

October 2020

FALCON FOCUS NEWSLETTER



From the Principal

Growth Mindset Quote of the Month

You may have to fight a battle more than once to win it. (Margaret Thatcher)

Dear Forest Avenue Families,

As we begin the month of October, and our third week of in-person and remote learning, it is a pleasure to be sharing an update with you in our first edition of the Falcon Focus for the 2020 – 2021 School Year. As we embark on a school year filled with change due to COVID-19, I have to say what a pleasure it is to be interacting with students once again, both in the classrooms and hallways of Forest Ave and via Google Meets. They have done an exceptional job adjusting to the new protocols and procedures thrust upon them because of the changes necessary to ensure student and staff safety. I am extremely proud of our students and staff for their positive start to the school year. I am also very thankful for the patience, understanding, and support that all of you have shown towards our school community during these difficult times. I recognize the challenges that you face juggling the demands of work, home, and school during a pandemic and I appreciate all that you do in support of your children and our school community.

As we balance the demands of hybrid and remote learning with the necessary challenges that things like social distancing and contact tracing create, we strive to bring a sense of normalcy to the school year through school-wide activities like Birthday Lunch and the Leaves of Citizenship (which will be coming soon). Having had the opportunity to visit classrooms and interact with students during lunch, recess, and mask breaks I can tell you that it often seems like business as usual. Our students and staff are connecting in so many new ways. They are hard at work sharing, learning, and having fun.

With so many changes and new additions to our school community this year, I have asked all of our new staff members to write a brief bio, which we have included in this newsletter along with their photo. Where we are unable to have Open House this fall, hopefully this will help all of you to feel closer and better connected to our school.

I hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable fall season!

Sincerely, David Champigny
Principal, Forest Avenue School

Principal's
Message



From the Nurse

October

Welcome back returning Forest Ave students. I would like to welcome our Kindergarten classes and new students to Forest Ave. I had a very different summer compared to past summers but am ready to be back in school, even if it does look different from normal.

If you are in need of a backpack for your child, please contact me at the number or email below.

A Confidential Student Health Information form (green sheet) was sent home with your child, please fill this out and return with your child. This form will give me updated medical information on your child and phone numbers for notification. Kindergarten families filled this form out during registration. If any numbers have changed please let me know.

Please remember to bring in doctors' orders for inhalers and epipens along with the supplies to the health office as soon as possible for those students that require them at school. For students on daily medication, per Hudson Public School policy the medication needs to be brought in by a parent or guardian along with the doctor's order. Please call ahead when bringing in medication. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

If you have not done so already, please go to the link below to review the COVID-19 Parent Agreement form. It is very important that we all work together to keep our school community safe and healthy.

https://www.hudson.k12.ma.us/parents/parent_forms

If your child presents with any of the symptoms listed in the Parent Agreement form, please follow the scenarios in the document entitled COVID & KIDS. It was emailed home by Mr. Champigny on 09/29/2020.

Thank you and I look forward to working with you and your child throughout the school year.



**School
Nurse**

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Elementary School Attendance - Hybrid and Fully Remote Learning Models

In the 2020-2021 school year, most students will be learning both at home and in school. The following procedures describe how Hudson elementary schools will mark student attendance when students are learning from each of these environments.

Attendance for In-Person Learning

Students who are expected to be physically present and will be marked using the following attendance codes:

- Present
- Absent
- Tardy
- Dismissed

It is important to note that students who have opted for in-person learning cannot make day-to-day decisions about whether to attend school in-person or virtually. Students who are absent, tardy, or dismissed but otherwise able to attend their class virtually will not be prohibited from doing so. In these circumstances, however, a student's attendance status will not change to present. When absent, students and families must use their judgment in determining whether or not students would benefit from rest and recovery or virtual learning.

If a pattern of attendance emerges indicating that a student is not fulfilling their obligation to attend school in person, then a meeting with the student and family will take place in order to understand the barriers that exist to regular in-person learning and to create a plan to ensure that the student participates in their education in a way that is aligned to the selected learning plan.

