

April 27, 2019

Happy Saturday, Yellow Jacket Universe,

Tonight will be a huge night for Fort Mill High School students and a busy one for their principal.

On Wednesday night, before a large and lively crowd at Bob Jones Stadium, both our boys and girls lacrosse teams won the 5A Upper State Championship. The girls pulled off an exciting 14-13 overtime win over JL Mann, and the boys defeated Dorman 11-9. They will conclude their seasons this afternoon/evening at the state championship in Columbia. Both teams will compete at Irmo High School, with the girls game starting at 4:00 pm and the boys game set for 6:30 pm. Our girls are returning to the state championship for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time in as many years and will take on a very difficult team from Chapin High School. The boys team will take on an equally challenging competitor: Wando High School. An interesting connection for the boys team is that our head coach's last appearance in the SC State Championship game was as a Fort Mill High School senior in 2011, where he was an important part of winning our school's first boys lacrosse state championship. The Rock Hill Herald ran a great article on this story, which may be viewed [here](#). We wish Coach Wunk, Coach Thomas, and all these Yellow Jacket athletes the very best as they represent our school in front of the rest of the state. (Photos of our Upper State Championship wins below courtesy of Rob Upton)



Later tonight, we will welcome some 700+ junior and senior Yellow Jackets to the 2019 Fort Mill High School Prom. This year's prom theme is Midnight in the Garden and will take place at the Glennon Center at the Tega Cay Golf Course from 8:00 pm to midnight. We are excited to welcome back the incredibly talented and entertaining band Steel Toe Stiletto, which was our first ever live band at prom two years ago in 2017.

We want this evening to be a terrific experience for our students. Every member of our faculty gets a special joy out of seeing our students all dressed up, taking prom selfies with the kids, and sharing stories about their dinner experiences. It truly makes for an exciting and memorable

experience, but we made a special effort to also communicate to students that the primary concern of the night for adults is the safety of our students. To that end, we held an hour long assembly yesterday for all FMHS students attending the prom, at which our county coroner, Sabrina Gast, shared heart-felt and compelling stories about why students must make good decisions on prom night. This was the first assembly of its kind in several years, but I thought it was important that we make every effort to encourage students to be safe on prom night. Additionally, I spoke with the entire student body via the intercom to implore them not to make foolish decisions that could jeopardize their future, their reputation, and their life.

Tonight we will have members of the Tega Police Department and the state Alcohol Enforcement Team on hand to help us protect our students. Anyone found in possession of or under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be denied entry to the prom and will face potential suspension, expulsion, and/or arrest. As I said to the students, we don't do this to intimidate or harass the students but because we care about them so very much. Please talk with your child about their plans for the evening if they are attending the prom. Know where they are going, how they are getting there, and who they will be with. We want this evening to be a positive and memorable for all the right reasons, but our chief responsibility is student safety.

On a personal note, I'll be making the trip down to Irmo to root for our boys and girls in the playoffs, and then returning in time to assist with the prom. So as I stated in the opening, tonight is a busy but exciting night for the Yellow Jacket Universe.

Below are several resources and items of interest that I would like to share.

Band and Chorus Trip—Both the Fort Mill High School Band and Chorus represented our school on the international stage last week during spring break. Members of the FMHS Wind Symphony traveled to the Harrogate International Youth Festival in Harrogate, England, where they performed a number of American arrangements before an international crowd at the Harrogate Royal Hall. The event was preceded by a parade through the town which concluded with 160+ band and color guard members in full parade uniform. The trip also included stops in Sterling and Edinburgh in Scotland as well as stops in Durham and York in England. Both the FMSD superintendent, Dr. Chuck Epps, and I were lucky enough to have accompanied these amazing, talented artists on this once in a lifetime adventure.



Just a hop over the English channel and a few countries away in Europe the Fort Mill High School Chorus was on an international adventure of their own. The chorus took part in a Sound of Music-inspired trip to Austria. These students were fully immersed in classic elements of Viennese culture. They sampled local cuisine, took waltz lessons, and heard the world renowned Vienna Boys Choir perform. They also took in the sights and sounds which inspired elements of the beloved American musical The Sound of Music. They also had the chance to put their talent on display performing in Austria as well.

Mindfulness Week—This past week was Mindfulness Week at Fort Mill High School. All week long we held activities intended to help students connect with their peers through acts of thoughtfulness, kindness, compassion, and caring. Events included a guest speaker Brian Williams, kindness pledge, town hall meeting on inclusion and rejecting stereotypes, a school-wide Rock, Paper, Scissors tournament, and Yoga on the Green. The effort was led by member of our school's Diversity Council and the counseling office. Their actions strengthen our culture of inclusiveness, and help each student to feel part of the Fort Mill Family. We are proud of their accomplishments.



Parent Night: School Safety—Save the date: May 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Next month, our school will host an evening presentation on important things for parents to know regarding school safety. This event will be led by Rich Todd, our district coordinator of safety and emergency services. The event will take place in the Fort Mill High School Auditorium. More information to follow in coming weeks.

2019-2020 Course Requests and Schedules—Students received course request verifications in March. These course request verifications list the primary and alternate courses that students and families selected during the IGP process. These courses serve as the official request by your child to be enrolled in the classes listed on that form. We use these requests to generate student schedules this summer. The careful selection of courses by students and parents (both primary and alternate) are very important because students will not be able to make changes after the end of school this year. We treat this process very seriously, because we spend the spring and summer months analyzing student requests to determine the number of course sections offered and in turn make staffing decisions based off of the number of sections needed.

## Important Links

[The Buzz](#)—Click this link for episode 28 of our national award winning student television program: *The Buzz*.

[The Loudspeaker](#)—This link will take you to the 6th edition of our school newspaper: The Loudspeaker.

[Guidance Newsletter](#)—This link will take you to the April edition of the Guidance Newsletter.

[Faculty & Staff Directory](#)—This link will take you to a directory of teacher and staff email contacts.

[Parent Portal](#) – This is the window for students and families to access our online gradebook system. If you need a login or assistance please contact your child’s counselor.

[Athletic Information](#) –This website has links to schedules for all our athletic teams, forms, and booster club information.

[Weekly Announcements](#)—This link will take you to a list of weekly announcements about club meetings, upcoming events, important guidance information, and other activities on campus.

## Important Dates

April 27	FMHS Girls Lacrosse vs Chapin @ 4:00 pm* State Championship @
Irmo HS	
April 27	FMHS Boys Lacrosse vs Wando @ 6:30 pm* State Championship @
Irmo HS	
April 27	FMHS Prom
April 29	FMHS Boy Golf Region 3 Tournament @ Chester Golf Club @ 10:00 am
April 29	FMHS Playoff Baseball vs TBD @ 5:30 pm
April 29	FMHS Playoff Girls Soccer vs Boiling Springs @ 7:00 pm
April 30	FMHS Playoff Boys Tennis vs Riverside @ 5:00 pm
April 30	FMHS Playoff Boys Soccer @ Blythewood @ 7:00 pm
May 1	FMHS Playoff Softball vs TBD @ 5:30 pm
May 3	FMHS Track State Qualifier @ Spring Valley @ 9:00 am

Be sure to follow us on Twitter at @MrScroggs and @fmhsnews, visit our website at <http://fmhs.fortmillschools.org/>, and like us on Facebook at We Are FORT MILL.

Go Jackets!

Gales

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