Dear FMS Families,

As you know, our monthly newsletter is our way of communicating with you. Maintaining on-going communication between home and school is key to our children’s success. The FMS Newsletter, along with the monthly calendar and other important information, will be located on the district website.

We’ve gotten off to a great start considering all that we are facing together. Our new fifth graders have adjusted wonderfully to the middle school. The 6th, 7th and 8th graders are moving about with lots of energy and enthusiasm for the new school year and teachers and students have made meaningful connections.

Please remember 2:45p.m. to 3:15p.m. is the Academic Coaching for all students. There are students who regularly see their teachers during this time as well as students who periodically touch base with their teachers. Because we cherish this time, we ask that all appointments for your child occur after 3:15p.m. Thanks so much for your cooperation and support.

While I try to keep these newsletters brief, I do ask that you take a few minutes to review the content and jot down the important dates.

Regards,

Jennifer Spirelli

Principal
Highlights from FMS Grade Team Coordinators:

Fifth Grade Highlights:
So far these past two months 5th grade has been working on relationship building and making connections. Our goal has been to create a safe environment where students feel comfortable taking risks and asking questions. In math, we are focusing on place value, number sense and math reasoning skills. We are in the midst of understanding how to multiply and divide by powers of 10. In ELA we are continuing to work on descriptive writing by including sensory details and adjectives. We are also reading the book City of Ember and are focusing on skills such as the ability to infer character traits as well as the importance of asking thick and thin questions while we read. Please look more at our “Week at A glance in Google Classroom to know more.

Best regards,
Mrs. Kavanagh

Sixth Grade Highlights:
Sixth grade students have adjusted well to moving through the hallways and managing their schedules. They are rising to the challenges of learning the expectations and different teaching styles of each of their different teachers. This is a time of transition for many students as they begin to take responsibility for their learning and for managing their time. On the home front, there often is a bit of a push and pull as students strive for independence though still crave structure and guidance from adults. The sixth grade team has put together a “Guide for Parenting a Sixth Grade Child,” which may help navigate this time. It highlights the skills that students are building and provides specific suggestions about how you can provide support at home. The Parenting Guide is linked HERE.

Best,
Ms. Richman

Seventh Grade Highlights:
Students have been successful at navigating the waters of a new school year: new schedules, new teachers, new administrators, new tech platforms, new lunch procedures, and more. The operative word is ADAPTABILITY. We are so proud of our children for working together and showing kindness to one another. If anything, adapting to new and challenging situations builds character. The seventh grade team looks forward to providing students with an outstanding social, emotional and academic experience. We will continue to grow together by forging relationships and

Eighth Grade Highlights:
Our FMS Class of 2021 has had a good start to the year so far. The 8th Grade Team strongly believes in fostering an environment where students grow in the crucial field of independence - academically, emotionally, and socially - in the spirit of helping them transition successfully into the Hastings High School Class of 2025, where student independence and self-advocacy is a cornerstone of the culture (and appropriately so!). One way to build independence is to check Google Classrooms, including “Week at a Glance,” daily. Another is for your child to reach out directly to teachers when
delving deeply into subject curricula. Please don’t forget to peruse each teacher’s “Week at a Glance” in Google Classroom; there you will get insight into the units of study being covered and the homework being assigned.

Regards,
Mr. Shapiro

needed. We recognize that this year is a big transition for you as well - it must feel like your child was starting middle school as a wide-eyed 5th grader yesterday (it does to us!), and in just 8 months they will leave FMS as a young adult. On a personal note, I have so enjoyed working with this cohort since they came to FMS in 2017. Here’s to a successful year!

Very best wishes,
Mr. Riss

Visitor Passes:
This year does look very different from the past. We are hosting the majority of our meetings virtually. If you do have an appointment for an in person meeting please come in through the FMS entrance near the staff parking lot and our Security Vestibule. Our security guard will check you in after you show your ID. All visitors will need to sign in. All visitors to the school buildings are required to wear a Visitor’s Pass at all times and wear their face mask.

eSchool Data Parent/Guardian Information:
If any information regarding your child changes during the year, please update through the parent portal. If you are having trouble you can reach Michele Porter on 478-6251 or e-mail at porter@hohschools.org. If new information changes regarding Emergency Contacts, please include the person’s name, their relationship to your child, and their phone number. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Dismissal Procedures:
During dismissal, staff members actively supervise the areas around the school building. We ask that you pay particular attention to the children crossing over to the island. Please drive slowly and do not block the crosswalk.

