

# William H. Farquhar Middle School

17017 Batchellors Forest Road  
Olney, Maryland 20832



Main Office: 240-740-1200

Angelica Rivas-Smith, Acting Principal

August 8, 2023

Dear William H. Farquhar Middle School Students and Families,

On behalf of the Farquhar faculty and staff, welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! As your acting principal this year, I am eager to establish meaningful relationships in the community and support all of our students' academic and social-emotional success. Our leadership team has been hard at work all summer preparing a program that will help our students thrive in a welcoming environment designed for early adolescent learners and the families who love them. We are committed to leading with integrity and clarity with a goal of building trust with all stakeholders of the Farquhar community.

## **Bell Schedule & ROCK Time:**

We will continue our focus on social-emotional learning and wellbeing during ROCK Time, formerly known as "Dimensions of Student Wellness" (DSW). You can review the vision and purpose of ROCK Time as well as the daily bell schedule in [this resource](#). You may also ensure your student is prepared for the school year with this [supply list](#), as well as the summer [reading](#) and [math](#) information, also available on the FMS website. In addition, the [FMS Important Contacts List](#) is provided for your reference.

## **School-to-Home Communication:**

Family communication plays a critical role toward building trust at Farquhar Middle School. I encourage all parents and guardians to stay connected with school events and initiatives to support our students' success and wellbeing. We have multiple avenues for you to stay in-the-know:

- **Roadrunner's Digest:** The principal's weekly newsletter will be published each Sunday afternoon electronically. It will include relevant information regarding grade level teams, upcoming events, updates from our Parent Teacher Association (PTA), counseling, athletics, etc. The link to the Roadrunner's Digest will be emailed weekly, posted on the FMS Twitter account, and accessible on the FMS website.
- **Blackboard Connect Emails and Calls:** This will be the primary medium to communicate emergency notifications or changes that impact the daily operations or schedule at FMS. Please ensure that your email and phone number are updated and correct on the ParentVUE platform, so that these important notifications make it to you in a timely manner.
- **Website:** Visit us at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/farquharms/> to view the daily announcements, find contact information, and stay informed of school events.
- **Join the PTA:** We need parents to be active members of the Farquhar MS PTA. Our goal is for our PTA to be representative of our community. Please join today at <https://fmspta.memberhub.com/w/membership>
- **Farquhar Morning Show:** Our student-produced show provides daily announcements, a glimpse into middle school and highlights the expertise of Farquhar's TV production class.
- **Twitter:** Twitter is a fantastic way to receive quick reminders about school events, hear of exciting classroom experiences and see pictures of daily life at FMS. Follow us **@farquharms**

### **Important Dates:**

- **August 16:** Community Meet-and-Greet: Meet the new Farquhar administrative team at Mamma Lucia's in Olney from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- **August 24:** New Student Orientation (MCPS bus transportation provided) from 7:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. This event is for all rising 6th grade students and all **new** to FMS 7th and 8th grade students. The agenda for the day is included at the end of this message.
- **August 24:** Parent Academy for all **new** to FMS parents from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.; learn more about FMS and how to support your middle school student from our counseling team, and engage with our FMS parent panel.
- **August 28:** First day of school (7:50 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)
- **August 30:** Virtual Community Meet-and-Greet from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.; hear from the new Farquhar administrative team.
- **September 14:** Back-to-School Night; 5:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. (detailed agenda will be forthcoming).

### **Transportation, Arrival, and Dismissal Information:**

- Please review the bus route schedule to identify your student's bus number, route, pick-up time, and drop-off time. The bus route schedule will be forthcoming via ConnectED and also available on the FMS website.
- If your student is a car rider, students may enter the building for Connect Time at 7:50 a.m. Students who arrive before 7:50 a.m. are welcome to wait on the bus platform (under the front entrance bridge). Please be advised students will be unsupervised until 7:50 a.m.  
*Please abide by the traffic patterns in the student drop off lane and be mindful of pedestrians.*
- Your partnership to ensure your student is on time to school every day is critical and deeply appreciated. If you are in need of support in getting your student to school on time, please do not hesitate to reach out to your student's counselor or administrator.
- Early dismissals must be scheduled before 11:30 a.m. or after 12:28 p.m. as all staff supervise students in various locations during ROCK Time. Thank you for being mindful of this time when scheduling appointments for your student.

### **Cafeteria Information:**

- Students may purchase breakfast (\$1.30) and lunch (\$2.80) in the cafeteria. Students who qualify for the free and reduced meal program (FARMS) may receive breakfast and lunch at no cost.
- MCPS uses the MySchoolBucks app for any student who purchases lunch from the cafeteria. Download the app to manage your student's funds.
- The FARMS application will be sent home during the first week of school to qualifying families.

Through our collaboration, I am confident that we will have a successful school year and that each of our Roadrunners will thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Thank you for your support, communication, and partnership.

Sincerely,



Angelica Rivas-Smith  
Acting Principal  
William H. Farquhar Middle School

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## New Student Orientation

Thursday, August 24, 2023

Time	Activity	Location
7:45 - 8:05	<b>Student Arrival</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Chromebook distribution</li><li>Schedule distribution</li></ul>	Pick up name tag in lobby and report to cafeteria
8:05 - 9:15	<b>Town Hall</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Principal welcome message</li><li>Teacher introductions</li><li>What to expect at Farquhar</li><li>Meet the counselors</li><li>Dismiss to advisory groups</li></ul>	Cafeteria
9:15 - 9:40	<b>Intro to Advisory</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Distribute locker assignments</li><li>Practice opening lockers</li><li>Hallway traffic expectations</li></ul>	6th grade: <i>Refer to schedule</i> 7th grade: Rm 209 8th grade: Rm 106
<b>School Day Practice Run</b> Students will use their schedule to report to each class period, meet their teacher, preview course highlights, and get to know their classmates.		
9:45 - 9:55	Period 1	
10:00 - 10:10	Period 2	
10:15 - 10:25	Period 3	
10:30 - 10:40	Period 4	
10:45 - 11:15	<b>ROCK Time Presentation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Procedures and expectations during ROCK Time</li><li>Snack and Socialize!</li></ul>	Cafeteria
11:20 - 11:30	Period 5	
11:35 - 11:45	Period 6	
11:50 - 12:00	Period 7	

**All students exit through the main entrance and report to their bus or parent pick-up at noon.**