Dear Fifth Grade Parents/Guardians:

We have spent a good deal of time since school closed in June preparing for the upcoming school year. While it is still some weeks off, we thought it would be useful for you to have some information about what you and your child can expect when school begins virtually on **Tuesday, September 8th**. We have identified the necessary supplies your child will need on the Fifth Grade Team Page.

Enclosed in this mailing is information about your child’s program for this year and about the school in general. Grade level letters, calendars and much more information are available at [www.hohschools.org](http://www.hohschools.org). Please take a look!

There will also be an opportunity for you to meet the teachers virtually on **Back-to-School Night**, which will take place on **Thursday, September 24, 2020. A virtual schedule will be emailed to you prior to Back-To School-Night**.

Ms. Shari Kavanagh is the 5th Grade Team Coordinator. If you have any questions regarding trips or special events, please feel free to e-mail Ms. Kavanagh at [kavanaghs@hohschools.org](mailto:kavanaghs@hohschools.org).

There are a few points about life at the middle school that I would like to share with you. Even if you have had a child attend middle school previously, please read this carefully as things may change from one year to the next. Here are a few basics about getting organized:

- **First period begins at 8:15 a.m.**
- **Early arrivals may go to the cafeteria or library which opens at 7:30 a.m.**
- **Formal instruction will end at 2:44 p.m.** However, all teachers are available to meet with students during the “Academic Coaching” period from **2:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.** We have set this time aside so that students can meet with their teachers for general assistance, to make up work, to catch up after an absence, to review for tests, etc. We request that you schedule all appointments for your child after **3:15 p.m.**
- **This year we will not be assigning lockers; students will be allowed to carry backpacks. Textbooks will be kept at home.**
Each student will be given a homework assignment pad called an **Agenda Book**. All students use this book which also contains our student handbook and other important information.

Performing Arts groups will meet before school on designated days. More information will be forthcoming from our music teachers.

Also included is information regarding **Free or Reduced School Meal Programs**. If applicable, please return the completed form to Maureen Caraballo in the Business Office. If you have any questions regarding these programs, please call the business office directly at 478 – 6405. If you would like to join the online program to pay for your child’s lunch, you can log onto [www.mypaymentsplus.com](http://www.mypaymentsplus.com) to get the necessary information. Please have your child’s ID number available since you will need to input that information.

**LUNCH PERIOD** - The 5th and 6th graders will have lunch and recess during 6th period (11:54 a.m. - 12:35 p.m.) Food will be available as a “grab & go” lunch. Opportunities will be available to eat outside.

**STUDENT SCHEDULES**

All students in grades 5 through 8 participate in a nine period day, with each period consisting of forty minutes. This schedule will be explained to your child on the first day of school. Your child’s School Counselor will be Ms. Jocelyn Perez. If you have any questions about the schedule, you can call the school counseling office at 478-6228 beginning August 31st. **Schedules will also be posted on the portal on Thursday, August 27.**

**NEW STAFF:**

Science 8 - Mr. Joseph Willie  
Science 7 - Mr. Marc Rosner  
Fifth Grade - Ms. Colette Smith  
Special Education - Mr. Larry Cerratani  
Physical Education - Mr. Michael Chappas  
Inclusion Coordinator - Ms. Kristen Kumar  
Special Education - Ms. Donna Gamble

**Returning Staff:**  
Language Arts - Ms. Erica Williams

**Multi-Tiered Systems of Support**  
In order to provide targeted, effective support for all our students, our school utilizes a Multi-Tiered System of Support. There are both academic and behavioral supports provided at Farragut Middle School. Examples of these include our Skill Centers for academic support and bee stickers for behavioral support. More information will be shared throughout the year and our website.

**BUSING, DRIVING AND TRAFFIC**  
Busing is available to fifth graders only if they live more than one mile from the middle school. If you have a question about eligibility, please call Transportation Coordinator, Joe Urbanobicz on 693-6300 x 2259.

If children are being driven to school, please note that the only way to enter the drop off area in front of the middle school is to enter the "**Drop Off**" zone making a right turn from Mt. Hope Boulevard. **Turns are not**
allowed from Farragut Avenue into the “Drop Off” zone. Also, left turns are not permitted at the end of
the “Drop Off” zone in front of the school onto Farragut Avenue.

Another approach to the school is to turn onto Hillside Avenue and move up to the Hillside Avenue “Drop
Off” zone, which is past the crosswalk that leads to Reynold’s field on Hillside Avenue. Cars that stop
right at the corner block both the crosswalk and other cars. It is important, therefore, to pull up to the “Drop
Off” zone as far as possible to avoid blocking the corner.

