



FMS PARENT MEETING

PLEASE JOIN US!

Farragut Middle School
PTSA Parent Meeting
Title 1 - Parent Engagement
Monday, January 11, 2021, 6:30 PM

MINUTES

I. PTSA Announcements

- PTSA Bylaws Amendments ([Here](#)) - The PTSA proposed amendments to its by-laws. The changes were minor and intended to achieve better alignment between the New York State guidelines for PTSAs, current structure and practice on the PTSA, and the by-laws. The members unanimously voted to approve the changes (23 members in favor).
- PTSA Newsletter (subscribe [Here](#))
- Download January Calendar ([Here](#))
- Superintendent's Chat, 1/13 4:30PM
- Rivertowns Parents Building Resiliency Events, January 12 and 19, 7:30-8:30 PM (register [Here](#))
- Booster Club (subscribe [Here](#) for information about sports, which includes activities for Hillside/FMS students)
- HHS National Honor Society Tutoring Program (form [Here](#))

II. SEPTA Announcements

- Still not too late to join SEPTA! (Join [Here](#))
- Winter Community Conversation upcoming, date TBD. Please e-mail any topics you'd like to see discussed to hastings.septa@gmail.com

III. Administrative Announcements

- Culturally Responsive Sustaining-Education Framework - Ms. Spirelli described this framework which has been adopted by the District to guide curriculum development. It aims to elevate marginalized voices and empower students as agents of social change. This will also be a focus at FMS through the work of the Building Leadership Team.
- Classroom Relay Through Google Classroom and Go Guardian Web Monitoring - Mr. Hanlon presented on two technology tools now being implemented by the District and at FMS. Classroom Relay allows teachers to monitor student internet activity during class and redirect those students if appropriate. Go Guardian is a tool that parents can use to monitor internet activity on school Chromebooks while students are at home. It is not yet fully deployed but the District will be sharing further information about this tool in the coming weeks.

- Lunch & Recess at FMS (previous communication [here](#)) - Mr. Hanlon reminded parents that students will go outside for lunch and recess unless it is 27 degrees or below. Students are reminded to dress appropriately for the weather.
- Racial Equity Learning Day - FMS is hosting this day on March 2 and will have author Richard Blanco as a guest speaker. Ms. Spirelli is working with Ms. Grassia, FMS librarian, on literature to support continued learning on racial equity.
- Streamed Musicals and One Acts - Parents are encouraged to attend and remind students of the opportunities to participate.
- Extracurricular Activities, Clubs & Intramurals - Students are encouraged to participate in clubs. Two new affinity clubs will be announced in the Hastings Daily.
- January FMS Newsletter (link [here](#)) - Parents are reminded to review the FMS newsletter each month, which includes the student-published Honeycomb newspaper.
- Staffing switches - Ms. Spirelli provided an update on staffing switches at FMS. FMS is happy to welcome back Mr. Vaccaro (a long-time FMS science teacher who retired last year) as a leave replacement. Mr. Vaccaro will take over the Mr. Willie's Earth Science sections (because of Mr. Vaccaro's prior experience teaching ICT classes) and Mr. Willie will take over Mr. Brownstein's classes (which have been covered by a leave replacement who is science certified but not yet a NYS certified teacher). Mr. Willie also will now be available to teach a second semester elective at HHS.

IV. Q&A

- A parent asked a question about the hybrid/remote policy. Ms. Spirelli reviewed the guidelines for attendance for hybrid and remote learning days and noted that the District has extended the option to stay remote even if not usually a remote student through 1/29/2021.
- A parent asked what the policy is when teachers identify internet misuse in class through Classroom Relay. Ms. Spirelli and Mr. Hanlon noted that there is no policy and it would depend on the nature of the infraction, the student, the teacher and the situation. However, they discussed best practices for redirecting students appropriately. Students have been told that monitoring is occurring.
- A parent asked about the number of COVID cases in the District. The state reports on all school-related cases in real time here: <https://schoolcovidreportcard.health.ny.gov/#/home>