

Finn Hill Middle School Matters

October 30th, 2020
Ninth Edition



Dr. Joseph Smith
Principal, FHMS

New Information

Hello and Happy Halloween, to those of you who celebrate!

Java with Joseph- Thanks to those of you who have completed survey for meeting times Java with Joseph. Since not that many participants responded to the survey. The qualitative data will be shared with teacher teams, so that they can ascertain the COVID-19 impact on learning from a Caregiver's perspective. We have decided to keep our previous meeting time. Our next Java with Joseph is on Thursday, November 5th, at 10:00. We will send a link-invite next week. 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. 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.

Attendance Update

Starting Monday, November 2nd, if your child is absent from a live synchronous period, you will receive an automated Robo call informing you of this. This will happen on the evening of the absence. If you wish to have the absence excused, you must contact the office with the following information: students first & last name, date of absence, length of absence, and the reason for the absence.

You can call the attendance line at 425-936-2341 or send an email to : FinnHillMSAttend@lwsd.org.

[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.

[6th Grade OneNote](#)

[7th Grade OneNote](#)

[8th Grade OneNote](#)

Upcoming Event:

**Java W/ Joseph
Nov. 5th, 10:00am**

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 | 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)

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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.

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.

Peer Engagement Team-

met three times this week to discuss strategies for engaging youth academically and socially. The team will discuss the findings from the teacher survey, design strategies to engage students and make recommendations to the FHMS staff.

Grade Policy Team-

has been meeting to create an alternative grading system more aligned with remote learning.

Upcoming Dates of Importance

Nov. 4th-Last Day of First Quarter (Secondary)

Nov. 5th- Java w/ Joseph

Nov. 11th- No-School Veterans Day

Nov. 25th- Half Day

Nov. 26th & 27th- Thanksgiving Vacation

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



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Helpful Links

- [TSA \(Technology Student Association\):](#)

<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1602257238/lwsdorg/siwehl29wqllfo2tcsq/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/hdmzszpkyok6fzu0cnzwe/YearbookFlyer_FullAd.png