August 2020

Dear Eighth 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.

Enclosed in this e-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. Please take a look! Individual student schedules will be posted on the portal on Thursday, August 27.

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.

Mr. Jonathan Riss is the 8th Grade Team Coordinator. If you have any questions regarding trips or special events, please feel free to e-mail him at rissj@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 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 finish at 2:44 p.m. However, all teachers are available to meet with students during the “Academic Coaching” 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.

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 to get the necessary information. Please have your child's ID number available since you will need to input that information.

PLEASE NOTE:  Period 6 classes include Areas of Knowledge (AOK) class, performing music groups, and Skill Center classes.

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 should report to the teacher identified in the First period on their schedule. Your child’s School Counselor will be Ms. Jennifer Bellas. 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.

Lunch period: - The 7th and 8th graders will have lunch and recess during 7th period (12:38p.m. – 1:19p.m) Food will be available as a “grab & go” lunch. Opportunities will be available to eat outside.

NEW FMS STAFF:
Science 8 - Mr. Joseph Willie
Science 7 - Mr. Marc Rosner
Fifth Grade - Ms. Colette Smith
Special Education - Mr. Larry Cerretani
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.
**DRIVING AND TRAFFIC**

If children are being driven to school, please note that the only way 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.

**Sports:**
Children are eligible to play modified sports in 7th and 8th grade. If you have any questions, please call the Athletic Director at 478-6241.

**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 for all students 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 eighth 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