



## Falcon Homeschool Program Newsletter

**August 22, 23 and 24 2023**

### UPCOMING DATES:

August 29, 30 and 31: FHEP PEP: Sports Day

September 5, 6 and 7th: School Picture Day

**Front Desk Number: (719) 495-5373**

### **Class Updates:**

#### *Arts and STEM Exploration*

##### *Ms. Jill*

We had a great first week of Arts exploration! The students made amazingly creative 'name creatures' and developed our heart-based social contract. This week, we will learn the basics of reading musical rhythms and practice clapping simple rhythms. For our Steam lesson, we will discover how musical instruments are grouped into families. Finally, we will begin our weekly Art Task cards, with a focus on 'color' for the next few weeks. This time, we will explore how colors mix and try creating a few new colors! Please email me at [jill.foster@d49.org](mailto:jill.foster@d49.org) with any questions that come to your mind!

##### *Ms. Katrina*

What a great first week we had! This week we will continue our 3D about me projects. We will be starting our study of energy with types of energy. For tech time, students will practice logging in and get familiar with Chrome music lab. Please remember to bring back a signed safety contract that was handed out to your student last week. We could use household recycled products for our building projects. This may include small boxes, cardboard, clean plastic containers, and empty toilet paper/paper towel rolls. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Email: [katrina.trujillo@d49.org](mailto:katrina.trujillo@d49.org)

##### *Ms. Stacy's Class (K-1)*

What a FANTASTIC start to our school year we had last week. I can't thank you enough for sharing your precious children with me. I had a wonderful first week and am looking forward to growing and learning with these amazing students this year.

This week we will continue to get to know one another and we will be talking about how we want to be treated by one another and build our class social contract. This will be the basis for our core class rules and expectations. This week we will also be learning about what a fire drill is and how and where we go when that happens. Lot of focus this week on procedures and building peer relationships so your child gets to feeling comfortable and feels a sense of belonging which will be a great start as we begin our units in a few weeks.

Have a wonderful week. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

[stacy.kley@d49.org](mailto:stacy.kley@d49.org)

##### *Ms. Kassi's 2/3 Class*

Thank you students and families for helping us have a great first week in 2/3rd grade! Please make sure your students have a refillable water bottle and a nut free lunch with at least two snacks.

This week we are starting our content units. In social studies we will begin, America the Beautiful. We will be able to define a region, landmark, and symbol. In science, we begin our unit on rocks, erosion, and landforms. We will learn about the layers of the earth and our focus for the semester, the geosphere.

This week students also sat in their new teams during work time. During team time, teams got to know one another. .

*Please do not hesitate to email me anytime with any questions or concerns at [kassi.nemeth@d49.org](mailto:kassi.nemeth@d49.org).*

### *Ms Leanne's Class (4-5)*

What a wonderful start to school! We will dive into our science unit this week and look at the history of energy. We'll also look at how much energy we use and where it comes from. Andy Warhol is the artist we will be studying this week and next week. Last week we looked at what causes conflict. Now we'll compare the list of causes of the American Civil War

to our list of causes of our own conflicts. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns [leanne.mckinney@d49.org](mailto:leanne.mckinney@d49.org)

### *Ms Katrina's Class (6-7)*

I had such a great time getting to know all of my new students and connecting with returning students this last week! Please remember to bring back a signed safety contract that was handed out to your student last week. This week we will be continuing our introduction to our Wolf pack groups in science. We will also start our study of lab equipment and how to use the equipment safely. In social studies, students will be put into a Greek city state group as we begin to look at the characteristics of each polis. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Email: [katrina.trujillo@d49.org](mailto:katrina.trujillo@d49.org)

## **PROGRAM REMINDERS**

### ***What a Great First Week!***

We couldn't be happier with how well the first week went here at school! It was DELIGHTFUL to see you and your wonderful children, and we really enjoyed having them in our classrooms. In the weeks ahead, communication will continue to be key to your child's success, so please continue to read the weekly newsletters and keep us informed of anything that will be helpful for classroom teachers to know. We are so pleased to be your partner in your child's homeschooling adventure, and we want to be a great resource to you and your child!

### ***Orientation Presentation***

For those of you interested in the information presented at Orientation, please click [here](#) for the slides. We always appreciate how well-informed our families are!