PHOTOGRAPHY
Middle School Yearbook photos will be taken on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 29-30, 2020, and
make-ups on Monday, November 16, 2020. Specific information regarding the procedure for photos will be
sent in a separate email as we get closer.

There will be occasions when photos or video will be taken within the school to be used in district
publications. Please complete the linked form if you DO NOT want your child’s image and/or name to
appear in any public videos, newspaper articles, or publications, including the Farragut Middle School
website. Click here for the student image form. Photos will be published in the Farragut Middle School
yearbook unless specified otherwise below.

Please return this form to the principal’s office as soon as possible. Thank you.

DISTRICT WELLNESS POLICY
The District is committed to providing a school environment that promotes and protects children’s health,
well-being, and the ability to learn by fostering healthy eating habits and physical activity. The District’s
Wellness Committee, which was composed of administrators, teachers, parents and students, has
developed a local Wellness Policy. This policy, which is housed in the middle school office, is available for
your review.

CODE OF CONDUCT
At the beginning of the school year, every student receives a Summary of the Code of Conduct, Board
Policies, and PBIS information.

- Click here to review the Summary of the Code of Conduct
- Click here to review the Board Policies
- Click here to review the PBIS Information

Digital Signature Required:
Please click here to acknowledge that you have reviewed the Board Policies, Code of Conduct, and PBIS
information with your child. The complete district’s “Code of Conduct”, Board Policies, and PBIS
information are available in the main office, and also posted on the district web-site.

Included in this packet for your review are the following documents:
- Policy # 3141 - Flag ceremonies
- Policy # 8120.1 Use of Surveillance Cameras in the School District
- Policy # 5500 - Student Records (Student Directory Information)
- Policy # 7312 - Student Dress Code (Included in Code of Conduct)
⇒ Policy # 4526 - Acceptable Use (Technology)
⇒ Policy # 4526.2 Student Use of Privately-Owned Technology
⇒ Policy # 5030 - Complaints and Grievances by Students
⇒ FMS - Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) letter
⇒ FMS - “Code of Conduct Summary”

For our updated 2020-2021 district-wide Code of Conduct please refer to our district website at www.hohschools.org and for our building specific abridged version, please refer to our building website at http://www.hohschools.org/farragut.

**DIGNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS ACT - (Implemented July 2012)**

The Dignity For All Students Act is intended to give students in public schools an educational environment free from discrimination and harassment. As quoted in the revised Code of Conduct, the Dignity for All Students Act states that “No student shall be subjected to harassment by District staff or students on school property or at school functions. Nor shall any student be subjected to discrimination by District staff or students on school property or at school functions based upon his/her actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or sex.”

More information about this important law and our procedures to promote dignity can be found on our website.

**Farragut Middle School DASA Coordinator**

Building: Kevin Hanlon, Assistant Principal
Hanlonk@hohschools.org (914) 295-3071

**PARENTAL RIGHTS**

Parents/Guardians are entitled to view the contents of their child's record at any time. We do ask that you notify us in advance so that the records are available, and a staff member is scheduled to review them with you and answer any questions that you may have.

**Farragut Middle School Telephone Directory**

Please complete this digital form if you want your personal email address and phone number listed in the FMS telephone directory. This directory is intended for Parental/School/Student use only. Please complete this form by September 19th. The finalized FMS Directory will be shared with you electronically after September 19th. Click here for the digital form.

**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

The Farragut Middle School’s Monthly Newsletter is posted on our school website each month. If you do not have computer access, or would like a hard copy of the Newsletter, please contact the main office. Please remember to check our site monthly to read this newspaper as it provides important and relevant information.

We hope to see the fifth graders happy, prepared, and ready to take on all the new and exciting experiences that await them as they begin their journey at Farragut Middle School.
We look forward to getting to know all of your children well and to welcoming your family to the middle school. Please enjoy the rest of your vacation together.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Spirelli

**To DO:**

**Enclosures:**

- [Click here](#) to review - Whom Shall I Call?
- [Click here](#) to review the School Meal Letter
- [Click here](#) to sign up for School Meal Programs ([En español](#))
- [Click here](#) to review Facilities Letter
- [Click here](#) to review SEPTA Letter
- [Click here](#) to review PTSA Letter
- [Click here](#) to review District School Calendar Letter Day
- Required to Digital Sign the Code of Conduct and Policies Acknowledgment
- Optional to sign up for FMS Directory
- Optional to sign up for Photo/Image Restrictions