

THE FALCON POST

FOREST HILL COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Falcon Families,

As we approach winter break and prepare to conclude 2020, I would like to sincerely thank our Forest Hill High School community for working tirelessly in keeping things moving despite the unique challenges our nation is facing. With the majority of our scholars learning from home and overcoming the barriers of distance learning, we were still able to celebrate 662 Falcons earning honor roll for the first quarter. I can't help but speak proudly of the students that have been arriving on time to their classes, turning their cameras on to participate in engaging lessons, and submitting all assignments. Of course, I know this would not be possible without the loving teachers, parents, and guardians that push their scholars to excel even on the hardest of days.

We now make our way through Quarter 2 and I would like to challenge all of our Falcons to work with their families, teachers, guidance counselors, and administrators to make this Quarter a success! No one is alone in this. We have a multitude of resources available to help guide, support, and mentor every student and parent that needs assistance. Help us to help you by doing your part to actively attend and participate in all courses and reach out for help when you are struggling or feeling overwhelmed.

Our first semester will close on January 29, 2021. Typically, the end of the semester brings a week of semester exams; however, per a recent announcement from the School District and to provide for additional instructional time, semester exams will not occur. The exam column in SIS will not be utilized or factored into Semester 1 grades, but as always, teachers may create their own assessments to be used towards Quarter 2 grades. Semester 1 grades will be made up based on 50% Quarter 1 and 50% Quarter 2 grade weighting. Remember to follow all of our social media outlets for continuous updates

I look forward to what lies ahead of us in the new-year and use this time to reflect on the obstacles that brought us closer together as a Falcon family. Our school is a place truly made up of wonderful individuals and I am proud to continue to serve as your principal. From my family to yours, I wish you all a peaceful holiday season.

Educationally Yours,

Esther Rivera
Principal

December 2020 ◀ Volume 2 ◀ Issue 4 ◀

6901 Parker Avenue ▶ West Palm Beach, FL 33405 ▶ 561-540-2400 ▶ fhhs.palmbeachschools.org

Administration

Principal

Ms. Esther Rivera

Assistant Principals

Mr. Provenzano

9th grade

Mr. Loyd

10th grade

Dr. Permenter

11th grade

Dr. McDonnough

12th grade

Dr. Saarela-Vening

Academies & 11th/12th IB

Ms. Younce

Community School

Ms. Cook

Single School Culture

Coordinator





School Contacts

Guidance Counselors

- ▶ Ms. Tolbert
9th & 10th grade, A-C
Social Services
- ▶ Mrs. Noel
9th & 10th grade, D-M
- ▶ Mrs. Paul
9th & 10th grade, N-Z
- ▶ Ms. Sanchez
9th & 10th grade ELL
- ▶ Ms. Corcoran
11th grade, E-Z
AICE Diploma
- ▶ Mrs. Kokotoff
11th/12th grade, A-D
IB, DP & CP
- ▶ Mrs. Proby
12th grade, E-Z
- ▶ Mr. Lares
11th & 12th ELL

Coordinators

- ▶ Ms. Lopez
ESE
- ▶ Ms. Palan
ELL
- ▶ Ms. Malone
IB MYP & Choice
Programs
- ▶ Mrs. Skowron
IB, DP & CP
- ▶ Dr. Vening
AICE & AP

Activities

- ▶ Mrs. Cook
Director

Athletics

- ▶ Coach Kotouch
Director



“Baby Come Back”

We are ready for our students to start making their way back to school campus for brick and mortar learning! Our custodians have been working hard to make sure our campus is sanitized and safe for all of our students, faculty, and staff members. If your scholar is distance learning and would greatly benefit from coming back to school to meet academic success, let us know today and we would gladly welcome him or her back on campus. You can email Lauren.Cook@palmbeachschools.org to make the switch and come back today!

Title I Information

What is Title I?

Title I is part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), first passed into law as Elementary and Secondary Education Act in 1965 under President Johnson. The intent of this law was, and still is, to provide federal funds to support schools with high poverty rates to ensure that all children have the opportunity and resources to obtain high-quality education. To this, Title I funds are used to support instruction, professional development of teachers, and family engagement programs.

