

June 19, 2018

Dear Forsyth Middle School Community,

On behalf of the staff at Forsyth Middle School, I am excited to welcome you to the 2018-2019 school year. We hope you are enjoying summer and anticipating the start of a new and exciting year. I feel both honored and privileged to be your principal and to work with our highly qualified and dedicated staff, our wonderful students, and all of the supportive parents and community members that make our school great. At FMS, we are committed to keeping student achievement and individual growth our highest priorities. With this, we are also committed to partnering with you, offering a well-rounded education, developing character, and providing engaging academic challenges for all FMS students. I encourage you to carefully read over this letter and feel free to contact us with any questions.

First, we are very pleased with the success of our technology initiative that provides all students in grades 5-12 access to a district laptop. Students may use this laptop for the entire school year once the technology agreement has been signed and the minimal laptop fee has been paid. As you and your student are new to this initiative, we would like to invite you to an optional parent meeting on Monday, August 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm in the PAC, which is located next to the elementary school building. I will give a quick overview of information about the 1:1 technology initiative and answer any questions you might have. The laptop handbook and technology agreement will be provided during the meeting. We will accept payments that evening or you can pay the night of Open House. You can pay in the office with a debit or credit card or you can pay cash. If you choose to pay through our new online payment system called RevTrak, this option will be available beginning August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. Information about the online payment is included with this letter. The cost is \$20 per student with a maximum cost of \$40 per family. The cost for families that qualify for free and reduced lunch is \$10 per student with a maximum of \$20 per family. If you do not wish to attend the meeting because you are already familiar with the program, you may stop by the office from 8am to 3pm daily starting July 30<sup>th</sup> and sign the laptop agreement and pay. You may also sign and pay at Open House on August 14<sup>th</sup>. However, if you have questions, we encourage you to attend this meeting and visit with us.

In addition, we would like to share some beginning of year information that will be helpful for you and your child as they begin fifth grade.

### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

- July 30, 2018 - August 9, 2018 –New Student Enrollment & Laptop Payments Accepted
- Back to School Bash – August 3, 2018 6:00 pm at First Baptist Church, Forsyth
- August 7, 2018 – Optional Fifth Grade Parent Laptop Question & Answer Session (5:30-6:30)
- August 14, 2018 Open House 6:00pm-8:00 pm. Students will receive their schedules at check-in, which is located in the middle school gym. Laptop Agreement & Payment will be accepted in the same location. Afterwards you and your student will visit with their teachers in their classrooms.
- **August 16, 2018 – First day of school for all students. Classes begin at 8:20 a.m.**
- September 3 & 21, 2018 – No School
- September 6, 2018 – Schoology & SIS Parent Training at 6:00 pm in the cafeteria.
- September 13, 2018 – Fall Picture Day (Lifetouch)
- October 18 & 19, 2018 – Parent Teacher Conferences, you will call the office to schedule
- October 25, 2018 – Picture Re-Take Day (Lifetouch)

### **SCHOOL TO PARENT COMMUNICATION:**

FMS is committed to maintaining effective communication and providing our student's families with the information they need to keep their students on track and growing. We encourage both students and guardians to keep current with upcoming events and activities by regularly checking our website at [forsythpanthers.org](http://forsythpanthers.org). Also, take advantage of opportunities such as the SIS training meeting on September 6<sup>th</sup> and parent-teacher conferences on October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, to touch base with your student's teachers. In addition, FMS has a common conference plan time for each grade level of teachers. Teachers are available to meet with parents in person or on the phone during this time. Fifth grade plan time is from 9:14-10:04 Monday-Friday. Another way to contact teachers is through email. Below are the email addresses for the four core 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers:

Beth Russell, ELA & Reading – [brussell@forsyth3.k12.mo.us](mailto:brussell@forsyth3.k12.mo.us)

Heather Day, Social Studies & Reading – [hday@forsyth3.k12.mo.us](mailto:hday@forsyth3.k12.mo.us)

Montye Mickelson, Science & Reading – [mmickelson@forsyth3.k12.mo.us](mailto:mmickelson@forsyth3.k12.mo.us)

Michelle Hughes, Math & Reading – [mhughes@forsyth3.k12.mo.us](mailto:mhughes@forsyth3.k12.mo.us)

Dr. Sandra J. Goss, Principal - [sgoss@forsyth3.k12.mo.us](mailto:sgoss@forsyth3.k12.mo.us)

Dr. Ryan Persinger, Assistant Principal – [rpersing@forsyth3.k12.mo.us](mailto:rpersing@forsyth3.k12.mo.us)

Please be aware of the following options available to get quick student information:

- **Get connected with our online grade book, Tyler SIS 360. This is a great way for you to stay up-to-date with attendance, discipline, lunch balance, missing assignments, and your child's academic progress. You can contact the office for login information.**
- Regularly visit your child's Schoology courses.
- Regularly visit our school's website- [forsythpanthers.org](http://forsythpanthers.org)
- If your child is missing an assignment, you will receive an automated call from the school on Monday each week. You would then want to look on SIS, visit with your child, and review the Schoology calendar with them.
- Use the links on our website to email staff members.
- Call the MS office at (417) 546-6382.

**FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL:**

District-wide, all students will start the 2018-2019 school year on **August 16<sup>th</sup>**. Fifth grade students will go directly to their homeroom class, which is also their first hour class. Students may drop their items off in their homeroom and then go to breakfast. After breakfast, they need to be back in their first hour class prior to the tardy bell that rings at 8:20am. The first few days, teachers will be getting students familiar with this procedure as well as helping students with directions, lockers, bathrooms, getting to lunch, and finding their buses at the end of the day. If you bring or pick up your child, you will drop them off and pick them up in front of the middle school building. First period will begin at 8:20 am; students are not allowed into the building until 7:50am. School ends at 3:00 pm. Students are expected to ride the bus, walk home, attend Boys and Girls Club or get picked up, unless they have a note from a parent or legal guardian changing their normal routine. If students are going to another student's house, we need a note from the guardian of each student before a bus pass will be issued.

The staff here at FMS is excited for the coming year. We look forward to seeing you at Open House on August 14<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please feel free to notify the MS Office at 417-546-6382, check our school website via [forsythpanthers.org](http://forsythpanthers.org), or email me at [sgoss@forsyth3.k12.mo.us](mailto:sgoss@forsyth3.k12.mo.us). Here is to a great school year.

Warm regards,

Dr. Sandra J. Goss

*Principal*

Forsyth Middle School