



Farragut Middle School
PTSA & SEPTA Parent Meeting Minutes
Held Wednesday, Oct 7, 2026 8:30 AM EDT
Location: FMS Auditorium & Online via Google Meet

Administration Updates

1. Three goals for the 2026-27 academic year

Each respective school has goals that align with district goals and the Portrait of a Hastings Learner. With the recent change in FMS leadership, there are three goals in focus this year:

- Creating a sense of belonging and community
- Reviewing and revamping the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)
- Technology use, specifically the role of technology and Chromebooks in supporting teaching and learning

2. Chromebook rollout and looking ahead

- The Technology Committee is actively reviewing the role of Chromebooks in the classroom and planning for next year.
- Administration is assessing technology through all channels.
- The technology change is anchored in research and planning for these shifts. Teachers are asked two focus questions when considering technology: Is this technology needed? Does it enhance learning, and how? Documenting this allows the administration to adjust technology usage based on feedback and data.
- Several changes were implemented at the start of the school year.
 - The overall use of technology in classrooms was adjusted.
 - 7th and 8th graders received Chromebooks two weeks after school began as opposed to on the first day of school. The intentional delay was to encourage meaningful discussions at home regarding healthy boundaries and responsible device use.
 - 6th grade moved to Chromebook carts, using repurposed carts and charging docks.
- The district is discussing possible Chromebook carts for 7th grade next year. Budget and workload impacts are being weighed and this will be discussed with the district Technology Committee.
- A concern was raised regarding the impact of Chromebook changes to students with technology accommodations, and it was requested that this data also be included in the review process. Parents with IEP-related accommodation concerns should contact their child's case manager.

3. Academic workload

- a. Scheduling of quizzes/exams for grades 6, 7, and 8
 - Grade-level teams were reminded to share scheduling information to balance workload and to be mindful of exam timing.
- b. Expectations for students in grades 7 and 8
 - 7th grade is a transitional year with an increased workload. Some 8th graders take high school courses, including students who place into Algebra.

4. Subject pathways in development; FMS administrators working with HHS administrators

- a. Aim to help families understand available course options to pursue students' academic goals.
- b. Last year was the first time the Math pathway was defined, and similar templates identifying the pathways in other subjects are needed.
- c. Math
 - i. Criteria for class levels are under review, with some changes likely. The math committee is discussing "ramps" so students can move between core and accelerated pathways in either direction, with decisions determined by the math criteria and input is considered from parents/guardians, teachers, students, and counselors.
 - ii. Concerns were raised about middle school course placement that defines high school academic pathways. Additional concerns were raised about students' inability to transfer credits from other schools to HHS to access courses needed to reach academic goals (e.g., college application targets).
 1. Using the STAR test as one of the pathway metrics places stronger emphasis on students' scores. The group discussed a more strategic partnership and requested ongoing conversations throughout the school year about placement, as middle school affects high school course selection.
 - a. As noted above, the FMS administration is working with HHS administration on pathways.
 - b. FMS PTSA representatives will share the concerns raised at the meeting with HHS PTSA representatives.
 - iii. FMS administration mentioned that the Math committee is reviewing the pathways and placement criteria. It's a far-reaching issue that expands from elementary school to high school.
 1. Southern Westchester BOCES, a regional partner, provides math and data specialist support to the district.

2. At FMS, STAR was included last year, along with other factors, in course placement for accelerated classes. There were five qualifiers previously, and all criteria are under review.
 - a. Some attendees requested that teachers clearly tell students that the STAR assessment will be used as a factor in placement, if that is still the case moving forward.
 3. A request was made to have a meeting focused on math. PTSA will relay this to the district.
- d. Regents exams
- 8th graders took the Earth & Space Science Regents for the first time last year. It was a difficult assessment, and last year the Regents originally impacted 10% of the Earth & Space Science course grade. After students took the Regents, the administration decided to remove the 10% impact on the course grade.
 - The district will present data on the Regents in the coming weeks. Whether to continue the Regents exam in 8th grade is an open question, since state Regents and graduation requirements have and continue to shift. The district will need to consider this over the next 2-5 years.

5. 504 contact reminder

- Counselors are the case managers for 504 plans. If you already have a 504, contact your counselor with any questions or concerns. If you think your child may be eligible, contact the counselor and copy Principal Lina Carolini-Cannavò on your correspondence. Have a question or concern? Please see the “Whom Do I Contact” list at: [Whom to Contact - Farragut Middle School](#).

6. Parent-teacher conferences

- Last year, the school offered needs-based morning conversations with teachers and team coordinators, plus open afternoon time slots for families. Many slots were taken, and the format is most applicable to grades 6-8. Administration will share information on the process in the next few weeks.

PTSA Announcements

1. Grade-level liaisons are needed. It's an easy way to help the PTSA, mainly by emailing parents in your assigned grade. If you are interested, please reach out to the FMS PTSA reps.
2. Join the PTSA for membership and helpful weekly newsletters.

3. Upcoming events: The PTSA Halloween Fun Run for grades K-5 will be held on Halloween, October 31st. It is open to all students; though the focus is on elementary, all are welcome to register and run in costume.

SEPTA Announcements

1. Recap of recent meeting.
 - Libby Copeland, SEPTA FMS Liaison, recapped the most recent SETPA FMS meeting. The meeting focused a lot on math pathways and the need for accommodations and ICT options within pathways for all students.
2. Upcoming events:
 - a. Monday, October 19 at 8:30am-9:00am in the HHS Auditorium. A meet-and-greet for new staff is planned with Genieve Holder (Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Personnel Services), Lina Carolini-Cannavò (FMS Principal), Karina Villalona (Assistant Director for Special Education), and Jenice Mateo-Toledo (Director of Equity, Opportunity & Belonging).
 - b. In January, SEPTA is hosting a fundraiser where school staff will face off against The Harlem Wizards. This will replace the SEPTA carnival. Be on the lookout for more details.

Miscellaneous

- MTSS for ELA: FMS has a three-tier system: (1) ICT class, (2) skills teacher, (3) interventionist. Support is offered to all students, not just those with IEPs or 504s.
 1. Stefanie Annunziata is the Literacy Interventionist, and Christine Smith is the Math Interventionist.
 2. Adding skills support is decided on a case-by-case basis, but follow a criteria involving state cut scores, STAR diagnostic screener results, and other academic performance data.
 3. The goal of MTSS is to provide a multi-tier approach to supporting students who need the additional support in specific areas. Students enter and exit the MTSS process based on progress monitoring their response to the identified interventions of support implemented.
 4. There was a request to add information about the three-tiered system to the school website.
- STAR results will be on the parent portal in the next couple of weeks.
- Principal's entry plan: To gather additional, multi-faceted perspectives on the school's strengths, history, and vision, Principal Lina Carolini-Cannavò is meeting with groups (e.g., SEPTA, PTSA, IWG, Boosters, etc.).
 - As part of this effort, a survey will also go to parents and students; constructive feedback that does not single out individuals is welcome.
- Clubs: Students who are interested in joining a club still can. Students can show up at the [club meeting date and time](#). The debate club teacher is currently on leave. The Debate Club is set to begin in November.