



**FMS  
PARENT  
MEETING**

**PLEASE JOIN US!**

**Farragut Middle School  
PTSA Parent Meeting  
Title 1 - Parent Engagement  
Monday, November 9, 2020, 6:30 PM**

**Minutes**

**I. PTSA Announcements (T. Black and E. Sollars)**

- Please join The WAY for the third presentation of a year-long monthly virtual speaker series for parents & adult community members. The next session is: **The Youth Vaping Epidemic: What Parents Need to Know and How to Protect Our Kids** on November 16 from 7:00 - 8:30pm - via Zoom. More info here:  
<https://www.know2prevent.org/2020-2021-speaker-series>
- There is a new **PTSA Newsletter** sent weekly on Mondays. It is full of information including important upcoming dates at all three schools and PTSA initiatives. A recent (Nov. 2) Newsletter is [Here](#). You can subscribe [Here](#).
- The PTSA **Online New Book Fair** is happening now - from 11/9-11/15 (Shop [Here](#) and Use Code "HOH" at Checkout). This is a great opportunity to do holiday shopping and support our schools at the same time.
- The next PTSA **Superintendent's Chat** is Wednesday 11/18 at 4:30PM (Submit Advance Questions [Here](#) by 11/16).
- Collection of recipes for the PTSA's **1st Annual Cookbook** is underway. Please contribute a recipe that your family enjoys. The final collection will be published and sold to our community members to raise funds for our schools and share in our community spirit. Please submit a recipe [Here](#) by 11/22.
- There will be an **Online Spirit Wear Holiday Sale** for One Week Only 11/29-12/7.

## II. SEPTA Announcements (B. Rizzo)

- Still not too late to join SEPTA! (Join [Here](#))
- Family Technology Night, Thurs., Nov. 12, 6-7pm
  - Join the meeting [Here](#) (Mtg. ID 965 3400 1347, passcode 712469)
  - Explore Assistive Technology options with Laura Sullivan, Tesfa Stewart and Kristen Kumar
  - This presentation is geared toward FMS and HHS students and parents.

## III. Administrative Announcements (J. Spirelli and K. Hanlon)

- Diagnostic Tools /Screening Assessments / Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)
  - Ms. Spirelli discussed the recent diagnostic screener administered to FMS students on the last Flex Wednesday in October. Diagnostic screeners are considered a best practice to help teachers assess gaps in learning and enable them to better target their instruction. It also helps teachers determine needs for MTSS/RTI interventions. The screeners have nothing to do with the state tests. Ms. Spirelli received reports that students were shown a grade at the end of the screener. That was an error by the screener company and steps are being taken to prevent it from happening in the future. At this time, teachers are collaborating and diving into the data to see how best to help students and are feeling energized by this.
- Absence Policy
  - The absence policy had to change because of the hybrid model this year. The change was made in conversation with the surrounding school districts that also use the E-School Portal; none of the districts has identified an ideal method but conversations continue to determine best practices.
  - In the hybrid model, there is a need for three different ways to mark a student's attendance. If a student is physically in the building, they are Present. Students who are attending school remotely cannot be marked as present because school administration needs an accurate count of how many people are physically present in the building. This is important for contact tracing and other safety-related issues. E-School does not enable a "present but remote" option currently, so students who are learning remotely are marked "absent working remotely." On the teacher side, they see this distinction. On the Parent Portal, it looks like a regular absence, which has been very confusing for parents. If a student is truly absent, they are marked "absent."
  - M. Porter, the district registrar, is working with E-School to adapt the platform to meet the current needs of FMS in the hybrid model.
  - Because of the need to accurately count the number of students in the building and to maintain appropriate COVID and other safety precautions for all students and teachers,

the school cannot support one-off attendance changes, such as if a student has a headache and wants to stay home that day, the parent cannot designate the student as “remote for the day” if the student is supposed to be in school. The student must be marked absent, but is welcome to attend remotely if he/she wishes.

- There will be no negative consequences for absences resulting from the need to quarantine due to COVID exposure, to stay home if one is feeling sick and being cautious, or from other circumstances related to the hybrid model.
  
- Update on Leave Replacements
  - Several replacements for teachers on leave have been identified, and others are in process. Filling leaves has been very challenging and has been a collaborative effort with HHS.
  
- Outdoor Lunch Policy / Options for Inclement Weather
  - Larger awnings to cover outdoor tables have been installed and students will continue to eat lunch outside until it is below 27 degrees (F). Students may eat indoors if they wish, and no pass is required to do so. If students eat indoors, they are seated socially distanced from one another and they utilize their barrier while eating.
  
- Cell Phones During the School Day
  - There have been reports of students utilizing cell phones during recess (both indoor and outdoor). There are absolutely no cell phones allowed during the school day. Recess monitors will reinforce this rule. If students need to make a call during the day, they may do so from the main office or security desk.
  - Students now have the option to utilize a locker. A locker schedule was developed to minimize crowding in the hallways. Information on lockers is [here](#).
  
- Outdoor Recess Options
  - The playground is now open for students to use at recess.
  - A new game “Foot Gaga” is being offered in the GaGa pit - no use of hands allowed, only feet. It will be supervised by a recess monitor.
  - FMS Administrators are working on additional recess activity ideas including an obstacle course and colored chalk drawing on the ground.

#### IV. Q&A (J. Spirelli and K. Hanlon)

- What are options for eating when it’s colder and students are indoors?

- FMS Administrators are working to figure out other indoor areas where kids can eat and remain socially distanced. They are also working on reconfiguring the space to increase student capacity safely.
- Will colored chalk be cleaned at recess?
  - FMS Administrators researched the issue and determined that there is no evidence that sharing chalk poses a risk of COVID transmission.
- Will lockers be shared?
  - No, lockers will not be shared, however, it is advisable for students to bring all belongings home with them at the end of their color cohort days. In the event of a sudden lockdown, there will be no way to access the lockers.
- What activities can children do when indoor recess is required?
  - FMS Administrators are developing more ideas for safe, fun indoor activities when indoor recess is required. Thus far, recess monitors have initiated some talent shows and Pictionary.
- Is there an option to pick students up for lunch?
  - Yes, if you wish, you can pick up your student for lunch. Please enter through the security vestibule and be sure to sign your child out and back in. It is important for safety protocols and contact tracing to know who is in the building at all times.
- Ms. Spirelli shared a bit about the Our Schools presentation given last week and encouraged parents to view the FMS portion [here](#).

Next FMS PTSA Meeting: January 11, 2021

Questions? Please don't hesitate to reach out to either of your FMS PTSA VPs with questions or comments.

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