When absent, students will have access to make up work via each subject's google classroom and/or through communication with the student's teachers.

Attendance for Remote Learning

Students who are expected to be logged into their classes remotely will be marked using the following attendance codes:

- Virtually Present
 - o To be marked present, students must log-on for morning meeting
- Virtually Absent
 - o If you do not attend morning meeting, you will be marked absent
 - o If you are marked absent, you may still do your classwork and attend all other online meetings
- Virtually Tardy
 - o If you sign-on to a meeting after morning meeting, but before 11am, you will be marked tardy

If a child is home sick, but is well enough to attend virtually, the same attendance guidelines are in effect.

Hudson Public Schools understands that there may be times when a student's home internet and/or school-issued device malfunctions, preventing virtual attendance. If a pattern of virtual absences emerges indicating that a student is not fulfilling their obligation to attend school virtually, then a meeting with the student and family will take place in order to understand the barriers that exist to regular participation in remote learning and to create a plan to ensure that the student participates in their education in a way that is aligned to the selected learning plan. (Continued)

Elementary School Attendance - Hybrid and Fully Remote Learning Models (continued)

Attendance for Students who are Subject to Quarantine or Self-Isolation

In accordance to DESE protocols for responding to COVID-19 scenarios in school and community settings, students may be subject to quarantine or self-isolation for upwards of 14 calendar days (or more if symptomatic).

If a student would otherwise be expected to attend school in person during a period of quarantine or self-isolation, then the student's attendance will be marked using the following attendance codes:

- Virtually Present
- Virtually Absent

If a student is symptomatic or recovering at home, we encourage communication with the classroom teacher, via e-mail and Google Classroom, to ensure continued engagement and access to make up work.

Save the Dates — School Picture Day

O'Connor Studios will be visiting Forest Avenue School to take school pictures. More information will be coming soon but for now please be sure to mark your calendar and save the dates below:

- Wednesday, October 28th – Picture Day for Cohort D
(by appointment @ Farley Elementary School)
- Tuesday, November 10th – Picture Day for Cohorts A & C
- Thursday, November 12th – Picture Day for Cohort B



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Twitter

Are you looking to stay up to date on all that is happening here at Forest Avenue School? Then why not follow us on Twitter at **HPSForestAve**.

Meet our newest staff members!



Bridget Sistare (Grade 1 Classroom Teacher)

Hello Forest Friends! My name is Miss Sistare and I am a first-grade teacher. I am so excited to be here at Forest Ave! This is my second year of teaching first grade. I love to read a good book, listen to music, and go to the beach when it's sunny. My favorite part about being a teacher is watching the students learn something new each day with a smile on their face!

Rachel Warpula (Grade 2 Classroom Teacher)

Hello everyone. My name is Miss Warpula. Many of you may know me already, as I have been working here at Forest Avenue School as a Para Educator for the last twelve years. I am excited to be teaching second grade this year. I loved teaching children so much as a Para Educator that I decided to go to school to pursue a career in teaching. I have an eighteen-year-old daughter named Mariah, and two cats. I love fishing, camping, and my favorite place to be is the beach. Again, I am so excited to be teaching here at Forest Ave.



Laura Jeffrey (Grade 2 Classroom Teacher)



Hello, my name is Laura Jeffrey and I am the new second grade teacher. I am very excited to be teaching here at Forest Ave. I have worked as an educator for nineteen years. Fourteen years were as a Pre-K and Kindergarten teacher and five years here at Forest Avenue in a few different roles. I live here in town with my boyfriend and my two daughters. We live on a farm and have many animals. I always joke that we live on a farm but our house is more like a zoo. I love to be outdoors especially kayaking, farming, and going for motorcycle rides. I am a huge sports fan and spent many years coaching and playing soccer with my oldest daughter Kelsie. She is all grown up and graduated from college this spring. My youngest daughter is eleven and is in sixth grade at Quinn. We spend a lot of time riding our horse and going to shows. I am very excited to be teaching second grade this year.

