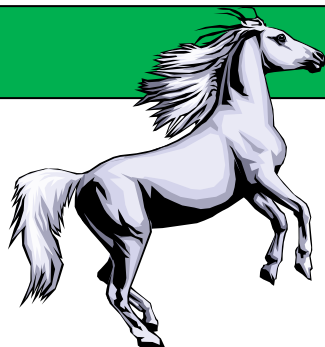


Mustang Message

We're Building Tomorrow

August 2011



Franconia

School

703-822-2200

6301 Beulah Street

Alexandria, Virginia 22310

www.fcps.edu/FranconiaES/

Franconia Elementary School

Welcome back to school, Mighty Mustangs! We have missed you and cannot wait to start a new school year! We are sure you noticed **BIG** changes to the building this summer. While part of the building is missing, there is no need to worry; everyone has a place to learn! In fact, you will be able to enjoy a brand new cafeteria and kitchen when you return. The teachers have planned exciting learning opportunities for you in the 2011-2012 school year and we know this year will be the best one yet!

Looking Ahead to a New School Year

Franconia school hours

Set your clocks so you will not miss 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 1

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 or at the rear gym doors and we'll open the doors at 2:00 p.m.

From 2:30 -3:30 p.m., the PTA will host a welcome back ice cream party for Franconia families. Parents can join the PTA and pick up pre-ordered school supplies while enjoying a cool ice cream treat in the school gym!

School begins Tuesday, September 6

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.

First PTA meeting, Tuesday, September 13

7:00 p.m.

Join us for the first PTA meeting of the 2011-2012 school year on September 13 in the school library. Students, parents, and staff greatly appreciate support from our PTA whose efforts provide our children with many enrichment opportunities. Please support the PTA this year. Your PTA membership form is enclosed and can be returned to the PTA during Open House.

PTA Board for the 2011-2012 School Year

President— Carylin Waterval

Vice President — Tracee Gartman

Treasurer — David Noguera

Recording Secretary—Cory O'Meara

Back-to-School Night, Thursday, September 15

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 15.

We are here to 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 and we will gladly assist you. If we don't know the answer, we'll help you find it.

Your child's health at school

School health room services, including the administration of medication and modified first aid, are performed by the health room aide. If a 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. View, update, and submit your child's emergency care information via the FCPS 24/7 Learning Parent View. To create an account and log-in for the first time, go to <http://www.fcps.edu/kit/parentview.pdf> for information.

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 <http://www.fcps.edu/forms.htm>. 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. Students without appropriate documentation will not be assigned a class. Contact Martha McCash at 703-822-2200 for more information.

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 (no charge for reduced) and lunch costs \$2.65 (\$.40 for reduced). Milk is served with each lunch or may be purchased separately for \$.60. Only one snack item will be available daily for students who wish to supplement their lunch. Applications for free and reduced lunch are mailed directly to families and must be completed and returned each school year. 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 *MyLunchMoney.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. Additionally, breakfast service for students will begin on Thursday, September 8.

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.

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.

Safety is a priority during arrival and dismissal. Please follow the established rules and travel routes around our building for the safety of all. The Office of Security and Safety has made changes to our back parking lot. You will notice a gate that will close off the back parking lot during dismissal. Parents who wish to pick up their students will need to use the Kiss & Ride loop or park on the street and walk up to the building using the designated crosswalks. For everyone's safety, please do not walk between cars in the Kiss & Ride loop.

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 take-home day. School news and fliers will also be posted to the school website on Wednesdays.