August 2019

Dear Grade 8 Parents/Guardians:

It’s hard to believe, but it’s that time of year again - the beginning of a new school year! The 2019-2020 year promises to be rewarding, challenging and exciting for your children as they begin their final year as a middle school student at Felix Festa. This year will prepare students for their high school experience and foster their abilities to grow and mature socially and academically. The Felix Festa staff has been working throughout the summer to prepare for the arrival of students and we join them in their eagerness to welcome them to D School.

Student schedules will be accessible on the Parent Portal starting August 23. When the portal opens you will be able to view your child’s schedule, school counselor, homeroom, team, locker number and locker combination. In addition, on the first day of school, students will receive a copy of their schedule. If you have any questions or concerns, school counselors will be available as of August 23. Correspondence with counselors regarding students’ schedules should be done via email (Fraler-cfraler@ccsd.edu, O'Keefe-tokeefe@ccsd.edu). When doing so, parents should indicate the nature of their questions to expedite the process.

Parent/Student Self Guided Tours:

- August 26th - CLOSED - Cleaning
- August 27th - campus open - parent/student self guided tour (2:00 pm- 6:00 pm)
- August 28th - campus open - parent/student self guided tour (2:00 pm- 6:00 pm)
- August 29th - CLOSED - Orientation
- August 30th - campus open - parent/student self guided tour (9:00 am- 12:00 pm)
- September 2nd - CLOSED - Labor Day

Parent Portal Information:
If you have not done so already, please set up an account on the parent portal. Access to the portal will provide attendance, progress report and report card information. Instructions for setting up a parent account can be found on our district website at: [http://www.ccsd.edu/Page/651](http://www.ccsd.edu/Page/651)

To create new account: [https://esdparentportal.lhric.org/Register.aspx](https://esdparentportal.lhric.org/Register.aspx)
To access existing account: [https://esdparentportal.lhric.org/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fdefault.aspx](https://esdparentportal.lhric.org/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fdefault.aspx)

New Student Orientation for 8th Graders New to FFMS:
There will be an orientation program for students new to Felix Festa on Thursday, August 29, 2019 from 12:30 - 2:00 in A school. Students fitting this criteria are strongly encouraged to attend orientation to help them get acclimated to FFMS.

Purchasing Your Child’s P.E. Uniform:
All P.E. uniforms must be purchased through Star Screen Print and Embroidery (845) 624-4923, located at 260 West Nyack Road, West Nyack, NY 10994. For the swim unit, girls are expected to wear one-piece bathing suits and boys must wear swim trunks. Students are expected to have their required materials.
Updated No Backpack Initiative: https://www.ccsd.edu/Page/2791
Teachers will be working with students during the first few days of school and throughout the year, as needed, to help students utilize a plan for locker use to ensure they are not carrying around unneeded items throughout the school day.

Parent Meet the Teacher Night:
Grade 8 will be held at 6:30 p.m., on Tuesday, September 24th. At 6:00 p.m. the administrative team will provide an overview of Title 1 programs and AIS support classes including: English Intensive, Math Intensive, Reading Center, and Achievement Center, as well as special education services and programs.

Building Procedures:
When your child is absent, a phone call is not necessary- instead, please have your child submit a written note to the attendance office upon their return to school. At the end of the school day, the automated phone system will call the households of students who were not present in school for any period that day.

Students may bring a cellphone into the building, but it is to be turned off during the school day. If an emergency arises, parents are asked to call the D-School office (624-3972) so that we can provide the necessary assistance.

Written parent requests for students to take a different school bus home must be brought to the D School attendance office by Period 1 of that day. Approval will be for childcare purposes only and will be based on bus seating availability.

As a point of organization, helpful information can always be found on our website: www.ccsd.edu/ffms. Additionally, all District policies can be accessed online at CCSD’s website: https://www.ccsd.edu/

Felix Festa Before School Programs:
Beginning in the 2019-2020 school year, Festaville will be in charge of all student supervision between the hours of 7:00am-8:00am, Monday through Friday. Students are not permitted access to FFMS prior to 7:00am.

Only registered students will have access to the building between the hours of 7:00am-8:00am daily. Interested parents should register their child for Festaville through the following website: www.festaville.org and reach out with additional questions to Festaville via email (festaville@gmail.com). Students that do register for Festaville MUST ENTER the building through the cafeteria doors on the pickup road to gain access to the building.

All students are permitted to enter FFMS at 8:00am. At 8:00am, students may enter the building through A-School, C-School, D-School OR the cafeteria doors via the pickup road. Between 8:00-8:50am, students are required to be in a supervised location (cafeteria, extra help, open gym, library, etc.) and must remain there until the first bell at 8:50am.

Supporting Student’s Social-Emotional Needs:
The Festa administrative team and staff are committed to maintaining a safe and productive learning environment, taking proactive measures to promote positive social interactions by working with students to make good choices. The middle school staff will facilitate our monthly No Place for Hate lessons. The theme of Respect + Responsibility = Success will continue to be an underlying foundation for day to day interaction. Your assistance in this process is greatly appreciated.

Enclosed Items:
- Application for Free and Reduced Lunch Services: These can also be accessed on the district’s Food Services website: https://www.ccsd.edu/Domain/406 or by calling 639-6546.
- Demographic Validation: Please complete and return to your youngest child’s school by September 18.

Thank you for your commitment to your child’s education, we look forward to working with you and your child this year.

Jonathan L. Schatz
Principal
Dr. Max O’Casey
Assistant Principal