

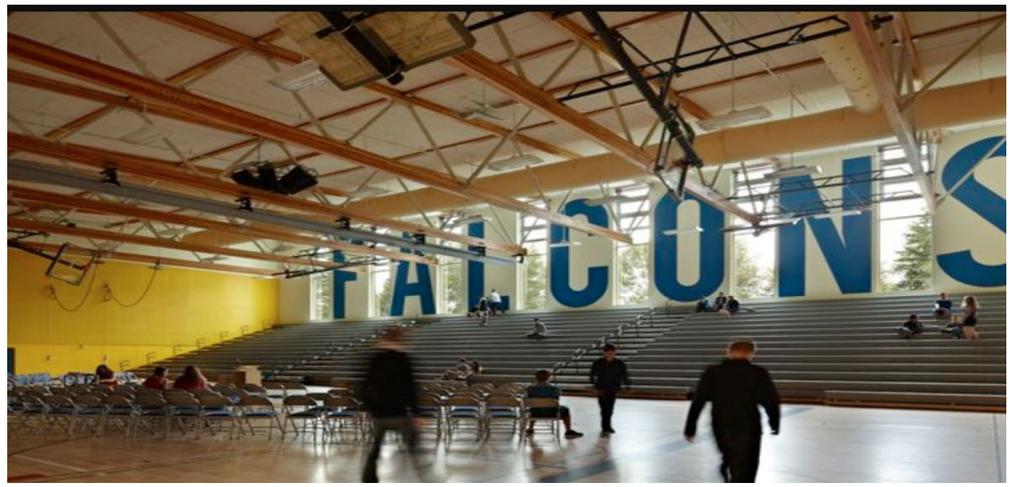
Finn Hill Middle School Matters

Middle School Matters
First Edition- 09.04.2020

“We only improve with
thoughtful feedback”

We like to hear from you!

Principal Dr. Joseph Smith



Upcoming Events

- Labor Day -No School
09.07.2020
- School-wide Assembly
09.11.2020

Fall highlights

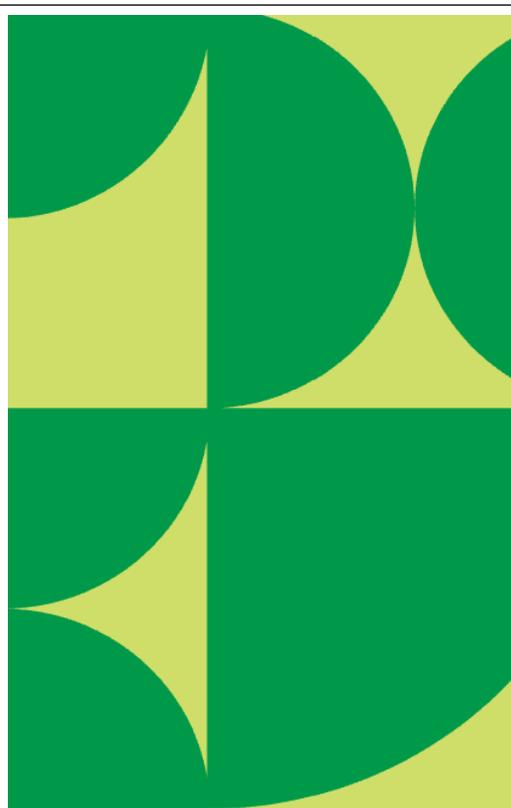
- Picture Day-
10.7.2020
- Indigenous Peoples' Day-
10.12.2020

Welcome back to school!

We would like to officially welcome back the Finn Hill School seven and eighth-grade students and a special warm welcome to our newest Falcons, the sixth-grade students. We hope that you had an enjoyable summer filled with relaxation and safe physical distancing. The past seven months may have changed our approach to schooling, but it has not changed the ways in which we care about our Finn Hill Families.

The last week has been somewhat of a frenzy, as Finn Hill staff has been developing, organizing, finalizing, lessons, schedules, and safety procedures. By now, each student should have received their lap-tops and their schedules. If this is not the case, please contact the school immediately. Furthermore, if something is wrong with the lap-top or if you need guidance on how to access students/parent-guardian portals, please access the TECH Support Link or contact Peter Strong (FHMS Librarian), so that he can direct you to the appropriate supports and resources.

We know that some of you have been experiencing technology glitches. Microsoft is currently working on problem-solving these issues. We thank you for your patience as we work together during this unprecedented time!



Finn Hill Middle School Schedule:

09.14.2020

[Regular Teaching
Schedule](#)

Important Links

Student Rights and Responsibilities

We will review these as a school next week. Parents are encouraged to review them as well. [Webpage and PDF for Student Rights and Responsibilities](#)

Tech Support

Families and students should continue to submit a help request to our 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Family Technology Support at ftaccess@lwsd.org or call 425-936-1322.



