

Fort Couch PTSO Hosted Q&A session with FC Guidance Counselors – 2/18/2020

Only four parents were in attendance for this meeting and so Mr. Jace Palmer & Mrs. Jess Robinson did not formally present or speak, but rather had a casual conversation and question session. These notes were taken by a parent present for the conversation and represent her interpretation of the information shared, not a specific response by the FC or HS counseling office or administration. If you have additional questions or need clarification you are encouraged to call the FC or HS Counselors.

1. The process for Students:
 - a. There were 2 guidance classes at the beginning of 2020 dedicated to going over all of the forms and information available to the 8th graders including the list of classes, and a Google Form where students could submit any questions that they had, which were then answered to the entire group.
 - b. The 8th graders have access to all of these forms through their 8th Grade Guidance Class on Canvas. It is also available on the HS Counseling website.
 - c. Students also had a meeting at FC with the HS guidance counselors on 2/11/2020
 - d. Starting February 25th students will go online during their guidance classes and select the courses they want to register for and then it will be checked by Mrs. Robinson before the student submits it. These selections will then be sent to parents for final approval in early March via email.
 - e. Students will get their personal schedule for next year on the last day of 8th grade.
 - i. Last day of school 8th grade – students come to FC in the morning, get their schedules, are bussed over to the HS (the HS students will already have been dismissed so it will only be the 8th graders and the Junior Mentors and teachers). Students will have a chance to walk through their schedule and meet their teachers.
2. There is no more 6-day-rotation in High School – class schedules go back to being Monday – Friday.
3. IB MYP (Middle Years Program) –
 - a. Most schools in the country don't offer IB so colleges aren't "looking" for it – rather it is a "feather in your cap", but not something that will hurt if you don't have it –
 - b. Students who are doing the MYP program will be required to continue in the World Language they are currently taking at FC
 - c. The IB Diploma (during the 11th and 12th grades) is different – very rigorous and very impressive to colleges, however very few students graduate with the IB diploma each year as compared to the number of MYP participants.
4. Freshman Seminar

- a. All 9th graders will take this class the first 9 weeks next year. It will be one day a week for 9 weeks, and will fit in their schedule opposite either health or gym.
5. Lunch
 - a. Lunch periods are during mods 7/8, 9/10, or 11/12
 - b. Students are encouraged to schedule a lunch – they will select it as a course when they register one for Fall and one for Spring.
 - c. Some students will eat during their band/music classes, as those classes are offered during the same mods and those teachers have a process for allowing that
 6. Clubs
 - a. Clubs meet after school day typically
 - b. Freshman Rush – an activities “fair” for clubs and organizations will take place at the very start of the school year.
 - c. Freshman are encouraged to get involved in something or a few things right away as a good chance to meet people and settle in to HS, but resist the instinct to sign up for a million clubs. Colleges will know that you didn’t actually participate in 15 different clubs – think Quality over Quantity.
 7. Some conversation on Class Requirements:
 - a. English is required for all 4 years
 - b. Some Electives are only one semester long, but you pick the elective now and won’t know if it will be Fall or Spring until the scheduling is complete.
 - c. Gym is required one semester for 3 years – see summer gym below
 - d. Colleges are often looking for at least 2 years of the same Foreign Language during High School, some look for more. Doesn’t have to be Freshman year.
 - e. Marching Band counts for a credit toward Graduation, but is not a class period during the school day.
 - f. Students can take Shaping the Modern World II as an Honors class Sophomore year, even if they took the Academic version of the class Freshman year.
 8. Summer Gym –
 - a. Summer Gym is offered only to students after their 9th and 10th grade years
 - b. Details related to summer gym can be found on the district’s summer school webpage.
 9. Homework
 - a. General rule of thumb: 0-1 hour of homework per subject per night in an Academic Class. 1-2 hours of homework per subject per night in an Honors class.
 10. Remind students and parents that the “competition” for our students when applying to colleges is not the student sitting next to them – it is the students all across the country

in their graduating class. Our students have the advantage of coming from USC, a well-respected school district, already.

11. Students are assigned the same Homeroom, with the same teacher, same students (all in their grade), and the same locker for their entire 4 years of HS. Homerooms tend to be smaller groups of students (approx. 14-17 kids) and they are determined strictly by Alphabetical order.
12. Before the end of the 8th grade school year, the coaches of the fall sports/organizations will come over and have information meetings for 8th graders who are interested in those activities during Period 7. Some sports even begin during the Summer (Football, Cross Country, Soccer, Marching Band, etc)
13. During the Summer it is Highly Encouraged that students with parents visit the High School and walk through the building again to get more acquainted with where they will need to go. The district will communicate when those opportunities are, or parents can contact the office at the High School
14. High School Building
 - a. Each department has its own “wing”, so it makes it a little easier. English is all in one area, Math in one area, etc. Sciences have 2 floors on the “straight rows” of the hallway.
 - b. When you enter the academic area of the building typically people go straight through the Library to get to the other parts of the building.
15. Cell Phones
 - a. The High School has a much more open policy about cell phone use. The rules are determined by each teacher for their classroom. Many have places where students have to place their phones while the student is in that class, but it is up to each teacher. Students are allowed to have and use their phones in the common areas of the building.