



Mustang Message

September 4, 2009



Franconia Elementary School

Boy, these sixth graders are getting down to business, and it's only the 5th week of school! While in the library, these students are learning some pretty useful skills. For them, it's all about indexes, tables of contents, taking notes and citing resources. Pretty soon these Mustangs will be able to take on any research challenge!

From the Principal

It's simple! The more school a child misses, the more likely he or she will fall behind academically. Although, teachers will allow students to make up the work missed, nothing can make up for the loss of a valuable day of instruction. Help make the most of your child's school experience by:

-Arriving at school on time. School starts at 8:55 a.m. Even being a few minutes tardy impacts your child's day.

-Avoiding family trips that disrupt your child's education. When possible, try to schedule vacations, doctors' appointments, and other commitments during school breaks.

-Insisting on your child attending school, even when he or she doesn't want to go. Let your child know it is his or her responsibility. If complaints become more frequent, try to get to the root of the cause. Sometimes children resist going to school because they neglected to study for a test, complete homework or finish a project. Or, they may be afraid of falling behind. Sometimes a child can be reluctant to go to school because of a fear of bullies, or you may hear, "My teacher hates me." When faced with such a situation, contact the child's teacher or counselor. We will work with you to support your child to ensure the school year is a great one.

Merrell Dade

Franconia Elementary School

6043 Franconia Rd.
Alexandria, VA 22310
703-822-2200
www.fcps.edu/FranconiaES
Merrell Dade, Principal
Nancy Mercer, Asst. Principal

For Your Information

Learn about Intersession on September 8

An intersession information meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8 at 6:30 in the school library. Parents new to intersession can learn about the ins and outs of this program and how it will benefit your child from our Intersession Coordinator, Tracy Morgan-Hale. Following the information meeting, the PTA will be holding their monthly meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. Please join us for this informative night!

Cell phones, MySpace, and Facebook impacting school?

More and more, we are noticing a trend of inappropriate behavior among students via cell phone texting and other electronic media that trickle into school and impact your child's instructional day. Help us manage this behavior that may have serious consequences in school. Monitor your child's cell phone and computer use. Does your child have a Facebook and/or a MySpace account? Many social networking sites have age limits that do not include elementary school students, and more students have accounts than you think. You may want to take a moment and search these sites to see if your child has an account. Talk with your child about using these new media of communication responsibly and safely.

What's happenin' in first grade this month?

Franconia first graders began another year of extended learning with enthusiasm and energy. Creating a caring classroom community where everyone can learn has been a focus for the beginning weeks of school. Students used the SmartBoard for language arts, math and science activities; practiced technology in the computer lab; and checked out books in the library. They wrote in journals, used Calendar math to develop reasoning and mathematical concepts, and made scientific observations about the weather. Wow, our first graders have really been busy!