



## Falcon Homeschool Program Newsletter

**August 29, 30 and 31 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*

Last week we had fun figuring out how to put instruments into family categories. This week, we will look more closely at the string family and will also perform a “cup” routine to a famous string piece during our music warm up time. Our art task cards will give us the chance to practice using warm and cool colors.

Don't forget that it's FHEP Pep this week and students may dress for “Sports” day. That could be clothing or colors for a specific team or even just showing off a favorite type of sport!! Please email me at [jill.foster@d49.org](mailto:jill.foster@d49.org) with any questions that come to your mind!

##### *Ms. Katrina*

After learning about types of energy last week, we will be diving into our study of sound this week. We will also be using our tech time to explore Prodigy Math. Please bring in empty and clean recycled household plastics and containers for use as students design and build their own musical instruments in the next couple of weeks. 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)*

Looking forward to another wonderful week ahead. This week is FHEP PEP week and students can come to school in anything sports themed if they so choose.

In Social Studies, this week we are talking about how we can be a responsible citizen. We will discuss why we have rules and go over our classroom rules we came up with together last week to build our Social Contract. In Science, we will look at the materials that make up the earth's surface and why they are important. We will begin by looking at the different layers of the earth.

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*

Hello wonderful 2/3rd grade families! Last week your students were assigned their color teams for work times. These groups were very thoughtfully created to increase student engagement and success. This week we will also be starting our class jobs. So make sure to ask your student what their job is each week!.

In Social Studies, we will be learning all about Old Glory, our American Flag, plus the Pledge of

Allegiance. In science, we will be discussing landforms and students will create a mini presentation in our teams about a chosen landform. *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)***

FHEP PEP this week, come in anything sports themed! In Science, we'll be learning about renewable and non renewable energy. Students will also decide if objects are consumers or producers of electricity. We'll continue to learn about Andy Warhol and the concept of screen printing. Now that students know some of the causes of the Civil War, we are going to put them in a timeline and discuss them. 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)***

Don't forget that it's FHEP Pep this week and students may dress for "Sports" day. That could be clothing or colors for a specific team or even just showing off a favorite type of sport. This week in Science we will be learning about and researching the gray wolf. We will also be identifying the difference between biotic and abiotic factors in an ecosystem. In our science lab block we will be introducing and using lab equipment. In social studies students will start planning their Greek group projects and activities they want to complete this semester in their group. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions. Email: [katrina.trujillo@d49.org](mailto:katrina.trujillo@d49.org)

## **PROGRAM REMINDERS**

### ***Safety Drills This Week***

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!

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

***If you are still having issues logging into your account, please email Nancy Carder*** ([nancy.carder@d49.org](mailto:nancy.carder@d49.org))

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](mailto: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–August 21-September 21, 2023***

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.

Established in the 2019-2020 school year, STAR 360 continues to be a great testing option on a voluntary (no requirement) basis for FHP students. 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.

### ***Notes from the Healthroom:***

Please complete the D49 Annual Health Form in your parent portal in powerschool if you haven't already, **ESPECIALLY** if your child has any specific health concerns, ie. allergies, needs medication, special circumstances with care, and so on. I just want to be equipped with all the tools I need regarding your children so they are healthy, and happy. Also a reminder that immunization exemptions are needed to be filled out **EACH** year, and if you have any updated shot records you can email or bring me a copy whenever. Lastly, we are a **NUT FREE** campus, please please check your child's lunch and look for ingredients that say "may contain" as well.

### ***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.

We still need to fill about five spots to launch this program, and thank you to the many families who have already expressed interest. We'll follow up next week with more details. 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](#).

## ***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)

