

Happy Friday Yellow Jacket Universe,

We are still flying high about being selected by the US Department of Education as a 2018 National Blue Ribbon School. Click [here](#) for the announcement from the US Secretary of Education. Fort Mill High School is highlighted at the 14:46 minute mark. This is an extremely prestigious award, which shines a national spotlight on the incredible achievements of our school. We continue to be proud and overjoyed at this honor.

While this award serves as validation of our academic excellence from the highest level of our government, we recognize that with or without an award our school is special. It is a truly unique and high achieving place because of the commitment of our students, teachers, families, and community members. I personally want to thank and congratulate each one of you for your continued support of our school.

On a different note, tonight marks the last time that the football teams of Nation Ford and Fort Mill will compete as the only two high school teams in our community. As is always the case regarding this rivalry matchup, there is a lot of energy and emotion on both sides. Click [here](#) for the fantastic hype video put together by our Buzz students.

Regarding tonight's game, I have tried to communicate clear expectations for our students that despite the athletic rivalry, these are our friends and neighbors and it is our expectation that we continue to treat them as such. I know that it is easy for students to get caught up in the excitement of the game, but as Yellow Jackets they are called to exemplify high character and keep the focus of the night on supporting our team, not on being negative towards our opponents. We have the best school spirit on the planet and our terrific students rise to meet our expectations. I expect tonight to be no different.

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

**PSAT & ASVAB**—Next **Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>** we will administer the PSAT and ASVAB assessments to Sophomores and Juniors. All 10<sup>th</sup> grade students will take part in a free administration of the PSAT. 11<sup>th</sup> grade students were permitted to sign up for and pay to take the PSAT for preparation for the SAT as well as participation in National Merit Scholarship identification. All other 11<sup>th</sup> grade students not participating in the PSAT testing will take the ASVAB test. Seniors are granted a college visit/job shadow opportunity during that day. They should keep documentation of the college they visited or the professional they shadowed for attendance purposes. Freshmen will have a mostly normal day. The only place they will notice an interruption to their normal schedule will be in classes which are predominantly populated with upperclassmen.

**Fort Mill School District High School Attendance Areas**—This past Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup> the Fort Mill School District hosted a high school attendance area meeting with the public at Nation Ford High School. At this meeting the timeline for decision making, the 3 options for potential attendance areas, and the format for providing public feedback were outlined by our superintendent, Dr. Chuck Epps, and the school board chair, Kristy Spears. Maps of the proposed attendance areas may be found [here](#). They promoted a positive outlook for the future of all 3 high schools and welcomed parents to share insight and concerns through the district form, which can be found [here](#). The video of the entire presentation from the evening can be found [here](#).

**College Application Day**—College Application Day was a huge success at Fort Mill High School. More than 100 seniors were able to work on their college applications with the expert assistance of university admissions counselors, career development facilitators, and school counselors. Many received fee waivers for their applications from participating colleges and

universities. The entire faculty got in the spirit by wearing collegiate apparel to bring attention to the event. Considering that we routinely send more than 85% of our graduates to some form of secondary education (2 year and 4 year college) after graduation, this is an entirely worthwhile event.

### Important Links

- [The Buzz](#)—Click this link for episode 7 of our national award winning student television program: *The Buzz*.
- [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

October 8 <sup>th</sup>	Report Card Distribution
October 9 <sup>th</sup>	FMHS Volleyball vs Rock Hill (JV @ 5:00 pm & Varsity @ 6:30 pm)
October 10 <sup>th</sup>	PSAT & ASVAB Administration
October 16 <sup>th</sup>	School Board Candidate Forum @ 7:00 pm (FMHS Auditorium)

### In More Detail:

- The FMSD will host a School Board Candidate Forum in the Fort Mill High School Auditorium on Tuesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. This will be an opportunity for parents, students, and community members to hear from, speak with, and meet the candidates for the FMSD School Board.

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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