### ***Safety Drills August 29, 30, and 31***

In our continued efforts to best serve your students, we will be conducting safety drills for our classes on August 29, 30, and 31. Safety drills last approximately 10 minutes, and during that time, an announcement will be made over the PA system directing staff and students to remain inside their

classrooms for the Lockdown Drill which includes the terminology, "Locks, Lights, Out of Sight." During the time, FHP staff will be with students and our staff will communicate silently with our cellphones and laptops to be sure that all students were safe and accounted for.

All students will be in classrooms with their FHP staff who will remind students that it is just a drill and that there is no cause for concern. At the conclusion of the drill, it will be announced calmly and quietly that the drill is over and classes will resume with what they had been doing prior to the drill.

When we have a lockdown or lockout drill, we can not allow anyone entrance into the building. I know this may be inconvenient, but it's very important that we put everyone's safety first, and that means practicing these drills in a way that is consistent with how they are to be run.

I know that I am not alone in my dislike for the need for these drills, but I do also see the need for the safety drill. It is of the utmost importance that your children are safe when in our care. We conduct these drills so that we can ensure safety while students are in our care, and the FHP staff appreciates your understanding and trust. Should you have any follow-up questions, please contact me and I'll be happy to talk with you.

I would suggest giving your child a heads-up prior to their enrichment day with us to go over the details of the drill that I have mentioned above so that they know what the drill is and what they can expect, especially if your child can get a little nervous or anxious about drills.

### ***Notice of Intent - Filing with the District***

The state of Colorado wants to have a teacher of record on file for every homeschool family. Most homeschool families choose to fill out the NOI, so they are the teacher on record with the state through their local district. It does not cost anything and there are no curriculum requirements apart from the state subject suggestions.

Here are the steps for filing your NOI through D49:

**Step 1:** Print and/or fill out the D49 NOI form digitally (found on the right side of the page under "Homeschool Resources": <https://www.d49.org/domain/2101>)

**Step 2:** Scan or take a picture of the paper copy, if you did not fill out digitally

**Step 3:** Email it to D49 Central Registration at [registration@d49.org](mailto:registration@d49.org)

**Step 4:** Central registration will usually send you a confirmation email saying it has been received for the year and you are DONE!

### ***Drop off and pick up***

One of our top priorities here at FHP is the safety and wellbeing of your students. For this reason we would ask you to read through the below directions regarding Drop Off and Pick Up.

Please note that the front doors will be opened and someone will be attending to the Kiss and Go lane **no sooner than 8:15am.**

To expedite the process and increase safety and security, strive to **drop off your students at 8:15AM.** We do share the parking lot with the preschool next door that opens its doors at 8:30AM.

#### **Entering the Parking Lot:**

- 1) When entering the parking lot, please **make the first right** and follow a counter-clockwise direction around the lot.
- 2) Decide whether you would like to park and walk your student into the building -OR- whether you would like to drop your student(s) off at the curb at Kiss and Go.

**\*Please Note:** Cars may not be left unattended along the curb. If you want to walk your student into school, you must park in a parking space.

#### **Directions for Kiss and Go, Drop Off Lane:**

- 1) Please stay as close to the curb as possible while you are waiting to drop off your student so that those wanting to park can continue around the parking lot.
- 2) Do not let your student exit the car until you have reached Ms. Nancy (or other FHP employee supervising Kiss and Go) and she has begun to assist your student in exiting the car.
- 3) Please make sure your student is ready to exit the car immediately once you enter the drop off cone zone so as to not hold up traffic.
- 4) Students may only exit the car on the curb side, DO NOT let them exit to the left side of the car as cars could be driving through the parking lot.

#### **Directions for Parking your Car and Walking Your Student Into the Building:**

- 1) If you are parking and walking your student into the building, please note that the safest way through the parking lot is to make your way to the west side of the parking lot (near the shed and large IVES playground) and follow the sidewalk to our walkway.

**\*Please Note:** For safety reasons, students are NOT allowed to walk through the parking lot unattended, please use the Kiss and Go Lane if you will not be walking them in yourself.

#### **Dismissal Pick-Up:**

We ask that all parents come into the building to pick up their students. This gives you a chance to have a short conversation with your student's teacher each day. Please be sure to park in a designated parking space. We will open our main door **at 3:10 pm** so that you may come into the building and head to your student's classroom. Teachers will begin dismissal, from their classrooms, **at 3:15 pm.**

**\*Please Note:** Banning Lewis Preparatory Academy (the school adjacent to ours) dismisses at 3:15 as well, please be sure to plan for traffic accordingly when scheduling what time to arrive at FHP.

