

FSMS FALCON eNews

What's coming up this week?

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27 – **CAREER DAY for 8th graders – Dress for Success!**

FBISD's High School Academy Expo @ 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. at Wheeler Field House (16403 Lexington Blvd., Sugar Land

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28 – Parent night for 8th grade parents at Clements HS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29 – Parent night for 8th grade parents at Elkins HS

Parents, there is a lot of NEW information regarding high school this year – please make plans to attend the high school to which your child will be zoned! THANK YOU!

FORT SETTLEMENT MIDDLE SCHOOL HAS BEEN NAMED A 2015 TEXAS STATE SCHOOL OF CHARACTER

FBISD's Academy Expo takes place on Tuesday, January 27

Fort Bend ISD - Fort Bend ISD will host its annual Academy Expo on Tuesday, January 27, to give current eighth-grade students and their parents and/or guardians the opportunity to learn about the district's high school academy programs. The event will be held from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. at Wheeler Field House (16403 Lexington Blvd., Sugar Land, 77479).

Academies exist to provide specialized learning communities with concentrated and robust course pathways comprised of career and academic classes. The district currently offers the following high school academy programs:

Travis High School

- International Business and Marketing Academy
- Global Studies Academy

Dulles High School

- Math and Science Academy
- Engineering Academy

Hightower High School

- Medical Science Academy
- Digital Media Academy

During the Academy Expo, representatives from each FBISD academy will provide an overview of their academy course of study and opportunities available to students. Students and families who are unable to attend the Academy Expo may learn more about the high school academies by visiting the website at www.fortbendisd.com.

CONGRATULATIONS!

On Tuesday, January 20, Fort Settlement Middle School held the annual building level Geography Bee for our students. Congratulations go out to Sean D. for winning the Fort Settlement Middle School Geography Bee! Second Place went to Sameer R. and third place went to Abhishek P.

Congratulations to all! WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!!

FROM THE COUNSELORS

Current 8th graders and parents and guardians are strongly encouraged to attend the 9th Grade Course Selection Night at their student's zoned campus to hear about Endorsements and courses offered:

Clements HS - January 28th from 6:30-8:30
Elkins HS - January 29th from 6:00-8:00

CHS and EHS counselors will be at FSMS on February 4th to go over 9th grade course selection with the 8th graders.

The online course selection process opens January 19th through January 27th, and students will go in the computer labs with the FSMS counselors to input their Endorsement and course requests on February 19th.

OUR COLLEGE ROADTRIP!!

As part of our College and Career Readiness awareness, our FSMS Advisories beautifully decorated their doors based on a college/university. Awards were given in each grade level based on Most Informative, Most Creative, and Most Spirited. The counselors are very excited about the wonderful participation. Our winners are:

6th grade:

Most Informative: **Dartmouth** – Mrs. Fields

Most Creative: **University of North Carolina** – Mr. Rocha

Most Spirited: **Wesleyan** – Mrs. Allenspach

7th grade:

Most Informative (tie): **BYU** – Mrs. Perez and **Carnegie Mellon** – Mrs. Mills

Most Creative: **Columbia** – Mrs. Michelle Miller

Most Spirited: **Princeton** – Mrs. Rizvi

8th grade:

Most Informative: **Pepperdine** – Ms. Adams

Most Creative: **Cornell** – Mrs. Thuillez

Most Spirited: **Vanderbilt** – Mrs. McCallum

Multi Grade Level Advisory:

Most Informative: **Valdosta** - Mrs. Thompson

Most Creative: **Michigan State University** – Mrs. Fornatero

Most Spirited: **University of Houston** – Ms. Estrada

Special Recognition Extra Mile Award: Colleges with Fine Arts focus – Mrs. Peugnet and the Fine Arts students

Thank you to our PALS for helping with this activity!

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER!!

For future planning purposes:

Spring 2015 Testing Dates

TELPAS testing for ESL students - March 16 - April 8, 2015

STAAR Writing - 7th grade - March 30 - 31, 2015

STAAR Math - 8th grade - April 20, 2015

STAAR Reading - 8th grade - March 31, 2015

STAAR Math - 6th and 7th grade - April 21, 2015

STAAR Reading - 6th and 7th grade - April 22, 2015

STAAR Science - 8th grade - April 22, 2015

STAAR Social Studies - 8th grade - April 21, 2015

STAAR Algebra I EOC - May 5-9, 2015

<http://fsmcounselorscorner.weebly.com/>

Please remember that Semester Exams are scheduled for June 1, 2, 3 and 4 this year. June 3rd and 4th are 12:50 pm early dismissal days. Exams are NOT given early because of travel. Grades must be posted and records transferred - please schedule trips AFTER the school year has finished.

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRINCIPAL ~

This week I would like to discuss how you can get ready for the course selection process. The first thing you will want to do is look through the **Middle School Course Selection Guide** OR if you have an 8th grader, look through the **High School Course Selection Guide** found on the Fort Bend ISD website under the Curriculum Department -- <http://www.fortbendisd.com/Page/984> . There are thorough course descriptions in these guides. We will also be following up for our current 6th and 7th graders in Parent Information Evenings later in February. I will post the dates to these meetings next week.

