a weekly basis. You may check your balance at any time through your family's Gradelink account. Additionally, paper bills will be sent home twice a month.

Payments:

Latchkey bills will be sent home twice a month in the school office envelopes. Payment is expected at that time, unless other arrangements have been made with the latchkey coordinator. If payments fall more than one month behind, a service charge may be applied to your balance and you may be put on “prepay”. This means that you will need to pay for your Latchkey services before your child will be allowed to attend again.

Payments may be made via cash, check or online. Please be sure to make checks payable to the St. Francis Latchkey Program. You may pay for all of your children on the same Latchkey payment, however, please do not combine Latchkey payments with tuition, milk, or any other payments. Payments should appear on your Gradelink account within a week. To pay online via credit card or ACH debit, use this link: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/a67ad79c-96fa-42f3-854a-7f269030f91e>



School Activities:

Any student staying after school to participate in a school activity (basketball, music lessons, etc..) will not be charged for Latchkey. All students involved in an after school activity must sign into Latchkey until they are signed out by a coach, teacher, etc. You may send in a snack with your child if needed. (Students who are simply *attending* an activity but *not participating* will be charged and must still have an adult sign them out of Latchkey to attend the event. (ex: staying to watch a basketball game vs. playing on the team)

Parents who are volunteering at an after school activity, such as festival set up, may send their children to Latchkey at no cost while they are volunteering.

Additional Notes:

- Every student dropped off before 7:30 AM is required to sign into latchkey. However, students who ride early school buses will not be charged.
- There is a “window” from 3:00 – 3:15 to pick up your child at dismissal time. After 3:15, the students will be put into Latchkey to wait for their ride. Students may not simply wait in the cafeteria after 3:15. They must sign into Latchkey.
- If you pick up your student at dismissal time, you are not permitted to bring your student back to Latchkey for that day. All students staying after school **MUST** be signed into Latchkey. Students are not permitted to simply “hang out” until a basketball game or activity with no supervision. They must be signed into Latchkey and remain with the Latchkey group.

DELAYS & EARLY DISMISSALS

We understand that weather delays can be problematic for working parents. For this reason, Latchkey is still available during snow delays, starting at 7:00 AM as usual.

Two-Hour Delayed Starts:

- Latchkey available starting at 7:00 AM. Normal fees will apply from 7:00 until 9:30 AM for grades K – 8 and from 7:00 until 10:00 for Preschool students.

Early Dismissals:

- **Scheduled**: If an early dismissal is pre-scheduled, (as in before Christmas break, etc.) there will be normal latchkey hours and normal fees apply.
- **Unscheduled**- If the school is dismissed unexpectedly due to weather or other emergencies, there will be latchkey services for **one hour only** after the dismissal. Students **must be** picked up within that hour. Normal fees apply.
- **School Cancellations**:
If school is canceled, there are NO Latchkey services available. If school is canceled after Latchkey starts at 7:00 AM, students who are already at the school must be picked up **within one hour** after the cancellation is announced.



BEHAVIORAL POLICY

Latchkey students are expected to follow the same rules and guidelines set by St. Francis School. Students must treat their Latchkey teachers and other students with respect at all times.

All school rules still apply during Latchkey hours. This includes the cell phone policy. Students are not permitted to have cell phones or other electronic devices during Latchkey. If a student needs to call or text his/her parents during Latchkey, the student must ask the Latchkey teacher for permission to do so. The cell phone must be put away immediately after the contact.

Incident Reports:

While at Latchkey, if a student gets sick, has an accident (physical injury, restroom related, etc.), or if there is an ongoing discipline problem, a discipline report will be filed through Gradelink. A copy of the report will be given to the Latchkey Coordinator and the Principal. Further action will be taken if it is warranted. Continued or extreme discipline problems may lead to the student being suspended from or banned from attending Latchkey. This is at the discretion of the Latchkey coordinator and the school administration.

QUESTIONS & CONCERNS

If you have a question about Latchkey or a Latchkey billing question, please contact our Latchkey coordinator, Sheila Clancy at the school at 814-765-2618 ext. 214 or via email at sclancy@stfrancisclearfield.org. To reach the Latchkey teachers on duty after 3:30 pm, please call 814-592-5569.