Title I and Your Rights

Title I schools must inform parents and family members of their rights. Parents and family members have the right to request information regarding their child’s teachers and paraprofessionals’ qualifications and their child’s academic level and growth on State assessments. All students, teachers, parents, and family members in a Title I school benefit from the funding and services regardless of which students made the school eligible. In a schoolwide program, all students, teachers, and families benefit.

Have You Completed the Lunch Application?

School’s qualify for Title I funding based on the percentage of students eligible to receive free /reduced priced meals. Please take the time to complete the application, so our school can receive the funding necessary to properly serve our students.

Upcoming Virtual Parent Information Nights

- ▶ ESOL Parent Leadership Council: January 7 at 5:30pm
- ▶ Bright Futures Night: January 12
- ▶ Second Semester Senior Night: February 6

If you have any questions regarding Title I information, please contact Antonio Loyd at Antonio.Loyd@palmbeachschools.org.

ASVAB

Forest Hill High School conducted an ASVAB assessment on November 20th, 2020. The ASVAB is an aptitude test that identifies skill strengths; it includes an interest inventory that highlights work-related interest areas where results can be utilized to guide career exploration. Students can engage in a guided session that provides an explanation of their scores followed by an opportunity to discover potentially satisfying career fields. To find out more about the ASVAB, please visit <https://www.asvabprogram.com/>. Any Forest Hill High student can take the assessment. For additional information, please contact Sgt. Thibodeau at steve.thibodeau@palmbeachschools.org.



Choice/CTE News

In our Choice Programs we are trying to provide meaningful and enriching lessons during this remote learning time. In our career related academies teachers such as the Medical Science academy they are doing virtual simulations of medical concepts rather than actual clinicals due to COVID-19. This provides students real world exposure in this work field from a virtual setting. We also had Junior Achievement do virtual Google Meet sessions with local business leaders to give account of how their industry works, what it is like, the strengths and weaknesses in the industry and career advancement opportunities. Lastly, we had our Choice Open house on November 17th for those families interested in applying for one or two of our Choice Programs. We have informational posts about our academy program as well as video recordings of the presentations of that night so you can rewatch them. The application window to apply for next school year is open now and won't close until January 24th.

For additional information, please contact Ms. Malone, Coordinator, at Barbara.malone@palmbeachschools.org.

National Merit Scholarship

Senior Ian Padgett was recognized as a National Merit Scholarship semi-finalist. Ian is an IB Career-related Programme student and has been in the Engineering & Technology Academy since his freshman year; Ian is also a Cambridge AICE Diploma recipient. He is interested in attending the University of Florida in the fall and majoring in Civil Engineering and minoring in film production.

Current Juniors are still able to participate in the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) if they have not already done so in January 2021. Please check your school email for details!



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What's Happening in Band

The Forest Hill High School Band under the Direction of Mr. George Reed includes the Marching Falcons, the Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, Concert Band and the Winter Guard. The Band Dept has received many accolades over the years. Although things look a bit different for them this year the band department continues to move forward.

Currently, the band has created a small "Pep Band" to support our Falcon football team and players at home games. They are currently in discussions about our Spring Semester. Some of the activities that are still on the table include Indoor Winds, Winter Guard (Color Guard), Indoor Percussion and Drumline. The department will be recruiting in the Spring in order to help rebuild the program. If you are interested in participating in any of the above activities, come by the Band room in Building 7 (7-120) to find out more.

This year, two of our students recently had the distinction of being selected as members of the Florida All-State Honor Band; Michael Amsden on the Trumpet and Maynor Pacajoj on the Euphonium. These two seniors during their time in high school have been selected for the All-District bands, received superior ratings for solos they performed and were both members of our very own State Finalist Marching Falcons.

Finally, if you are interested in becoming a part of this honored tradition and you have some experience in band or music, make sure to keep your eyes and ears open for information coming out in the Spring. Mr. Reed will be putting together an all new "drum corps" style drumline which will help represent Forest Hill High School at future school and community events.

Chorus Achievements

A big congratulations is in order for our chorus department. This year, our chorus is a 2020-2021 Florida Music Association All-State finalist.

All state leaders include senior students: *Hailey Levine and Sofia Villegas.* Way to go!



The chorus department top ensemble group Dimension 20, directed by Mr. Sterling Frederick, is preparing to perform in the annual Solo and Ensemble Music Performance Assessment.

