



FOX CROFT

A C A D E M Y

Arnold B. Shorey
Head of School

August 9, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

Oh yes, summertime is almost over—in two and a half weeks! I am writing to update you on new faces at the Academy, upgrades to the facility, a developing news story, and, of course, some Head of School advice.

I want to announce the new members of the Pony Herd. First, Mrs. Fitzmaurice is now the Head of School Administrative Assistant. She has moved across the hall from being the Registrar. Mr. Niland has moved from counseling services to become the Registrar. Mrs. Koncinsky is now the Administrative Assistant for Counseling Services. Mrs. Mallory has become the Assistant Residential Life Director. Ms. Hardy will be the Library Coordinator. Mrs. Bjornson will become the new coding-robotics teacher at Foxcroft Academy. Ms. Greaney will be a new teacher in the Special Services department. Foxcroft Academy is currently looking for a physics/environmental science teacher, as Mr. Krause has left Foxcroft Academy to teach at Mattanawcook Academy. We welcome our new members to the herd and wish Mr. Krause the best.

There are some significant changes in the building. Alternative Education and Academic Support will be moving to the Packard Center, vacating the 1980s portables. Students will no longer use the buildings, which will be used for the student council clothes closet and storage. Eventually, the portables will be removed, and a student courtyard will be created. The Business Office will now be across the hall from my office. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson's office has moved to the Plouff Room across the Hall from the Pride Center, which will be the Alumni Affairs and Admissions office. Before the opening of the school, a new fob access system for exterior doors will be installed. A new handicapped-accessible entrance has been created in the gym entrance with a new stairwell, wheelchair ramp, and Handicapped parking. A call button/camera will be placed at this entrance to allow reception to unlock the door. Accessing this entrance during after-school hours will require calling Mrs. Tourtelotte or Mr. Smith. These changes were made to increase school-wide security and improve handicapped accessibility.

Last year's point of emphasis was the use of student cell phones during the school day, and for the most part, students did a fine job in only using their phones during lunchtime. While some schools in Maine are banning cell phones entirely, Foxcroft Academy is not at that point yet in recognition of the improved behavior. Also, it is the feeling that schools should mimic the post-secondary world as much as possible to instill the habits now. What will change are the consequences, which will not include warnings or detention but different levels of leaving the students' phones in the office for many days. The first offense will be one day, the second offense three days, and the third offense five days. A fourth offense will result in a student staying home until they can decide to follow the rules. Another point of emphasis will be students using their iPads during school hours. All students will receive new iPads and must use them in their classes.

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You may have read in the *Observer* about the possible funding through Susan Collins' Office for the old Mayo Street school to become part of Foxcroft Academy, with the possibility of expanding industrial technology courses. The vision for the Mayo Building is a groundbreaking initiative that will house a collaborative effort between Foxcroft Academy, PVAEC, and EMMC. This forward-thinking partnership aims to provide regional students unparalleled access to diverse educational programs spanning grades 9 through 14.

By bringing together industrial technology programs such as truck driving, CNA programs, welding, woodworking, automotive, early college programming, coding, robotics, and alternative pathways to graduation, the Mayo Building is set to meet the high demand for these vital skills in our region.

The goal has long been to expand industrial technology programming at the Academy, and this may be the opportunity. Five years ago, Foxcroft Academy became the first northern Maine school to become an IB school, and this next step would go a long way in increasing the opportunities for Foxcroft Academy students. Also, adding EMCC classes on site and alternative pathways for a diploma through PVAEC will improve the ability to meet more students' needs. Foxcroft Academy is also reaching out to other partners. Nothing is set in stone yet; however, I am excited about this opportunity and the ability to work with PVAEC and EMCC.

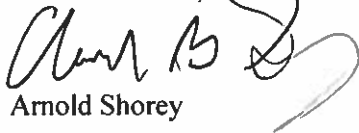
Reminder: Starting with the class of 2027 (Sophomores), students will now need to earn 24 credits to receive a Foxcroft Academy diploma. The new credit can be earned through language acquisition, either in world language or coding. Current juniors and seniors are grandfathered from having to earn this credit, although I encourage all students to take advantage of all the opportunities with our diverse offerings.

One of my favorite tasks as a Head of School is conducting senior exit interviews. One of the main points from these interviews was how the students recognized the many opportunities at Foxcroft Academy. Many wished they had taken advantage of these opportunities while at Foxcroft Academy. **My message is to take advantage of these opportunities now so you do not have regrets** (IB offerings, Industrial technology classes, world languages, performance arts, visual arts, Advanced Placement classes, dual enrollment offerings, etc). Don't use your time (some of you waste your time) in study halls.

"Opportunities multiply as they are seized." — Sun Tzu

I look forward to Foxcroft Academy's 202nd opening. New students and the Class of 2028 will start on Tuesday, August 27th, and all students will start on Wednesday, August 28th.

Ride-On Ponies,


Arnold Shorey

Attachment