**\*Please Note:** There is a neighborhood street (Pacific Crest Drive) just north of our doors that has parking along the street, a crosswalk, and a sidewalk leading to our doors. This will be a great place for overflow parking if it is needed.

### ***NEW INFORMATION - Parent Portal Account Access***

Thank you to all our parents who have tried to set up their Parent Portal in Powerschool, or tried to add an additional student. I apologize that some of you have not been able to do this.

**Directions for the initial set up of your Parent Portal:** If you still need to set up your account, follow these directions: [PS Parent Portal Set Up](#). If you have attempted to set up your account and are still having problems, please contact Nancy Carder (nancy.carder@d49.org) and she can change your password and help you get logged in.


**Directions for adding your student(s) to your account:** Once you have created your Parent Portal account you will need to add your students. Under the student tab, click on Account Preferences, located on the bottom left corner of the menu bar. Then click the Add button. You will then enter your student's Access Id# and Password. You should have received these in a District email, but if you do not have them, Nancy Carder can get them to you.

Thank you for taking the time to create your parent portal. It is very important as it contains all the paperwork described in the next box.

### ***New Procedure for Orientation (Beginning of School) Paperwork -***

All FHP 'beginning of school' paperwork is now electronic!!! So it is much easier to fill it out and submit. All parents will log into their PowerSchool Parent Portal and select 'forms' on the left hand side of your screen and fill all forms electronically. Please note, once you are in your PowerSchool parent portal, you will see each of your students have a tab at the top of the page. Parents will click each student tab, then choose 'forms', fill out and submit all the paperwork.

We need the following forms for each Enrichment student, as soon as possible:

1. D49 Annual Health Forms - *After your forms are completed, Rachel White, FHP's Health Assistant for FHP IVES Campus, will contact you if your student has any medical conditions to be sure FHP has all the paperwork & plan in place.*
2. FHP Parent/Student Handbook Signature Page-FHP Parent Student Handbook Link:  
 [2023-2024 FHP Parent-Student Handbook.pdf](#)
3. D49 Computer Network Agreement
4. **BRIDGE STUDENTS ONLY:** FHP MAP - Mutually Agreed Upon Plan

**D49 PowerSchool Parent Portal:** [PowerSchool Parent Portal Link](#)

**Cannot remember your log in or password?** Please see above box for information about setting up your Parent Portal. If you are still having issues please contact Nancy Carder (nancy.carder@d49.org) to get yourself up and running!

**Don't have a PowerSchool Parent Portal?** Please click here for a help page that will walk you through your set up: [PowerSchool Parent Creation Guide](#)

## ***STAR 360 is Here!***

Due to an abundance of interest, we have decided to make STAR 360 assessments ready earlier than we have in years past, and we will make it available again in January and in the spring as well.

New as of the 2019-2020 school year, STAR 360 is back and ready for FHP students! We have partnered with STAR Renaissance to offer this testing option on a voluntary (no requirement) basis. This option is available to all enrolled FHP students, is free of charge, and gives nearly instant results that will be sent to you via email. The goal of including this as an option to parents is to allow for another layer in our partnership with you.

### ***Some benefits of STAR 360\* include:***

\*It can be taken multiple times throughout the school year. This can give you vital information about ***your student's strengths and areas of growth in real-time***. This empowers you to adjust your homeschooling instruction to set goals that can be measured regularly.

\*STAR is a ***nationally normed test that you can use as (or in addition to) the state requirements for odd year (grades 3-11) testing***.

\*STAR assesses in ***both reading and math*** and is aligned to Colorado State Standards.

\*Most assessments take ***20-30 minutes*** as it utilizes a computer-adaptive design, meaning that questions quickly become individualized, allowing for efficiency and accuracy.

\*As always, ***student information is kept private***.

If you're ready to get started, here is what you can expect:

### **What to Expect:**

1) *The STAR test takes about 20-35 minutes per section.* There are two sections--Reading and Math, so the total for the test will take about 60 minutes.

2) *The test is on the computer and timed.* As far as I know, there is not a clock in the top right corner that counts down, but please instruct your child to still answer each question even if the time expires.