Andrea Halverson (Grade 3 Classroom Teacher)

Hello! My name is Andrea Halverson and I am so excited to be a part of the Forest Avenue Community. This is my 8th year teaching and my 6th year teaching third grade. I live right here in Hudson with my husband Nathan, my one-year-old daughter Emma and our dog Arya. I received my Master's Degree from UMass Amherst and continue my love of learning every day! I love to learn about new technology that I can use in and out of the classroom. I enjoy learning new languages, a new cooking recipe and even a new sport. I love to be outside whether it is running or playing sports or even swimming in the ocean. I also love to travel and was able to student teach in London when I was in college. I am so excited to give back to the community I live in and love and looking forward to a great year!



Meet more of our newest staff members!

Megan Bouchard (Grade 3 Classroom Teacher)

Hi Forest Families! My name is Megan Bouchard and I am excited to be starting my second year at Forest Avenue as a new teacher to third grade! I grew up in southern New Hampshire and enjoy visiting to spend time with my family. My students can tell you that I love to read and am always looking for new suggestions to add to our classroom library. I like to take walks and read outside, especially in the fall with the leaves changing colors and the cool, crisp days. I absolutely love being a part of the Forest Ave family and am thrilled to join the third grade team this year!



Janet Wyeth (Grade 4 Classroom Teacher)

Hello Forest Avenue School! My name is Janet Wyeth and I am a new fourth Grade Teacher. This is my first year teaching fourth Grade at Forest Avenue. I have eight years of experience working with children of all ages! I am originally from Lewisburg, PA but I currently live in Chelmsford. I enjoy going for walks outside, reading books and watching TV series on Netflix. I love anything that has to do with cats, pineapples, flamingos, flowers and the color purple. I am so excited to be here at Forest Avenue Elementary School. I love to build relationships with my students and learn about them outside of school. I hope everyone enjoys the school year!



Erin Gaffny (Physical Education Teacher)

Hi Everyone! I am so excited to see everyone back at Forest Ave! My name is Mrs. Gaffny and I am your new Physical Education teacher. You may recognize me, I taught second grade at Forest Ave for eleven years and third grade for two years. I cannot wait to introduce new games, activities and exercises to everyone at Forest Ave!



Kristy Monahan (ELL Teacher)

Kristy Monahan is a new ELL teacher coming from the Carlisle Public Schools where she taught grades K-8 ELL for the past ten years. She taught Spanish at a private high school for one year and studied Chinese at Beijing University for one summer. She also can speak Indonesian as she traveled there five times in the past fifteen years and her children are half Indonesian. When Kristy is not in school, she is having adventures with her two high-energy sons, ages 8 and 11 years old.



Erin Weaver (School Counselor)

My name is Ms. Weaver and I am the school counselor this year. I have experience working with kids, youth, and adults and I have a passion for helping others. Some of my favorite things are: being creative, cooking, listening to music, and enjoying the outdoors. I come from a big family and I love animals. Thank you for welcoming me to Forest Avenue School—I feel lucky to be working with the amazing, talented, and kid students at Forest this year!



Meet the rest of our newest staff members!

Molly Andres (School Psychology Graduate Intern)

Hi everyone! I am so excited to be working with you all! My name is Molly Andres and I am a School Psychology Graduate Intern. Before moving here two years ago, I lived in Pennsylvania where I finished my Bachelors Degree in Psychology. Now, I am receiving my Education Specialist Degree in School Psychology from Worcester State University. I hope to get to know each of you and know we will have a great year!



Rachel Miller (School Psychology Graduate Intern)

Hello! My name is Rachel Miller and I am a third year School Psychology intern. I completed my undergraduate work at Nichols College in Dudley where I majored in Psychology. I then continued right into my graduate studies at Worcester State University. I am very excited to work alongside the Forest Avenue staff, learn, and give assistance through this uncertain time we are in!

