

May 24, 2019

Happy Friday, Yellow Jacket Universe,

Today, we welcomed 494 rising freshmen to the Fort Mill Family during our 8th grade tours. Students from Gold Hill, Pleasant Knoll, Banks Trail, and Springfield Middle Schools arrived just after the start of our school day, where they were greeted by student council members and other student leaders, and then taken on a tour of our campus. They got to see several important places for their first year, including the R wing, learning commons (library), auditorium, gym, main commons, and academic buildings. After the tours, all of the soon-to-be Yellow Jackets gathered in the auditorium, where they were entertained by our jazz band and exposed to all of the athletic, visual and performing arts, and extracurricular activities that are available to them on our campus. We also let the current freshman class president and next year's student body president talk with the 8th graders about how to excel and make the most of their high school experience. We gave each student a Fort Mill High School shirt to wear proudly this summer, and made their transition official by participating in the first "[We are...Fort Mill](#)" and "YES!" cheers for the class of 2023. I truly can't wait for their new journey to begin.

As we welcome new faces, we prepare to say goodbye to others. Last Friday, Fort Mill High School held our annual Senior Celebration. This is a special event where we allow seniors first access to the yearbook. We provide them time as a graduating class to sign each other's yearbooks, take pictures, and celebrate the good times they've had at Fort Mill High School. Each year *The Buzz* students put together an incredible montage of the seniors' high school experience, and this year's video did not disappoint. (Click [here](#) for the Senior Show) To add to the event, we scheduled the school's spring festival—Spring Fling—for the same date, so that the Seniors could also enjoy the special foods, music, and inflatables during their big send off. The Class of 2019 is a special one for me, as they are the first graduating class I've been privileged to serve as principal. I know I'm not alone in looking forward to celebrating them once more at graduation.

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

JV Buzz—Normally we would include *The Buzz* in the Important Links section of this email, but this week we feature two different videos. The underclassmen television students spend the majority of the semester learning the technical side of television, how to operate the equipment and software, and how a news production works. They get a chance to show off their skills at the end of the semester with an episode of *The Buzz* that is all their own. So please feel free to enjoy the [2nd Block](#) and [4th Block](#) episodes of *The JV Buzz*.

New Assistant Principals-- In other exciting news, we have officially announced the two new administrators who will be joining the Fort Mill High School admin team next fall. I am pleased to announce that Cory Johnson will be returning to the Fort Mill Family next year to serve as our assistant principal for 9th grade. Mr. Johnson is a former Yellow Jacket who--after 11 years at Nation Ford High School and 3 years Fort Mill Middle School--will be returning home. Mr. Johnson's experience at the middle and high school levels will be invaluable to us as we work to ensure the continued outstanding performance in our 9th grade transition program. He understands the world from which our 9th grade students are coming, and he knows what will be expected of them once they get to high school. Likewise, having served our community for the

last 15 years, he understands the unique expectations of our stakeholders (students, parents, and teachers). I am truly excited to add his talent to our school.

Likewise, I am excited to announce that Meredith Johnson (no relation to Cory Johnson) will be joining the Fort Mill Family next year as the newest member of our administrative team. Ms. Johnson is a Fort Mill High School alumna, and is very happy to be returning to her alma mater. Ms. Johnson spent the first 10 years of her teaching career at Rock Hill High School, where she also served in a leadership capacity as the math department chair. From the fall of 2016 to the present, Ms. Johnson has served as an assistant principal at South Pointe High School in the Rock Hill School District. She is eager to contribute to the school and district that she attended. Having grown up in and currently residing in Fort Mill, I feel certain that she understands the unique needs and expectations of our community. I am very pleased to welcome both Mr. and Ms. Johnson back to Fort Mill High School.



Parent Session: School Safety—Fort Mill High School hosted a School Safety event this past Wednesday night. This presentation was led by Rich Todd--our district coordinator of safety and emergency services--and focused on important things for parents to know regarding school safety, including district safety measures, updates on staff training, and the best practices for parents during an emergency. We will work with Mr. Todd to offer a similar session next fall.

All Sports Passes and Season Tickets—This year Fort Mill High School will be selling All Sports Passes and Football Season Tickets through GoFan. Patrons wishing to purchase an all sports pass or football season tickets may do so by following [this link](#). Additionally, Fort Mill High School will use GoFan to sell tickets for all sporting events next year, however we will continue to sell tickets at the door for walk-up fans as well. We are excited about using this new system as it will provide a paperless transaction and make tickets easy to keep up with on your smartphone.

2019-2020 Parking Pass and Fees—The FMHS fees website has been updated so that parents may pay for their student's respective fees, including: PE uniform, band fee, instructional fee, publications fee, and spirit shirts (spirit week and senior t-shirts). This is also the site you may use to purchase a parking pass for next year. 2019-2020 Parking passes are available for purchase for rising seniors and juniors only beginning now through **Friday, May 24**. You may access the fees website [here](#) or in the Important Links section of this email.

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 Loudspeaker](#)—***NEW***This link will take you to the 7th edition of our school newspaper: The Loudspeaker.

[FMHS Fees](#)—This link will take you to the page where you can pay fees for the 2019-2020 school year.

[Guidance Newsletter](#)—This link will take you to the May 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

May 24	8 th Grade Tours
May 30	FMHS Band Concert
June 4	1 st & 2 nd Block Exams (9-11 graders) / Half Day
June 5	3 rd & 4 th Block Exams (9-11 graders) / Half Day
June 6	Graduation Practice @ 1:30 PM
June 7	FMHS Graduation Ceremony @ 6:00 PM* (a graduation ticket is required for this event)

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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