

Happy Friday, Yellow Jacket Universe,

Last week was a very busy week at Fort Mill High School, especially for the principal.

On Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, our superintendent, Dr. Chuck Epps, the former principal, Dee Christopher, and I were honored to accept the National Blue Ribbon School Award for Exemplary High Performance in Washington DC. This award is a high national honor bestowed by the US Department of Education. As I've said before, we do not measure the value or successfulness of what we do at Fort Mill High School by the awards we've won or the praise we receive, but it is still nice to shine a spotlight on the amazing things going on at our school. Immediately after the National Blue Ribbon School Awards, it was my extreme privilege to travel from the capital to Indianapolis, Indiana to cheer on the Fort Mill High School Marching Band as they competed against the best bands in the country at BOA Grand Nationals. Needless to say, it was an exhausting and rewarding trip, so I hope you will forgive me for missing last week's principal email.

On Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup> our band competed against 108 of the best bands in the nation at BOA Grand Nationals. Our students had a tremendous performance. Their show, *Birds of Paradise Lost*, was one of the most engaging, positive, and vibrant shows in the entire competition. They finished 34<sup>th</sup> overall and truly represented our school well. While the band was representing us in Indy, many of our talented singers, dancers, and actors were performing at home as Studio E presented the fall musical *The Wedding Singer*. We are equally as proud of the tremendous job that these talented performers did during their 4 day run of that show. We are so lucky to have such a strong pool of talented artists in our performing arts.

In athletic news, the Jackets finished the fall season strong. Cross country, golf, swim, tennis, and volleyball all made it to the state playoffs. Yesterday nine Yellow Jacket athletes took part in college signing day and officially announced their commitment to play collegiate sports. We are exceptionally proud of all of their accomplishments and how they have and will continue to represent us as ambassadors of Fort Mill High School in college and beyond.

This past week students began the home stretch of the second grading period. Teachers and students were busy wrapping up loose ends as everyone prepared for the finalization of grades for the M2 marking period. Report cards are scheduled to be distributed on Tuesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>.

Because next week will be a short week—just Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>—this will be the last weekly principal email until after the Thanksgiving holiday break.

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

Lockdown Drill—We observed a lockdown drill at 2:45 pm on Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. The administration, law enforcement, and security personnel moved throughout the campus during the drill to ensure teachers and students were following proper procedures. While we did

identify a few areas that need to be addressed, overall the students and teachers did exactly what they were supposed to do. We will continue to have unannounced drills in the future to ensure that we have addressed any problems and that students feel comfortable knowing how to respond in an actual emergency.

Drive 4UR School Fundraiser—This Saturday, November 17 the FMHS Athletic Booster Club is sponsoring the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fort Mill Ford Drive 4UR School test drive event. Anyone 18 or older may participate by test driving a brand new Ford vehicle. Fort Mill Ford will make a donation to our athletic booster club for each test drive on Saturday. The event takes place from 9:00am to 2:00pm in the student parking lot, located near the gym entrance off of Munn Road. Please consider supporting our school at this event.

Fort Mill School District High School Attendance Areas—On Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> the school board accepted the recommendation of the district to adopt plan C-1 regarding the future high school attendance areas. Click [here](#) to view the presentation from the November 6<sup>th</sup> board meeting. Click [here](#) for a map of the new attendance area C-1.

2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Schedules—Students were provided ample opportunity to make schedule change requests prior to May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018--the end of the last school year. Additionally, the counseling office worked with students prior to the start of this school year, during Conflict Resolution this past August, to address incomplete and incorrect schedules. Second semester schedules were effectively set as of August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018--the first day of this school year. We will not be entertaining 2<sup>nd</sup> semester schedule change requests unless the request meets one of the following criteria:

- A student failed a course and needs to repeat it
- A student needs a course in order to graduate this school year
- A senior is dropping a course they no longer need for graduation or college admittance and is seeking to replace it with a free block

#### Important Links

[The Buzz](#)—Click this link for episode 11 of our national award winning student television program: *The Buzz*.

[The Loudspeaker](#)—This link will take you to the 2nd edition of our school newspaper: The Loudspeaker.

[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

November 16 <sup>th</sup>	End of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> 6 Weeks Marking Period (M2)
November 17 <sup>th</sup>	FMHS JV Wrestling Tournament @ 9:00 am
November 19 <sup>th</sup>	FMHS Girls Basketball (Varsity) vs Great Falls @ 7:30 pm
November 20 <sup>th</sup>	M2 Report Card Distribution
November 20 <sup>th</sup>	FMHS Girls Basketball (Varsity) vs Chester @ 7:30 pm
November 21 <sup>st</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup>	Thanksgiving Holiday—No School
November 21 <sup>st</sup>	FMHS Girls Basketball (Varsity) vs Covenant Day @ 7:30 pm
November 27 <sup>th</sup>	FMHS Basketball vs South Pointe (Girls JV @ 5:00 pm, Girls Varsity @ 6:30 pm, and Boys Varsity @ 8:00 pm)
November 29 <sup>th</sup>	FMHS Basketball vs York (Boys 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade @ 6:00 pm & Boys JV @ 7:15 pm)
November 30 <sup>th</sup>	FMHS Basketball vs York (Girls JV @ 5:00 pm, Girls Varsity @ 6:30 pm, and Boys Varsity @ 8:00 pm)
December 12 <sup>th</sup>	Weather Make-Up Day (Half-Day Schedule)

## In More Detail:

- December 21<sup>st</sup> make-up day will be observed as a half-day. The date was originally scheduled as a make-up day for the instructional day lost on October 11<sup>th</sup> due to Hurricane Michael. Fort Mill High School will operate on a normal half-day schedule on Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup> from 8:40 am to 12:10 pm, and students will have the opportunity to attend all four blocks during the shortened time frame.

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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