



Mustang Message

August 2010

Franconia Elementary School

Welcome back to school, Mighty Mustangs! We are still under construction, and when you return to Franconia in September, you'll notice many changes. You'll see new kindergarten rooms, a new gym and music rooms. You'll even notice a new doorway or wall that wasn't there before. We know you'll enjoy discovering all the changes as well as learning about the exciting learning opportunities your teachers have planned for you in the 2010-2011 school year. One thing is for sure: it's going to be another great year!

For Your Information

Franconia school hours

Set your clocks so you won't miss even a minute. Students should begin arriving by 8:40 a.m. Classes begin promptly at 8:55 a.m. and students should be in their classrooms at 8:55 a.m. to be considered on-time.

Mondays 8:55 a.m.-1:05 p.m.

Tuesdays-Fridays 8:55 a.m.-3:35 p.m.

Open House, Thursday, September 2 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Join other Franconia families at Open House. Come see your new classroom and meet your teacher! Class lists will be posted in the gym. Gather in the front of the building by **Door 1** and we'll open the doors at 2:00 p.m.

The PTA will also be present in the gym during Open House. Parents can join the PTA, pick up your pre-ordered school supplies, and enjoy a special surprise! In fact, from 2:30-3:30 p.m., the PTA will host a welcome back ice cream party for Franconia families. After you meet your teacher, stop by the gym and enjoy a tasty treat.

School begins Tuesday, September 7

Again, please note our school hours. On the first day of school classes will begin at 8:55 a.m. and dismiss at 3:35 p.m.

So that children will be safely supervised, walkers and car riders should not arrive before 8:40 a.m.

Back-to-School Night, Thursday, September 16 7:00 p.m.

Parents will learn about your school program from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Back-to-School Night, Thursday, September 16.

Meals at school

Students may bring their lunches from home or buy breakfast and/or lunch from the cafeteria. Menus are sent home monthly. Breakfast costs \$1.50 (\$.30 for reduced) and lunch costs \$2.65 (\$.40 for reduced). Milk is served with each lunch or may be purchased separately for \$.60. Ice cream, pretzels, and cookies are also available for purchase. Applications for free and reduced lunch are mailed directly to families. Requests are confidential.

School meals can be purchased with cash daily, or parents can use cash or personal checks to make advance payment to their child's personalized account. As an alternative, FCPS offers *My-LunchMoney.com*, an online prepayment service that allows parents to pay for meals with a credit or debit card and to check the status of their child's lunch account.

Please note that a "peanut free" table is reserved in the cafeteria for students with peanut allergies.

Changes in transportation? Send a note.

Safe student travel to and from school is very important. FCPS provides bus transportation for students who reside more than a mile from school. Check with the school office for exceptions.

For any change in a child's typical transportation arrangements, send a note to the teacher indicating the date of the change, the duration of the change, and the reason for the change.



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Let's Keep in Touch

Franconia School Office
703-822-2200
(8:00 a.m.— 4:30 p.m.)

Attendance Line:
703-822-2222
(4:30 p.m.—9:30 a.m.)

Health Room:
703-822-2210
(8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.)

Franconia's Website:
www.fcps.edu/FranconiaES/

To send e-mail to staff:
first name.last name@fcps.edu
(ex. *Jane.Smith@fcps.edu*)

Look for homework and important papers on **Wednesday**, our new take-home day. School news and fliers will also be posted to the school website on Wednesdays.

In case of bad weather or an emergency

Hazardous weather or other emergency situations may result in school closing, a two-hour delayed opening, or an early dismissal. Parents should plan in advance for student supervision in the event of an emergency schedule change and make certain their children understand what to do. Emergency closing information is available through **www.fcps.edu**, **Cable TV Channel 21**, **FCPS Keep in Touch**, and **area radio and TV stations**.

Safety first when visiting mustang country

All exterior doors are locked during school hours. To enter, just push the doorbell and the front office will remotely unlock the door. Upon entering the building, everyone must report to the office to sign in and receive a visitor's badge. A school security officer routinely monitors our school's adherence to security procedures.

If picking up a student before the end of school, send the teacher a note, whenever possible. If a student must leave unexpectedly, alert the office at least one hour ahead, if possible.

Your child's health

School health room services, including the administration of medication and modified first aid, are performed by the health room aide. If the child's condition requires more attention, the parent will be contacted. If we cannot reach you, we will contact those listed on your child's Emergency Care form. You can view, update, and submit your child's emergency care information via the FCPS program, weCare@school, which is available through the new Parent View account on 24-7.

Prescription and most over-the-counter medications at school require strict adult supervision and should not be in the child's possession. Forms to authorize staff to administer medication are available in the school office and online at www.fcps.edu/forms. Call the health room at 703-822-2210 for details.

Before starting school, all students entering sixth grade must have received a booster dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis) if at least five years have passed since the last dose of tetanus-containing vaccine.

Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

Students, parents, and staff greatly appreciate support from our PTA whose efforts provide our children with many enrichment opportunities. Franconia Elementary School is fortunate to have such an active PTA. Please support the PTA this year!

President— Carylin Waterval
Vice President — Paula Thompson
Treasurer — David Noguera
Corresponding Secretary—Rebekah Everest

Contact Carylin Waterval at Carylin_mother2@yahoo.com if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.

We're here to help

We may still be under construction, but we are here to help you if you have a question or need help. Our wonderful office staff can tell you the ins and outs of Mustang Country. Our school office is open Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Call 703-822-2200 or drop by (park and enter by **Door 2**), and we will gladly assist you. If we don't know the answer, we'll help you find it.

**STUDENT TRANSPORTATION
PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM TO SCHOOL
ON THE FIRST DAY**

Child's Name _____

Teacher _____

My child will go home as follows:

_____ Ride Bus # _____ to home.

_____ Ride Bus # _____ to child care provider/center below:

Provider's Name: _____

Provider's Address: _____

_____ Kiss N' Ride

Authorized to pick up child: _____

_____ Walker

_____ SACC

NEW FOR PARENTS OF KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS: For any school in Fairfax County, if no neighborhood child in 4th grade or higher is getting off of the bus with a kindergartner, a parent, designated adult, and/or sibling must be present to receive the kindergartner at the bus stop. If you have arranged for your child to be met at the bus stop by an adult other than yourself or another student, please complete the information below. If there is no one to accompany or receive a kindergartner, the child will be returned to Franconia School. All authorized persons need to be included on the student Emergency Care Card as well.

_____ I give permission for my kindergarten child to be met at the bus stop by _____
at the end of the school day.

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

Print Parent Name _____

Telephone _____

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