Recent highlights

The first few weeks of school are designed to routinize students to remote learning. Ordinarily, we would provide an Ice Cream Social to warm-up to this week; however, Liz Spier and I did have the pleasure of having lunch with a small group of Eighth Graders last Friday. While students were sharing their perspectives of schooling in the COVID-19 Era, we all enjoyed delicious pizza and sliced veggies (courtesy of Sandi Hill), in the courtyard. We discussed creating virtual spaces for various constituent groups, so that all students can feel empowered at Finn Hill. Further discussion on this topic will happen during future Falcon Time periods.

Friday morning, the FHMS Administration Team was invited to Librarian Peter Strong's Falcon Time. Students had the opportunity to connect by asking all types of questions ranging from our roles as administrators to lop-sided discussions on the best NFL football team.

We plan on rotating through all classrooms so that students can access the building leaders as well as cultivating authentic methods of getting to know their principals. Moreover, the upcoming Finn Hill Middle School-wide Assembly will allow us to connect on a much larger scale.

'I would just like to say that despite all of the various challenges and speed bumps we had this week (can we say tech issues?!?), our kids were so patient, flexible, and resilient! They got a little frustrated at times, but they were so willing to just "go with the flow" and work with us to find and offer solutions. Their attitudes and behaviors really set the tone for the week. I am so proud of our students and proud to be their teacher 😊 **Liz Coleman Science 6**

[6th Grade Family Information](#)
[OneNote link \(click here\)](#)

[Return to School Task Force Updates](#)

[Child Care Resources](#)

[Meal Information for Fall 2020](#)

The **Procedural Safeguards**, your rights as a guardian/parent, are available at the link below:

<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1551981853/lwsdorg/n7zeg4tk2lfa129mgtsf/Procedural-Safeguards.pdf>

Finn Hill Resources and Support
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=P2fUH5bfIUaGOKHYjEyF1yU8uWdyPepHuvxEicRH2RBUN0FBWTdHRE9IUFIITIBUNIBCMkdXOE05WS4u>

PTSA-VOLUNTEER!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d49a9a628a2f94-student1>



Our Next Area of Focus

Our next area of focus will be to create, transparency, and cohesiveness between the FHMS and the community. In order to successfully accomplish this arduous mission, we need two-prong approach. First, we need more family involvement! We know that this is based on home and work schedules; furthermore, not all families have the same resources. Second, the goal is to incorporate as many voices as possible so that the school's outcomes benefit all students. Hence, we will solicit feedback from all members of the school community.

While we want to hear from all families, we would especially like to hear from families who are new to the FHMS community. In the coming weeks, the FHMS-PTSA and FHMS Counseling inclusivity Faculty will design methods of Data collection, so that we can hear from you and accurately respond to your needs.

To the left, under Links, is a live link that provides more information on the Finn Hill Middle School Counseling Department and a survey for families to complete. We encourage you to please complete the ten-minute survey, so that we can know how to best support you.



The next area of focus is to localize the Lake Washington School Districts Strategic Priorities. The strategic priorities are the outcomes of a collaborative process with staff, students, and the community. Their feedback helped us prioritize key initiatives and indicators that set the direction of our district work for the next three years. **There are six priorities that we will focus on (not all at once), at Finn Hill Middle School.**

- **Success-** We will set high expectations and provide support to help students and staff grow each year.
- **Well-Being-** We will create safe, welcoming and inclusive places to learn for students and staff.
- **Engagement-** We will engage students, families, and the Finn Hill community partners (such as the PTSA), to improve student outcomes and build trust.
- **Excellence-** We will ensure organizational responsibility through the effective use of resources and systems that align with district values and strategic priorities.
- **Innovation-** We will encourage and invite new ideas that embrace creativity and reimagine teaching and learning.
- **Equity-** We will increase equitable outcomes by addressing barriers to engagement and success!

We will strategically develop all six priorities while we restructure our organization so that all families and students can access educational resources at Finn Hill. Equity and well-being are foundational in order for students to be successful, engaged, and reach excellence! Over the past few years, Finn Hill Middle School has created an Equity team comprised of teachers. We are intentionally asking that students and parents/guardians join as well. In the upcoming weeks, the Equity Team will proactively recruit members. We will also solicit feedback and information that will help Finn Hill to reach the goals set forth in the district-wide strategic priorities.

Fill | Family Survey Fall 2020

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! As we begin a new year, we wanted to hear from all our families and gather information on how to best support our student(s) at Finn Hill. Thank you! **Equity Team**

Here is the link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=P2fUH5bflUaGOKHYjEyF1x90XmKVjtFPoU-oIVLVxi9UMFFYRkdDOUVYNDZPVkdMN1BLRTBIS0tJRy4u>



Joseph Smith Ed.D. (He/him/his)
 Proud Principal Finn Hill Middle School/ EAS
 Phone (425) 936-2340
 Web www.lwsd.org Email jsmith@lwsd.org



Elizabeth Spier, M. Ed. (she/her)
 Associate Principal
 Finn Hill Middle School
 (425) 936-2340 x62346 | espier@lwsd.org

