

Welcome to FMS!

Incoming 5th Grade Transition Presentation

*Wednesday, May 20, 2026
6:00pm - FMS Auditorium*



PORTRAIT OF A HASTINGS LEARNER

THE HASTINGS COMMITMENT

To inspire exploration and experimentation
To unleash natural enthusiasm for learning and growth
To invite unconventional and courageous thinking
To cultivate equal parts confidence and compassion

In order to expand what one sees as possible for themselves, the community, and society.



A HASTINGS LEARNER IS...

BOLD

Sees constructive risk-taking as a necessary pathway for personal and academic growth and development.

EMPOWERED

Asks questions, self-advocates, and has a voice in the construction of their learning experience.

COLLABORATIVE

Works together towards a common goal. Engages in ways that stimulate learning in the classroom and positively affects the school culture and climate.

INQUISITIVE

Sustains sparks of curiosity, seeking to explore and interact with others and their world.

EMPATHETIC

Seeks to understand the experiences and vulnerabilities of others and foster a sense of inclusion, equity, and belonging in the local community and the community at large.

INVENTIVE

Has the freedom to question, envision, and create possibilities as they use their unique knowledge and skill set to engage with the unknown.

OUR VALUES

Creativity

- A culture of inspired learning
- Each person's uniqueness and the uniqueness of our community
- Authenticity of care, thought, communication and action
- Multiple understandings and definitions of personal success and a wide range of approaches to success

Contribution

- Our past and current work of educational excellence
- All learners as contributors
- Being good stewards of all resources and of all learners
- Balance of technical and human skills as we prepare others and ourselves for the future

Citizenship

- Community and serving all within our community
- An essence of connectivity throughout our learning organization and our community
- Trust in all of our relationships
- Balance and well-being for individuals and for our learning community



OUR GOALS

- 1 We will nurture a community of diverse thinkers who actively create and participate in a just and compassionate society.
- 2 We will foster authentic learning experiences that cultivate passion, aspiration, and action.
- 3 We will honor individuality while respecting our shared humanity.

WORDS OF WISDOM...

“It would have been helpful to know how caring and watchful the teachers, administrators and staff are at the middle school. I felt like I was sending a small fish out into a really big pond, and that wasn't the reality of the transition. I guess it would have been most helpful to learn/know how to let go of one phase of my child's childhood and accept that 'my baby' is growing up!”



WHAT ARE OUR EXPECTATIONS??

- Grow academically
- Grow socially
- Be respectful of others
- Demonstrate inclusivity
- Be safe
- Give your best effort

R_{espect}

I_{nclusivity}

S_{afety}

E_{ffort}



IMPORTANT NAMES TO KNOW...

FMS Administration

*Lina Carolini-Cannavò, Incoming Principal
Dan Waldeck, Interim Principal
Lauren Iorio, Interim Assistant Principal*

Administrative Assistants

*Michele Avila, Assistant to the Principal
Tasha Antulov, Main Office
Christina Kuch, Guidance*

Support Staff

*Danielle DalCero, School Counselor (5 and 6)
Jocelyn Perez, School Counselor (7 and 8)
Terry Frank, Social Worker
Dr. Scott Tessler, Psychologist*



Nurse

*Lillian Keogh, Nurse
Nancy Horsting, Nurse
Michele Castelluccio, Office Assistant*

Special Education

*Genieve (Gen) Holder, Assistant
Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services
MariAngela Sanchez, Asst. Director of
Special Ed.
Karina Villalona, Asst. Director of Special
Ed.*

Buildings and Grounds

*Joe Martorana, Director
Kevin McCarthy, Supervisor
Connie Liberatore, Office Assistant*

FMS Security

Bobby Hanney

OUR 5TH GRADE TEAM

- ★ Mrs. Gray (Team Coordinator)
- ★ Mrs. Case
- ★ Mrs. Kavanagh
- ★ Mrs. Schnall
- ★ Ms. Alexa Gross
- ★ Mrs. Alexis Jones
- ★ Mrs. Brennan



5th Grade SAMPLE Schedule

Period	Class
1	ELA
2	ELA
3	Specials Rotation
4	Music & Physical Education
5	Social Studies
6	Lunch
7	Math
8	Science
9	Skills/Reading Instruction
2:45-3:15	Academic Coaching

- Specials Rotation**
1. Organizational Skills
 2. Art
 3. Health
 4. World Language/Exploring Equity
 5. STEAM
 6. Technology



HOMework EXPECTATIONS

- Encourages student self-discipline, independence, and responsibility
- Reinforces, supplements, and extends school learning
- Assigned on a regular basis
- ~ 30 minutes per night
- Daily Planner - Student responsibility to write assignments down in planner
- Students required to have an independent reading book at all time
- Parents can support homework, but please do not “overly support”
*authentic student work

**teacher want to know if students need more practice



School Counselors - Ms. DalCero & Ms. Perez

- Enhance the learning process and promote academic, career and social/emotional development.
- Help students to achieve optimal personal growth, acquire positive social skills and values, set informed career goals and realize full academic potential to become productive, contributing members of the world community.
- Collaboration with school staff, parents and the community to create a safe, respectful learning environment where students can maximize personal and academic achievement.
- Follow the ASCA National Model: A Framework for School Counseling Programs
- Provide classroom guidance lessons (Org. Skills), individual counseling, small group counseling services, MTSS and 504 coordination and plan special events like orientations and school visits.



