

Fairfield Woods Middle School

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Colleen Banick, Principal
Steven DeAngelo, Assistant Principal
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August 5, 2024



Dear Woods Families,

Welcome back to Fairfield Woods Middle School! A special welcome to all of our new families - we are grateful to have you as part of “the Woods”, where we are proud of our No Place for Hate school designation. We are excited to begin a new school year with you!

The faculty and staff at Woods have spent the summer preparing for a successful new year. As we turn our attention to its start, our school community will maintain a focus on numeracy, literacy and contributing to a dynamic school culture that empowers students and reinforces a reciprocal climate of respect each day. Our building has been buzzing with the continuation of our air conditioning project. The finish line remains next August, and work will continue throughout the year. We also cannot let an opportunity to thank our custodial staff go by - thanks to Manny Coehlo and his team, our building shines from top to bottom!

We value and count on your input and feedback as we work to continuously improve as a school. We look forward to working with you to meet any upcoming challenges together so that we can all succeed. Here are a few important reminders for the start of school this year:

*As always, all student cell phones are required to be off and away during the school day.

*If you are a **rising seventh grader** or **new student to FPS**, please make sure that your health forms have been submitted prior to the first day of school (8/27). **Students will not be able to report to classes without this necessary paperwork.**

In preparation for our first day for all students on **Tuesday, August 27, at 8:00 am**, I have included a second page to this letter with important details about the start of the year, including grade 6 orientation and Open House.

Wishing you the best for these last days of summer,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colleen Banick".

Colleen Banick, Principal



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE START OF THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Everyone's **health and safety** is a top priority. We have developed a structured plan for arrival and departure. Please read the attached document for more information about the process. It is imperative to follow this plan. Your cooperation will make us safer and help the traffic flow more smoothly. **Please do not speed when you are on campus, as children may be crossing unexpectedly.** ([FWMS Arrival and Departure Process](#)).

For your reference: the full student handbook is included [HERE](#).

6th graders: Orientations will be held **from 9-11am** on Monday, August 26. Students will be invited to attend these orientations with staggered arrival times for each team. Sixth grade families will be receiving a separate communication about this event. It is also linked [HERE](#) for your convenience. **Parent transportation is required for this event.** Locker organizers will be available in the main loop for \$25 cash or check made payable to FWMS PTSA.

For security and privacy reasons we do not have access to student passwords. All incoming 6th graders should know their own passwords (and username) and be able to use them on the first day of school. Please have your child practice this by logging into their STUDENT [Infinite Campus](#) account.

Students and Families new to Fairfield Public Schools:

If you are new to Fairfield Public Schools, we will set up your login on the first day of school. **New students and families are also encouraged to reach out to our guidance counselors with any questions about the start of the year.**

Grade 6 counselor - Katherine Benoit - kbenoit@fairfieldschools.org

Grade 7 counselor - Bailey Mendell - bmendell@fairfieldschools.org

Grade 8 counselor- Susan Costa - scosta@fairfieldschools.org

Multi-grade counselor - Nick Willett - nwillett@fairfieldschools.org

All students: Schedule information will be available in Infinite Campus at the **end of the day on Tuesday, August 20**. Bus information will be available in IC as soon as it is available.

On **Thursday, September 19**, we will be conducting our **Open House from 6:30 - 8:30pm**. We will be inviting all of you to this event in a separate communication. Locker organizers will be available for \$25 at this event as well.

We are committed to maintaining our communication with the Woods community. Please make sure that all of your contact information is accurate in Infinite Campus and that you are following us on X [@ffldwoodsms](#). There is always information available on the [FWMS Website](#) or the [Fairfield Public Schools Website](#). For your reference, please click [HERE](#) to see the updated student calendar for the 2023-2024 school year.

***A note about clubs and activities:** all information on these items will be communicated after the start of school. One exception to this is the Golf Team. If this is of interest to your child, please read the following information from our golf coach, Mr. DePodesta:

GOLF TEAM: The FWMS Golf Team will be held again this fall. Those golfers who are interested in playing should have experience playing golf and see Mr. DePodesta as soon as we return to school in the fall. There will be a sign-up Google form posted to the FWMS activity page when we return to school. All golfers should save scorecards from over the summer to turn in. The first date is September 9th. Players should be able to play on Mondays and/or Wednesdays around 4:00. Space is limited and players must have their own transportation to the South Pine Creek golf course.. Any questions please see Mr. DePo or email him at bdepodesta@fairfieldschools.org.