Please remind your children to cross with the crossing guard and to wait for the light at the four corners. Also, children are to stay on the curb until they are directed by the crossing guard to cross the street.
PTSA Family Meeting - Title 1 Family Engagement
Farragut Middle School Parent meetings will be held on certain Mondays, Tuesdays, or Wednesday’s prior to the BOE meetings. They will begin at 6:30p.m. and end at 7:30p.m. All meetings take place virtually at the moment.

They are as follows:
- November 9, 2020
- January 11, 2021
- March 10, 2021

Board of Education Meetings
The meetings for October will be held on Wednesday, October 14th and 26th. All meetings will be held virtually starting at 7:30p.m. Virtual links for the Board of Education Meetings can be found on the District calendar. [https://www.hohschools.org/Page/1](https://www.hohschools.org/Page/1)

Progress Reports/Report Cards:
As you may remember, we no longer mail progress reports or report cards. This information is shared through the student/parent portal. If you haven’t already registered, please visit the Farragut Middle School website and go visit Quick Links on the left and click parent/student portal information. It will prompt you on how to register. If you are having trouble please email Michele Porter at [porter@hohschools.org](mailto:porter@hohschools.org).

COVID Screener:
Please complete the COVID Screener before 7:00 AM every morning. In order to develop good habits please complete the COVID Screener even on days that your student/child is working remotely. [Please click here](#) for the Screener link. It can also be found on our District website under Quick links and on our FMS homepage.
- If you answer YES to any of the questions, you cannot enter the building and should contact your medical provider
- All details and instructions are located in Dr. Henning-Piedmonte’s email to our community found [here](#)

Parent/Teacher Conferences:
Sign-ups for this year’s Parent/Teacher Conferences will be done online using PTC Fast Track. Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held virtually. Information and instructions will be emailed out in the upcoming weeks.
Who can I contact when I am having trouble with the hardware and usage of my Chromebook?

Please fill out a help desk ticket through this link Student Help Desk found on our website under the Family tab.

FMS Bell Schedule for Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday
Please click here to view the schedule

Wednesday Flex Day Schedule
Please click here to view the schedule

Contact Information
Ms. Spirelli, Principal  spirellij@hohschools.org  478-6230
Mr. Hanlon, Assistant Principal hanlonk@hohschools.org  295-3071
Ms. Shari Kavanagh, 5th Grade Team Coordinator  kavanaghs@hohschools.org  295-3070
Ms. Barbara Richman, 6th Grade Team Coordinator richmanb@hohschools.org  295-3135
Mr. Scott Shapiro, 7th Grade Team Coordinator shapiros@hohschools.org  295-3126
Mr. Jonathan Riss, 8th Grade Team Coordinator rissj@hohschools.org  295-3066
Ms. Britney Skultety, Support Team Coordinator  skultetyb@hohschools.org  295-6413

Department Chairs
Art – Ms. Naomi Gilbert – 295-3025
World Language – Ms. Katie Paz – 295-3044
Health & Phys. Ed. – Mr. Dennis Kiely – 295-3049
Language Arts – Mr. Josh Blum – 295-3018
Mathematics – Mr. Greg Stephens – 295-3047
Music – Mr. Mike Rubino – 6312
Science – Mrs. Melissa Shandoff – 6237
Social Studies - Mr. Greg Smith – 478-6291
Special Education - Ms. Lori Mackay - 295-3121
Dir. of Athletics – Mr. Andrew Wendol – 6218
Athletic Office - Ms. Maureen Bassman – 6241
Sports Schedules – 6245

Other Important Numbers
MS Office – Ms. Avila- Ms. O’Leary – 6230/6231
Nurses –Ms. Cullen/Ms. Cipollina – 6225
Health Office - Clerk – Ms. Chibbaro - 6226
Attendance - 6223
Director of Special Ed. – Ms. Sullivan - 6261
Psychologist - Dr. Tessler - 6264
Guidance Office - 6228
5/6 Guidance Counselor - Ms. Perez- 6256
7/8 Guidance Counselor - Ms. Bellas- 6227
Social Worker - Ms. Terry Frank - 6415
Registrar’s Office – Michele Porter - 6251