

Happy Friday Yellow Jacket Universe,

Believe it or not, we are half way through the first six weeks of school. At this point in the year, everyone should be settled in nicely and graded assessments should be occurring at regular intervals. We will be sending home midterms—described in greater detail below—that should serve as the first checkpoint for how your student is progressing in their classes. We know that there is power in a team approach to supporting students, so should you have any concerns regarding your child’s academic performance, please reach out to their teacher first and give them a chance to share applicable supports and strategies. Likewise, if you have been impressed or encouraged by what you have seen so far in your child’s classes, feel free to share that positive feedback as well.

Football returns to Bob Jones Stadium tonight at 7:30 pm as the Yellow Jackets take on the Camden Bulldogs. Tonight’s theme is a “blackout”, so we are asking all members of the Yellow Jacket Universe to show up, wear black, and make some noise for our hometown boys. Our amazing television students also put together an incredible hype video that can be seen [here](#). And while we are on the topic of football, I’d like to share exciting news that the Fort Mill High School Marching Band was a part of a very cool collaboration with the Carolina Panthers. Our school was invited to take part in the Panthers Logo Challenge in a very special way. You can see the video [here](#). The Panthers have given this video to the FOX production team for possible use going into or coming back from commercial during Sunday’s broadcast of the game at 4 PM. You may catch the Yellow Jackets on television during the big game as well.

I continue to be encouraged daily by the incredible enthusiasm for our school displayed by students, parents, teachers, and community members alike. Such buy-in to a school culture does not come easily, but it definitely makes a difference in the educational outcomes for all parties involved. For your continued support, I’d again like to say “Thank You!”

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

FLEX—We began running FLEX (Focused Learning Experience) schedules for the semester on Tuesday of this week (9/4). For those new to Fort Mill High School, FLEX is an hour long block from 11:40 am to 12:40 pm where students are able to eat lunch, see their teachers for extra help and makeup work. The responsibility to govern their own time effectively and make mature decisions about which teachers they need to see is placed on the students. We do this intentionally to develop a self-advocacy within our students that will be needed in college or the workplace after high school. While teachers may make specific appointments with students, we ultimately hold the students accountable for making the most of this opportunity. I encourage you to talk with your child about how they are using their FLEX time.

Phones—Just as a friendly reminder to all, the cell phone policy is outlined on page 15 of the student handbook. In a nutshell, students should have their phones powered off and out of sight during the instructional day (8:40 am to 3:40 pm). The only exception to this policy is that students may use their phone when they are specifically instructed to do so by a teacher for an instructional purpose, and phones must be powered off and placed out of sight again as soon as the instructional activity is

completed. Phone violations are one of the easiest discipline issues to avoid, by simply leaving the phones off and in a book bag. The school is happy to get messages to students during the day between classes.

Important Links

- [The Buzz](#)—Click this link for Week 3 of our national awarding winning student television program: *The Buzz*.
- [Faculty & Staff Directory](#)—This link will take you to a directory of teacher and staff email contacts.
- [Athletic Information](#)—This website has links to schedules for all our athletic teams, forms, and booster club information.
- [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.

Important Dates

September 7 th	FMHS Football vs Camden—7:30 pm
September 10 th	Midterm Grade Reports Distributed
September 11 th	College and Career Extravaganza—5:30 pm @ Nation Ford High School
*Registration is required. Click here to register.	
September 11 th	FMHS Cross Country vs Clover—5:00 pm
September 13 th	FMHS Tennis (5:00 pm) vs Rock Hill, Volleyball (JV @ 5:00 pm & Varsity @ 6:30 pm) vs Clover, and Football (9 th Grade @ 5:00 & JV @ 7) vs Lugoff-Elgin
September 24 th	School Improvement Council Meeting—4:30 pm

In More Detail:

- Hard copy grade reports for M1 (marking period 1) will be distributed to students during each block on Monday, September 10th. This date marks the 15th day of school and the half way point in the first six week grading period. Be sure to ask your child for their midterm grade reports so that you can be up to date on their academic performance. Please remember that you may access the most up-to-date gradebook information from Parent Portal 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- The College and Career Extravaganza is scheduled for the evening of Tuesday, September 11th. All students and parents need to do is sign up, no tickets or names will be taken at the door. The event features a key note address from Brooks Harper on how to “Turn Learning Into Earning.” I have heard him speak on several occasions and he is very good. I would recommend this event for all families looking to explore plans for life after high school. The event is held at Nation Ford High School, but is open to all Fort Mill High School students and families. You must register in advance as space is limited. Click [here](#) to register.

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

Gales Scroggs

Principal

Fort Mill High School

215 N. Highway 21 BYP

Fort Mill, SC 29715

803-548-1900