Parents of 8th graders will also want to look at the FBISD **Chart Your Course Graduation and Career Planning** guide which you can find on our FSMS counselor's weebly site. These guides have a lot of really good information to help you and your child make decisions about their courses and future. Please note, even if you have already gone through this with older siblings, this is the year that basically

everything is different going into high school. Students graduating in 2018 and beyond will be asked to identify an area of interest for elective studies. Explanation of the different pathways begins on page 52 of the **Chart Your Course Guide**. Please take some time to look at the different pathways and endorsements. Our counselors and high school counselors will also talk to students about this new requirement. SEE THE DATES ABOVE!!

This week I would like to address some questions I frequently get from parents:

What courses are available for high school credit at FSMS?

Spanish (8th grade); Algebra I; Geometry; Principles of Information Technology (8th grade)

Why would I want/not want my child to take those courses?

This is very dependent on the characteristics of your child. These courses are academically challenging courses in which students earn high school credit. Many students simply *are not* ready. Many are. If you are unsure about these options, seek out your child's input, along with that of his/her teachers and counselor. Our counselors have years of experience with kids and with these courses. Listen to their advice. Use previous data and your child's study habits and outside schedule as guidelines. Some students need the challenge and increased work load, some do not. Some are developmentally ready and some are not. It is important to think of YOUR child, not your neighbor's child, or an older sibling.

Advantages of taking these high school courses in middle school:

1. Can free up future choices in high school
2. Students receive early credits toward graduation

Disadvantages:

1. Some students who are not ready experience frustration and even failure
2. Some students are not ready for the increased pressure
3. Students may miss some exploratory electives
4. For some students, a second year of language, instead of the first year, as a ninth grader adds increased pressure for the ninth grade year – high school also has different languages available - you may want to wait for these choices

Do these courses show up on the transcript? Do they count toward GPA?

Yes, the credit and grade appear on your child's transcript. YES!! The grade does count toward high school GPA. This is why you want to make the BEST decision for your child. DO not force them into something they are not ready for – and ultimately put them at a disadvantage in high school.

I like to tell parents as soon as you enroll your child in a high school credit course, you are applying to college. REMEMBER – the KEY to education is PACING not RACING!

BOXTOPS + PALS = AWESOME

Have you been holding on to those box tops and forgetting to bring them to school? Have you wanted to collect them from your groceries but it slips your mind? This is your chance to contribute! While PTO is constantly collecting box tops, we are holding a special collection event.

FSMS PALS will be in the carpool pull lane on the morning of Thursday, Jan 29 to collect box tops from you! Bring them with you when you drop off your kids and we will be there waiting!!

Box tops are redeemed in the form of money for the school. Every little bit helps to build up our school in special ways! Thank you so much for all of your support!! See you then! ~ FSMS PALS

INFORMATION ON ATHLETIC TEAM TRYOUTS for 7th and 8th graders!

Girls Track season will begin on Tuesday, February 17 at 4:00 p.m. Practice will be from 4:00 - 5:45 p.m., ALL athletes must have a ride ready for them by 5:45 p.m. EACH DAY. Athletes must have a sports physical turned in and signed by a doctor and all of these forms must be electronically submitted before the athlete is allowed to participate in track.

<https://fortbendis.rankonesport.com/Main/Default.aspx?ID=24e66440-c4c6-4efb-bb1e-52d3ef97ad15>

If there are conflicts with other after school activities please have the athlete come see Coach Robinson and we can see if we can work around it. We hope that all students can participate in as many activities as possible. Thank you!

Boys Track season will begin on Tuesday, February 17 at 4:00 p.m. Practice will be from 4:00 - 5:45 p.m., ALL athletes must have a ride ready for them by 5:45 p.m. EACH DAY. Athletes must have a sports physical turned in and signed by a doctor and all of these forms must be electronically submitted before the athlete is allowed to participate in track.

<https://fortbendis.rankonesport.com/Main/Default.aspx?ID=24e66440-c4c6-4efb-bb1e-52d3ef97ad15>

If there are conflicts with other after school activities please have the athlete come see Coach Plemons and we can see if we can work around it. We hope that all students can participate in as many activities as possible. Thank you! We look forward to track season starting! ~ FSMS Boys Track Coaches

Tennis Tryouts:

Girls: Feb 9, 10, and 11th.

Boys: Feb 16, 17, 18th

Time: 4:00-6:00

ALL athletes must have all forms turned in BEFORE tryouts. Please use the link above to access forms. THANK YOU!

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

Coaches will be offering volleyball open gym to girls on the following Fridays. Students will be able to come in, play a game, or just hit the volleyball around. We look forward to seeing! 1/23, 2/6, 2/20, 3/20, 4/10, 4/24

If you need information about Fort Settlement – check out our weebly site:

www.fsmsnest.weebly.com