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Student Government Association

Our Student Government Association led by advisor Emma Kapusta is always looking for ways to provide fun opportunities for our students that include social distancing. While the group was unable to host their annual Homecoming dance and typical spirit week activities this year due to COVID-19, they put on quite a Homecoming fun lunch and continued the tradition of running a Homecoming court. Students at home were able to tune in virtually on a Google Meet to be a part of the fun.

On Friday, November 20, SGA held their Homecoming Fun Lunch. The event



included soccer games, dancing, trivia games through Kahoot!, and the crowning of the Homecoming Court. Hundreds of votes came in to nominate and then elect fellow classmates. Congratulations to the following students on their royal victories:

Senior Homecoming King:

Noah Robbins

Senior Homecoming Queen:

Sharlize Limon

Junior Homecoming Prince:

Ethan McAfee

Junior Homecoming Princess:

Savannah Morris

Sophomore Homecoming Prince:

Jordy Gonzalez

Sophomore Homecoming Princess:

Ashley Ramos Suazo

Freshman Homecoming Prince:

Curzandre Anthony

Freshman Homecoming Princess:

Ryhana Richards

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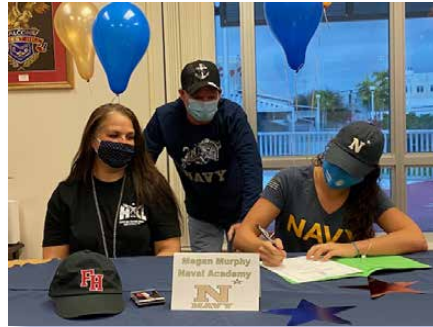
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Swim Team News

The Falcon girls swim team had another successful season. This year the team finished overall in 3rd place at the County Championships. Congratulations to Coach Murphy and the entire team! Senior Anna Auld won first place in the 200 and 500 freestyle while senior Megan Murphy placed first in the 100 backstroke and second place in the 100 butterfly.

The 400 freestyle relay team consisting of Caroline Perez, Anna Auld, Grace Auld, and Megan Murphy placed first and broke the Forest Hill school record time.

Both Megan Murphy and Anna Auld also signed swimming scholarships on November 11, 2020. Congratulations to Megan Murphy who signed with the Naval Academy and Anna Auld who signed with the University of Florida. We are so proud of our Falcons!



Megan Murphy signs her Naval Academy scholarship while her parents watch in excitement.



Anna Auld's proud parents watch carefully as she signs her swimming scholarship with the University of Florida.

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Inclusive Schools

The School District of Palm Beach County is the eleventh largest district in the country with a student enrollment of more than 193,000 students and a diverse population representing more than 150 countries, speaking a minimum of 140 languages. The district's mission is to ensure that all students receive a world-class education, regardless of immigration status, religion or country of origin. In 2017, a resolution and action plan was developed to promote Welcoming and Inclusive Schools. Forest Hill High School welcomes and celebrates all students from all different backgrounds.



MYP News

Forest Hill High MYP students are continuing to engage in the MYP Personal Project which will be due in April of 2021; students are in the process of completing their projects. Due to COVID-19 changes have been made to some of the normal requirements. The IB wanted to provide flexibility during these unprecedented times. Having more flexibility on how and what students can do for their project will give our students the opportunity to explore global context most likely from a COVID-19 perspective which will provide a first hand experience that can enhance the student's level of understanding and empathy for what others may be experiencing in different parts of the world while trying to propose a solution to the problem of the students choosing. In a time of great despair these MYP Personal Projects can elicit creativity, joy, and hope by approaching learning in a different manner.

For additional information, please contact Ms. Malone, Coordinator, at Barbara.malone@palmbeachschools.org.

Our Diploma (DP) & Career-related (CP) Program students are engaging in meaningful dialogue within their courses that will provide them with a skillset that will allow them to experience success at the post-secondary level. Many of our Year 2 (senior) students are starting to receive acceptances from various schools they have applied to. We are incredibly excited for the IB Class of 2021 as they are beginning to see the fruits of their labor. Many support systems are in place to assist our students in completing all of the IB DP and CP requirements.

For additional information, please contact Mrs. Skowron, Coordinator, at marlaina.skowron@palmbeachschools.org



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