Donna Shown (Building Substitute)

My name is Donna Shown and I am the new building substitute. I am a wife and mother to three daughters Olivia age seven, Chloe age six, and Eliana age three. Olivia and Chloe attend Forest Avenue School and they think it is the coolest thing to have their mom here. I have been working with children newborn -preschool age for twenty years. I was at my last job at The New England center for children for eleven years as a teacher in a few different classrooms. I have always loved working with kids and I am so excited I get to be here at Forest Ave.



October Calendar

10/5	September Birthday Lunch for Students in Cohorts A & C
10/9	September Birthday Lunch for Students in Cohort B
10/12	No School – Columbus Day
10/19	October Birthday Lunch for Students in Cohorts A & C
10/22	Virtual Home & School Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.
10/23	October Birthday Lunch for Students in Cohort B

Cohort D Update

October

This year the administrators and teachers in the remote learning academy, also known as the Cohort D Dinosaurs, have been busy getting things up and going for students. Students who are part of Cohort D do all of their work remotely with an HPS teacher. Different from remote work in the spring, students are doing synchronous/live learning throughout the day with the teacher. Learning for Cohort D is set up as if students were in person in the building. They start and end each day with a whole class meeting and have whole group, small group, and independent work throughout the day. This is all done remotely.

If you would like to learn more, please check out the Cohort D website. You will also find this link on all of the elementary school home pages.

<https://sites.google.com/student.hudson.k12.ma.us/cohortdelementary/home?authuser=0>

How to support your child when they are working remotely:

If your child is part of Cohort D or if your child is working remotely as part of Cohort A or B for the hybrid model, here are some things you can do to support your child:

- Set up a learning space at home. It could be a quiet corner or a kitchen table, whatever works best for your family. Make sure all necessary materials are ready at the start of each day.
- Check the daily schedule for your child so you know when they need to log on and log off.
- Make sure when a teacher schedules a movement break, your child leaves the screen for a bit and does some type of movement activity. As anyone who has been working remotely knows, sitting for a long time is hard. When students get movement breaks it is important for them to take advantage that so they can refocus when learning begins.
- Let your child do their own work. Whoever is doing the work, does the learning. Sometimes when children are working at home, we want to rescue them when they are having trouble with learning. If you can provide some support for your child, while also letting them struggle, they build their capacity to be independent learners. It is also important for teachers to know if they are struggling with an assignment because they know where to focus their teaching.
- If your child is frustrated or struggling with an independent assignment, you can take a break and email the teacher. The teacher can provide additional support when necessary.
- If you have an emergency during the day, please call your home school. Teachers often do not get to email until late in the day or first thing in the morning. If you need a timely response, it is best to call the front office of your home school.

From the Home & School

Virtual Home & School meeting — Thursday 10/22 @ 6:30pm, Google Meet

Forest Avenue School will be holding its next virtual Home & School Meeting on Thursday, October 22nd starting at 6:30pm. The meeting will take place via Google Meet. **Parents who wish to join the meeting must email Mr. Champigny by noon on Monday the 19th sending him their name and email address. His email address is dchapingy@hudson.k12.ma.us.** The invitation to join the meeting will be sent approximately 5 minutes before the meeting, so please make sure we have the correct information for you.

We hope to see you then!

Box Tops Collection



The Box Tops mobile app uses state-of-the-art technology to scan your store receipt, find participating products, and instantly add Box Tops to your school's earnings online.



Some of you may have some old clip-style Box Tops off of packages. If you do, please send them to school with your child **by October 16th.**

Stay Tuned: Fall Fundraiser Coming Soon!

We have partnered with Charleston Wrap for our first fundraiser of the school year. This is a great way to help raise funds for Forest Avenue with 100% contact free ordering, paying, and delivery. The Fundraiser will run from October 15th—November 13th. Stayed tuned because details will be coming soon!



Save the Date: Savers Fundraiser December 12th

We will be collecting soft goods which include:

- Clothing and shoes (men's/women's/children's)
- Textiles (sheets/blankets/pillows/curtains/tablecloths)
- Accessories (hats/mittens/scarves/ties/socks/purses/wallets/bags/backpacks)