3) *You will get an email with the results from Ms. Katie.* The results will include an overall score in both reading and math that can be used as a composite. You will also see your student's National Percentile Rank (NPR). These are the two requirements for standardized testing for compliance with the state of Colorado, so it fulfills your testing requirement at the odd grade levels when homeschooling. Please be sure to send me an email so that I may share the results with you when your child is finished.

4) *I will see the results of the test, but I am not recording them anywhere.* I just need to be able to login to see the results and print them out for you. If you would like to discuss the

results, we can certainly schedule a time to do that so you're very clear on what the data tells us.

5) *If you are having your child complete the test at home, please make testing conditions as quiet as possible.* If your child is easily distracted or requires a very quiet room when testing, please send him/her with ear plugs to block the noise. If you are testing at home, please do your best to ensure that the environment is suitable for your child's best results. The test can be paused as well if a sudden distraction arises. ***Also, please be sure to provide an appropriate assessment proctoring experience (don't help your child, don't give answers or hints, don't read for them, etc).***

### ***Ready to Get Started?***

The STAR 360 assessment fulfills the requirement for state testing, and if you send your results to Ms. Kassi Nemeth ([kassi.nemeth@d49.org](mailto:kassi.nemeth@d49.org)), she can file the results on your behalf. To access the assessment, please go to: [clever.com/in/district49](https://clever.com/in/district49). This should prompt your student to login with their Google ID (student number and password—password for all students is fhp2022). If you need that login information, please send a quick email to Ms. Rachel ([rachel.white@d49.org](mailto:rachel.white@d49.org)) and she can get that to you.

Once your child has logged into Clever, they should be able to click on the STAR Renaissance tab. There will be the option to take STAR Reading and STAR Math. If your child is prompted to login to STAR, they should use their student number (same number as in the Google ID) and the password is abc.

*Just prior to starting the STAR360 assessment, it may prompt for a monitor password. That password is admin.*

### **Home Administration of the STAR360 Assessment:**

**If you are using this assessment to submit records to the state, please be sure to proctor the assessment with the same guidelines we would use at school: provide a quiet, distraction-free space, don't give any answers/help with any answers, don't read the question for your child.**

***The testing window spans August 21-September 21, 2023.***

After your student takes the assessment, send Katie Boal ([kathryn.boal@d49.org](mailto:kathryn.boal@d49.org)) a quick email and she can get you the results. As always, please let us know if you have any questions.

## ***Who do I contact if...***

[nancy.carder@d49.org](mailto:nancy.carder@d49.org) : Nancy Carder can answer questions about registering your child with us, records being transferred and curriculum lending. Also, if your email address needs to be updated (to make sure you are receiving the newsletter), please contact Ms. Nancy.

[rachel.white@d49.org](mailto:rachel.white@d49.org) : Rachel White is who you would contact if your student is absent for the day or if you need to drop off late or pick up early (719)495-5373. She's also who you would contact if your child has any updates on their medical records or medical needs.

[leanne.mckinney@d49.org](mailto:leanne.mckinney@d49.org) : Leanne McKinney is who you'd email if you have general FHEP questions.

[heather.krammas@d49.org](mailto:heather.krammas@d49.org) : Heather Krammas is who you'd email if you have any questions about our Bridge Program.

**Classroom Teachers:** Please contact your child's individual classroom teacher if your child is going to be absent. Individual teacher contact information is as follows:

K/1: Ms. Stacy [stacy.kley@d49.org](mailto:stacy.kley@d49.org)

2/3 : Ms. Kassi [kassi.nemeth@d49.org](mailto:kassi.nemeth@d49.org)

3-6 STEAM: Ms. Jill and Ms. Katrina [jill.foster@d49.org](mailto:jill.foster@d49.org), [katrina.trujillo@d49.org](mailto:katrina.trujillo@d49.org)

4/5: Ms. Leanne [leanne.mckinney@d49.org](mailto:leanne.mckinney@d49.org)

6/7: Ms. Katrina [katrinal.trujillo@d49.org](mailto:katrinal.trujillo@d49.org)

## ***Healthroom Notes:***

As we are getting back in the swing of things I just want to keep reminding families that **we are a peanut/tree nut free environment and do have children with severe allergies in attendance, so please double check your ingredients on food sent to school!**

If you have updated shot records/immunization waivers, I will always take those via email or a physical copy. Please reach out with any questions or concerns.