School Social Worker - Ms. Frank

- Provides individual and group counseling
- Provide consultation and support to teachers
- Provides psychoeducation to parents around typical adolescent development
- Works with students and faculty on school-wide emotional and behavioral initiatives

School Psychologist - Dr. Tessler

- Works with students in all grades
- Sees students in individual and group counseling and conducts psychological evaluations for the Committee on Special Education
- Part of many CSE and 504 Committees
- Works with faculty and students on school-wide social, emotional, and behavioral programs

STUDENT MANAGEMENT

- Progressive discipline philosophy
- Learning experience/counseling/restorative practices
- Consequences
 - Warning
 - Lunch detention
 - Suspension from activities
 - After-school detention
 - Suspension – in-school/out-of-school



NAVIGATING FMS

- All 5th grader will be escorted to the cafeteria and any other classes outside of their 5th grade classroom for the first few weeks.
- During this time, lateness to classes won't count.
- We understand the navigation of FMS takes time!



WORDS OF WISDOM...

“You and your child will benefit from the orientation program offered during the spring before they finish elementary school. There are many adults to help out at FMS especially in the first few days. Remember, every other 5th grader is in the exact same position. Middle school is a time to try new activities and meet new friends. Middle school provides small, but meaningful steps towards greater independence.”



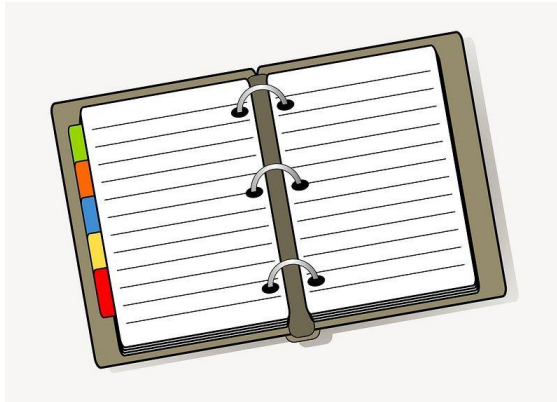
BEFORE SCHOOL

- Classes starts at 8:15 a.m.
- Students are allowed in the 5th grade hallway at 8:05 a.m.
- If students get to school before 8:05 a.m., they may:
 - Go to the cafeteria (opens at 7:30 a.m.) where breakfast is sold, students cannot come in after 7:55 a.m.
 - Stay outside until 8:05 a.m.
- All students will enter through the Main Security Entrance of FMS



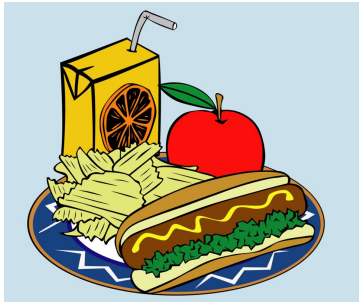
STAYING ORGANIZED

- The Agenda Book
- Bring back and forth from home to school every day
- Due dates for daily assignments and long term assignments will be kept here



LUNCH/RECESS

- Lunch is 20 minutes/Recess is 20 minutes
- 5th and 6th graders have the same lunch period, but every month they swap who eats first and who has recess first.
- Pin # - can put money into an account for your children so they don't have to deal with bringing money to school
- Recess options: outside, game room, library, gym on rainy days



WORDS OF WISDOM...

“Don't worry about the transition and how your child will fit in so much. They do very well for the most part and support is available if needed. Talk to parents you know or meet who have children in middle school already. Fussing, fretting and sharing negative experiences you had at that age will not help your child whether they're feeling apprehensive or not. Instead, focus on making your child more independent and responsible for their schoolwork and belongings. The more they can do independently, with the least amount of hand holding by you, will contribute greatly to their success at the middle school and beyond.”



AFTER SCHOOL

- Classes are over at 2:45 p.m.
- Academic Coaching is from 2:45 - 3:15 p.m.
 - This time can be used to start homework, get extra help, make up assignments, organize, check in with teacher, etc.
 - No school clubs/activities are during this time.
 - Family appointments or after-school activities should be scheduled after 3:15 p.m.
- Library will remain open till 5:00 p.m.
- After school clubs/activities



ABSENCES

- Who do you call if your child is absent?
 - Attendance Line, x6223 or fmsattendance@hohschools.org
- Early Dismissal or Late Arrival - call Attendance, enter/exit through Security
- Absence Reasons
- How can I get work for my child if they are absent for a couple of days?
- Vacations during the school year



TECHNOLOGY

- 5th grade students will not be given a Chromebook to bring home
- They will use a Chromebook that is stored and charged in their classroom
- Cell Phone/Smart Watch Policy
- If your student does not have access to technology at home, please contact your student's teacher to make arrangements about a device at home



WORDS OF WISDOM...

*“It's easier for
the kids to
transition than
the parents.”*



WHAT CAN WE DO NOW...?

- ★₁ Address their fears & concerns
- ★₂ Bolster their organizational skills
- ★₃ Ensure their understanding of basic facts
- ★₄ Encourage exploration and risk taking
- ★₅ Be involved, but promote independence



UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event
May 20, 21, and 22	Elementary/MS Counselors present lessons to the 4th grade classes
June 4/June 11	4th Grade Classes visit FMS
June 8th	Counselor Coffee: Drop-in session with Ms. DalCero
August 25/26	“Walk Your Schedule” - FMS will be open to all students and their families interested in engaging a self-guided building tour to find where their classrooms and locker are located
August 25/26	“Finding 5th Grade” - A two hour optional summer opportunity for students to visit FMS and experience a small group tour, open their lockers, learn about the 5th grade expectations, and have fun with other students



Thank You!

