

# Finn Hill Middle School Matters

October 23rd, 2020  
Eighth Edition



Dr. Joseph Smith  
Principal, FHMS

## New Information

### .Java with Joseph

Yesterday's Java with Joseph session went well. Approximately twenty parents joined the meeting. The meeting was mostly centered around social-emotional learning and how do we create space for students to engage with each other.

If you cannot join the meeting due to prior obligations, no problem! Email me with any questions or concerns that you would like me to address. A survey has been created to ascertain optimal meeting times for families to have Java with Joseph. Here's the active link to the survey: <https://survey.k12insight.com/r/hca6bt>

Our next Java with Joseph is on Thursday, November 5th, I will host a meeting for parents and guardians. We will discuss selected topics on FHMS. More details for this event will be forthcoming on Monday. We are open to your feedback. Please feel free to email me your questions and thoughts. [jsmith@lwsd.org](mailto:jsmith@lwsd.org).

### New Hires

Please join me in welcoming Anne Accettullo to the FHMS Team! Anne Accettullo will be teaching Special Education in the remote setting beginning November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Anne brings multiple years of teaching students with special needs.

[Finn Hill Middle School  
Schedule Link](#)

### Content Library Links

You can visit each of these OneNote content libraries for grade level information and weekly overviews for core classes.

[6<sup>th</sup> Grade OneNote](#)

[7<sup>th</sup> Grade OneNote](#)

[8<sup>th</sup> Grade OneNote](#)

### Upcoming Event:

### Library News

"No-contact book check out is now available. Please follow the instructions Mr. Strong has posted on the library Teams page. All holds must be placed by Friday, pick-up can only occur on Mondays from 2 to 4 per district safety guidelines."

## Announcements and Updates

### Emergency Contacts

- We highly encourage every student to have information for at least **two** emergency contacts on file with the school. Currently there are many students who have zero or one emergency contact listed. Whenever school reopens it will be important to have someone readily available to pick up your student should they show symptoms of illness at school, as they will be sent home immediately.
- To check your emergency contacts or to add someone to the list, go to [Skyward Family Access](#) (click the green button on the district's "For Students & Families" page). You can also contact the registrar, Tara Eason, to add an emergency contact (email: [teason@lwsd.org](mailto:teason@lwsd.org) | phone: 425-936-2340).
- Please ensure that emergency contacts meet the following criteria:
- Live locally (so that they could promptly pick up your child if contacted)
- Have their own transportation (again, to aid in prompt pick up)
- **Upcoming Dates of Importance**

### November

4<sup>th</sup>-Last Day of First Quarter (Secondary)

11<sup>th</sup>- No-School Veterans Day

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## Where we are headed next!

### COVID-19 Attendance & Grading Policy Updates

We have created two new teams that will address the issues of grading and student engagement. The teams will start to look further into root causes as to why grades are slipping and how we can reverse the trend.

### Peer Engagement Team

We have assembled a team of five teachers that will work collaboratively on designing best engagement practices for Finn Hill Middle School. We will look at engaging students from multiple perspectives regarding engagement activities for both in and outside of the classroom.

Understanding that not everyone can be on the committee for myriad of reasons, we want to send this open invitation to the entire FHMS community. Hence, we are asking families to email ideas that might help that might help increase student social and academic engagement.

### FastBridge Assessments

Next week, Oct 30<sup>th</sup>, the window for FastBridge will close. FHMS' goal is to make sure that each student takes the assessment so that we can use the assessment to drive our instructional practices. This is especially critical in a remote learning setting. It is imperative that your child takes the assessment so that we can increase the level of success.

## Shout-Outs-

### Please forward any shout-out to me by Thursday of each week!

- Shoutout to Lesley Crawford, Taylor Holland, Tanner Williams and Kerri McGibbon for welcoming a newcomer and short timer into their Health/PE class crew. They have been fun to collaborate with and have been extremely helpful sharing ideas, lessons and their time with me.
- Shout-Out to FHMS-PTSA for their tremendous support !
- Shout- Out to the Front Office Staff for organizing a safe, and efficient Picture Day!
- Shout-Out to 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers for organizing the Sixth Grade Family Workshop!
- Shout-Out to FHMS Staff for supporting students with your collaborative spirit and brilliant thinking!

## Helpful Links

- TSA (Technology Student Association):

<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1602257238/lwsdorg/siwehl29wqllefo2tcsq/TSAAnnouncement.pdf>

- PTSA Reflections Art Contest

<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1602786502/lwsdorg/wcokapyej8ydc8pcfzoh/PTSAReflectionsflyerinfo.pdf>

- G.L.O.W. Club Flyer (Gay, Lesbian, or Whatever Club):

<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1602005563/lwsdorg/pvqlza7m2zuozz8gohs0/GLOWPoster.pdf>

- Yearbook Sale Ad

[https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1602170273/lwsdorg/hdmshzpkkyok6fzu0cnzwe/YearbookFlyer\\_FullAd.png](https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1602170273/lwsdorg/hdmshzpkkyok6fzu0cnzwe/YearbookFlyer_FullAd.png)

*Once again, we thank each of you for helping to make remote learning successful. Have a great weekend!*



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