Ms. Rachel

[rachel.white@d49.org](mailto:rachel.white@d49.org)

## ***Picture Day:***

Mark your calendars! We will have picture day **September 5th, 6th, and 7th**. Every year we schedule a professional photographer to come in and take school photos. Photos are taken on the same day that your student attends classes. There is no need for a parent to come on a special day or time.....

Please do not send your student to school in a costume or hats on this day!

The photographer will be in the building from 9 AM to 12:30 PM on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, September 5th, 6th, and 7th. They will take both individual and class photos.

We use the company Inter-State Studio and they have shifted to an online ordering format. They have asked for a list of parent emails which help to add an extra layer of security to their online store and ensure a customer is verified and allowed to purchase for a particular student.



Inter-State Studio will then be able to directly send parents:

- Picture Day Reminders with links to order online before Picture Day
- An email with a link to view their student's picture and order online shortly after Picture Day, if they did not preorder

More information about ordering will be available soon. If you would **NOT** like your email shared, please message Ms. Rachel at [rachel.white@d49.org](mailto:rachel.white@d49.org)

### ***Great Opportunity for Dyslexia Learning Therapy Services***

As some of you may remember, we worked closely with the dyslexia specialists at Children's Hospital last year to bring you an opportunity to learn more about dyslexia and to learn more about existing resources in the Pikes Peak Region.

Through our continued efforts, we have been able to work out a partnership for FHP students with dyslexia to receive services at a deeply discounted rate through Children's Hospital. We need a group of at least 15 students for Children's to be able to offer the services at a deeply discounted rate. Services provided would require a computer or tablet on which virtual meetings would be possible as the dyslexia learning therapy services would be offered online in a small group setting (2-4 students per group usually). Parents would also have to be able to sit with their child while receiving dyslexia learning therapy virtually.

If you are interested in learning more about the services that can be provided for Falcon Homeschool Program students through Children's Hospital, please complete this [survey](#).

### ***Calendars for 2023-2024 School Year***

Below please find the links to our calendars for the year. If we have any updates, we will notify families as soon as possible. Please note that D49 has discontinued the app that was previously used, and we'll be relying on the website to communicate information such as snow days in the future.

 [2023-2024 FHP Enrichment Calendar.pdf](#)

 [2023-2024 FHP Bridge Calendar.pdf](#)

## ***FHEP Pep August 29, 20, 32 "Sports Day"***

Show your school spirit by wearing your favorite sports gear. You can wear your favorite team gear, a shirt that shows what sport you like or a jersey of a team you play or have played for. Have fun with it and learn something new about your classmates!



## ***Landsharks Running Club: Northern COS Homeschool Hammerheads***



We offer a non-competitive youth program to introduce running to young athletes in a safe and fun environment. The focus is on self-improvement, being an encouraging teammate, and making new friends. The Fall Cross Country Series is a fun running program led by coaches, parents and teachers and is open to students in kindergarten through 6th grade. Please remember to purchase a team race shirt if this is your first season running.

**Practices** are scheduled on **Mondays** 4:15-5pm at Leaping Lizard Park in Flying Horse and **Fridays** 5-5:45pm west of Frank Costello Park at the trailhead off of Potomac Dr. Our first practice will be September 11, 2023 and ending on October 09, 2023. Practices consist of running games and workouts with a strong focus on fun.

**Races** are held in the afternoons at the Air Force Academy. At the races, runners receive a race tag with their number, ribbons and a series medal at the final race. Race results are posted on the Landsharks website. Meets are tentatively scheduled at 3:00pm at the Falcon Stadium South Parking Lot on the following Sunday afternoons: September 24 October 1 October 8, 2023 Runners run ONE (1) of the following distances: Kindergarten & 1<sup>st</sup> grade 0.5 miles only, 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade 1 mile OR 1.5 miles.

**Registration opens July 24, 2023 at 9am and closes September 8 2023 at 5:00 p.m.**  
**Runners must be registered prior to their first practice.**

**Please register online at [www.Landsharksrunningclub.com](http://www.Landsharksrunningclub.com)  
\$68 registration fee through September 1, 2023 then an additional \$10/runner fee applies**

I look forward to working with your athletes! Please consider volunteering to help coach or work at our race site. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer,

**Coach:** Danny and Leah Wicks

**Email:** [leahanddanny@comcast.net](mailto:leahanddanny@comcast.net)