

# **FINN HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL MATTERS**

09.18.2020

THIRD EDITION

Dear Fellow FHMS Falcon Families and Friends,

## **Week Three Highlights**

The focus of our third week was to deepen our connections between students and teachers, and amongst peers. Many online activities fostered these as an all-school group, during Falcon Time sessions, and during initial classroom meetings. Strong connections and building rapport are key components of our FHMS community, and we will continue to nurture each student.

This morning, I visited Katelyn Shaw's, classroom so I could meet the students and staff personally. I spent about 20 minutes in the class getting to know the students. We played a Mathematical game together and discussed alliterations. All students were very engaged, with seventy-five percent of the students were engaged the entire time.

## **Where we are Heading Next!**

### **To Teachers and Families, and Students**

Teachers and Support Staff: As we begin to hit our stride, I want to thank you for a very productive week! Teachers are in the throes of getting to know your child(ren), while still exploring optimal pathways to engaging each student in virtual learning. This is not an easy feat, given the nature of on-line teaching/learning which has produced pedagogical challenges as well. After meeting with one teacher, we have decided to develop a LWSD systematic form of collaborating amongst teachers of LWSD schools and FHMS teachers.

Parents and Guardians: Thank you for all that you do in terms of running your households and now, supporting your child at home in the myriad of ways that you do so. You are juggling big challenges with no blueprint! We humbly recognize these challenges and we will continue to reach out to you, weekly, to learn how we could best support you. To this end, I want to repost last week's counseling message in case you may have missed it.

Falcon Students: I want to recognize you for showing up each day, under these difficult circumstances. I am aware that some of you are carrying additional stressors like helping to take care of younger siblings. Please know that we are here to provide support for you! So please continue to reach out to an adult in your home or in school, so that we can best support you. We respect the enormous task that has been asked of you and we want you to know we are in this together!

### **A message from our Counseling Community**

Congratulations on completing the first full week of school! As we get the school year up and running, we want to ensure that you know who your student's counselor is and how to get in touch with us. We are here to support both you and your student(s) as they navigate middle school. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

One of our roles is to help connect families with school and community resources. We recognize that COVID-19 has significantly impacted our community and that many families may need additional supports at this time. If your student, or your family, needs resources or support, please click on the link below and fill out the short survey. The results of the survey are confidential and will only be seen by the counselors. If you prefer, you can fill out a paper version, which you should have received in the mail this week. Paper versions can be mailed to Finn Hill Attn: Kirstin Doughty or can be dropped off at the school, there is an envelope outside the main doors for collection.

**Please don't hesitate to let us know when your child(ren) are experiencing social anxiety or academic challenges and/or if there is anything we can do to help. We look forward to working with you and your students this year!**

Sincerely,  
FHMS Counseling Team  
[Counselor Introduction](#)  
[Resources and Support Form Click Here](#)

[The Equity Team is still seeking Parent/Guardian and Student Volunteers to support FHMS initiatives](#)

**[SHOUT-OUTS- If you have a person that you would like to give a shout-out to, please let us know!](#)**

**Congratulations to our entire FHMS community (especially Families),** on a very successful **First-Full** week of remote learning! While it cannot replace the power of in-person instruction, it was a great third week, nonetheless. We are still trouble-shooting Tech issues; however, we are in a better place than two weeks ago!

**Shout-out to the Front Office Staff-** Tara, Heidi, Sandra, Sandi and Maddie have been extremely busy with ensuring that our enrollment numbers and attendance are accurate, and filling vacancies. When they are not too busy running the day to day operations of the school, they are promoting "Jersey Day" Staff Spirit, which included snacks. Thank you for making my Friday!

**Shout out to Beth Shore-** Beth considered the challenging schedules of her colleagues and has decided to support students in-person! In doing so, Beth has taken an enormous amount of strain off of her colleagues by placing their needs before her own!

**Shout out to the Special Education department-** Katelyn, Scott, Adell: Thank you for not only supporting the students and families, but also, supporting and advocating for one another! Special thanks go to Nichol Cassaro (former FHMS V.P.), and Peter Strong, our librarian, for providing technical support during the Back to School Assembly.

**Shout Out to Aaron Shilling-** Aaron has developed and shared a useful forms survey tool for his colleagues to collect the student goals for the Capsule Assignment.

**Shout out to Team-players Katelyn, Luke Weaver and Ms. Rocellie Rivera-** Luke and Rocellie support Katelyn and the special needs students in her In-person classroom. This morning, as we were playing a Math game, they both interacted and engaged with the students seamlessly and proactively!

Specifically, they each modified the language of the activity for students. In doing so, Katelyn was able to zero-in on students who needed more social-emotional support.

I do recognize that other teams are working well; however, I am unable to pop into your classrooms, therefore, please send me a notice to visit or a blurb explaining the experience.

**Below you'll find important information as we move Forward!**

#### **Schedule: Week Four**

This coming week we'll begin our normal daily schedule. Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, is our second full week of school. Attached, you'll find our regular schedule. We suggest printing and posting (conspicuously) one or more copies of this schedule so it is available as needed.

- Finn Hill Middle School Weekly Schedule  
[https://fhms.lwsd.org/uploaded/personal/4512/FHMS\\_Weekly\\_Schedule\\_Community.pdf](https://fhms.lwsd.org/uploaded/personal/4512/FHMS_Weekly_Schedule_Community.pdf)

#### **Attendance:**

It was impressive that almost every student entered last week's Teams meetings on-time and were engaged. Please remember that while we are flexible due to being online, students are expected to attend all online meetings and attendance is taken for **all** periods. We are continually working to develop efficient ways to monitor and communicate attendance to parents.

It's also extremely important that students are present for the start of each online session. When they join late, important introductory announcements and initial activities are missed. We've incorporated 10-minutes between periods to allow students to transition to the next period.

If your child will not be attending any scheduled periods for any reason, parents/guardians are asked to contact the Attendance Secretary to report the absence. The student cannot self-report.

We can receive communication regarding attendance 3 ways:

- Call the attendance voice mail: **425-936-2341**
- Email: [FinnHillMSattend@lwsd.org](mailto:FinnHillMSattend@lwsd.org)
- Skyward Family Access (enter Absence Request) or on Skyward Mobile App.

When reporting absences, please include first and last name, the date and time of absence and the reason for the absence.

If a student is absent for any period, they should reach out to their teacher to catch up on the missed lesson.

Please note that, due to federal privacy regulations, we cannot record class meetings for later use.

#### **Technology:**

#### **Communication:**

- As we continue to **emphasize**, communication is vital to successful remote learning. Please let us know if your student is experiencing any academic or social challenges!

## **Helpful Links**

### **Picture Day is Coming October 7th!**

- [Picture Day Instructions](#)
- [Time Schedule for School Pictures](#)

### **Get Your pics in the Yearbook!**

- [Request for Yearbook Pictures](#)
- [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.finalseite.net/images/v1551981853/lwsdorg/n7zeg4tk2lfal29mgtsf/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>

**Once again, we thank each of you for helping make our second week so successful!**

**Have a Great Weekend!**

**The FHMS Staff**