**
Five Stars Academy as a Community School**

Five Stars Academy believes that when families are are involved in student learning, students improve their academic performance and gain advocates that promote their success, helping them feel more confident at school and in taking on more rigorous classwork. In addition, we place much emphasis on students giving back to the local and, when possible, the international community. Through our partnership with JLM Christian Foundation, our students, led by **Student Council**, are provided many opportunities and encouragement to participate in giving back and supporting those in need.

As part of our Purpose, Objectives, and Core Values (1.1), we work hard to build relationships between the school, families, and community.

**Community Service**
Experiencing different cultures changes and deepens students’ views of their surroundings and of the world. Our students are provided the opportunity to participate in community service through our partnership with JLM Foundation.  Activities include building homes and offering camps for economically disadvantaged children throughout Panama and Latin America and Caribbean nations.

**Community School and Personalization**
Five Stars Academy is a community school that offers a personalized education to empower students as partners in their learning. A crucial early step is knowing every child well. Caring, connected instructors guide students through all stages of their academic and extracurricular lives.  We work closely with families, and encourage their active participation in Five Stars Academy, to bring the best out of each of our students.

**2017-2020**Below are some of the activities in and out of school that FSA has had the opportunity in which to participate. This list is not complete and many of our parent volunteers have not been listed below. Thank you to all of our parent to make our school a success!
 **Community Service Trips**
Dec-17: (1 day) Repainting and repairing the House of Hope – a girls home in Penonome, Panama
Dec-17: (1 week) Mission trip to Nicaragua to feed the poor and run a camp for kids
Mar-18: (weekend) Building a home in the hills of Penonome, Panama for a family
Apr-18: (1 day) Earth Day! Santa Clara beach and town clean up
May-18: JLM House of Hope for Girls, Dress Distribution in partnership with Kirkwood High School, Missouri
Oct-18: (weekend) Building a home and working with children; Tranquilla, Anton, Panama
Oct-18: Beach/Town Cleanup, Santa Clara, Panama
Dec-18: (1 day) Toy and Clothing Xmas donations to a local community
Dec-18: (weekend) Camp for kids in Santa Cruz, Panama
Mar-19: (1 day) Fundraiser with local organization for kids
Aug-19: (weekend) Building a home for a family of 6 living in a 1-room house, Vaquilla, Panama
Oct-19: (1 day) Kids camp in Vaquilla, Panama
Dec-10: (Overnight) Christmas donation and gift/food handout to local village, Pajonal, Panama

**Educational Trips**
Apr-17: All School/Visit to a gold mine in Tonosi, Panama
May-17: All School/Visit to Finca la Maya – a self-sustainable farm
May-17: Grade 8 Graduation Trip to Panama City
Sep-17: High School College Fair at Balboa Academy, Panama City
Oct-17: High School College Fair at ISP, Panama City
Dec-17: Grades 5-12, Paintball Fundraiser
Jan-18: All School weekend trip/Marine Biology, watching sea turtles, Morillo, Panama
Sep-18: All School weekend trip/Whale Watching, Pedasi, Panama
Oct-18: Elementary/Day visit to Buenaventura Zoo
Oct-18: High School College Fair at the Met, Panama City
Dec-18: Grades 5-12, Paintball Fundraiser
Oct-19: High School College Fair at the ISP, Panama City
Oct-19: Grades 5-12, Paintball Fundraiser
Mar-20: Grades 3-4: Overnight camping, exploration and stargazing

**Examples of Visitors or Parent Volunteers at FSA**Jan-17: Parent Volunteer: Chris Hale, CPR and First Aid trainingSep-17: Parent Volunteer: Sarah Gordon, taught a lesson in our Life Skills course on cookingSep-17: Parent Volunteers: Denise Delany, Marla Diaz, and Shannon Frame, Organizing and running our libraryOct-17: Guest Lydia Fenwick, LYFE Illustrations and Tyler Carroll, Trek with Tech!, Social media and Entrepreneurship Sep-18: Parent Volunteer: Mike Sedgwick, Taught a lesson on the progression of music during the 20th century
Oct-18: Leonardo Gonzales and APJJJ Hector Vasquez, Lift Studio Coronado Jiu-Jitsu School demonstration
Mar-19: Canadian Embassy and Memorial University – Newfoundland, Visit to provide information on university options in Canada.
Apr-19: Elementary, [Color Day](https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.2221840461263052&type=3&__cft__%5B0%5D=AZUuc1opDtYi8__KeHIt28wSXa04ovVntb5HyVC0ytba6wZeC0cR2nDnEavv4Ut1K5tUPtpzfF4PAKbAoabpwzeIDZeKu_w5zqN1LAQD7osKk23mmtnjvEI1EskjbFZCb89FJkjHQDyrmLiREBFuuLmuq44bvDBhdCuHf76sASeG8cNcsNMdp361IGMfqtpZXz0&__tn__=-UC%2CP-R)
Apr-19: Student Council, Spirit Week Fundraiser
Apr-19: [Twin Day! Dress up](https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.2218720154908416&type=3&__cft__%5B0%5D=AZUS5yy1-UHjzNTg4wuSFce-fLRz46ZjA_0FoQGANYQjO1Z-PXDS7kg35RsyYGDEkS3KVcp_CM8M1UPPtYTBq604bMBuL5hnZD6qQVN4NQ72n8-8Tvn1fBXiD2QGI7EoIVjQYel-rUK0rOku8cHNDiXX6uBnkDG3Ice5--06TRO3cC9gpOYMleYJOAgRk5kGJig&__tn__=-UC%2CP-R)
Apr-19: Parent Volunteer Roberto Diaz, shared his authored books and tips on ocean safety
Sep-19: Student Council Fundraiser , Parents' Night Out sleepover
Oct-19: Guest Charlie at Reef-Keepers, Marine biologist focused on restoring native giant clam populations in our oceans.
Oct-19: Guest Edward Donofrio, Olympic Fencing Team Member 1976
Nov-19: Parent Volunteers Maudy Boom And Marguerite Van Zyl, Creating a butterfly garden at school
Dec-19: Parent Volunteers, Recycling program
Dec-19: Computer Science Education Week
Jan-20: Guest Mike Petersen, providing chess classes
Feb-20: Student Council Fundraiser, Parents' Night Out sleepover
Feb-20: Guest Vet from Clinica Vet "Benji"and Maudy Bom, brought 10 puppies and discussed puppy care
Nov-20: Wendy Gillette, Journalist for CBS News via Zoom

Other:
2019-2020: Parent Volunteer Andrea Solis, Grade 4 Art
2019-2020 and 2020-2021: Parent Volunteer Marguerite Van Zyl, Grade 3 Art
2019-2020: Parent Volunteer Ximena Fabiani, Kinder and Grade 1 Spanish reading
2019-202: Parent Volunteer Maria Jose Ferrer, Kinder and Grade 1 Spanish reading **Yearly Events at FSA**August: Open House
October: Parent/Teacher Conferences
October: Parent-led Halloween afternoon to evening event
December: School-wide performance and open house with pot luck dinner
March: Middle School, Mid-Day Play at Five Stars Academy. "How Tom Beat Captain Najork" by Russell Hoban.
March: Parent/Teacher Conferences
March/April: School-wide Easter Egg Hunt
April: Earth Day
May: Graduation Grade Kinder, 8, 12
May: School-wide performance and open house with pot luck dinner