Were Up and Running Now!

September 30, 2014

Good day Teachers, this newsletter is just for you! There is so much going on at FFA all the time, that we forget many things. I intend to bring you your own newsletter again (monthly) to let you know that we appreciate you. Here we go:

Thank YOU
For continuing to work on the normalizing process. There is much work that still needs to be done. You must remain consistent and vigilant in your efforts. Quiet hallways A MUST. Raised hands, signal QUIET A MUST.

The returning Curriculum Night and Town Hall Meeting was a success!!!

THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO

Where should you be at this time in the school year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data</th>
<th>You should have benchmark data at this time. Pretests.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grouping</td>
<td>Students should be in academic groups within your classroom. All grades K-8.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gradebook</td>
<td>Should have at least 2 summative and 2 formative assignments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interim reports due 10/6</td>
<td>If you have never done them, as for assistance.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This week in Review:
The bus situation is getting better. Please thank the school climate team for their constant attention that they give this issue. It is making a difference.

Our 2nd Charter School Renewal Application is due 9/30. FFA has been in existence for nine years. The 10th year will be marked on May 16, 2015. I have been working for FFA for 15 years. It took 5 years to develop the school concept. Every day and every year always brings new challenges, new blessings, and new experiences. You will learn more about charter renewal information on pd – 10/3.

Reminders:

Walkthroughs will be ongoing and conducted by the Academic Team. Formal observations will be conducted by Dr. Brewington and will begin in October.

Board Meeting – 9/30 at 7pm at the elementary school. Teachers and parents are welcome to attend.

Charter Renewal Application and Annual Report due – 9/30

Staff Professional Development – school closed for students – 10/3

Trimester Midpoint – Interim – 10/6
Bully Prevention Week – 10/6 to 10/10
Parent Conferences – K to 4 on 10/20 and 10/21
Parent Conferences – 5 to 8 on 10/23 and 10/24

We are not closed on Columbus day – 10/13

Those who are new to FFA and want to know how conferences work, speak to your team leader or academic leader immediately.

**Character Counts**
*“Everywhere all the time”*

---

Having been a teacher for over thirty years, teaching preschool and every age group up to and including College Seminary students as well as teaching children, youth, women and Adult Sunday School classes, you might say I am a “well-seasoned” educator. It was my life-long dream and ambition to teach and it is a profession that has challenged me in every way but has also brought me the most rewarding experiences of my life. Anyone who is anyone can attribute some of their success to a great teacher. I had several amazing teachers in my life who encouraged me and mentored me. They made me want to follow in their footsteps and be the best teacher I could be. If you are a teacher, you know that it is not a career for the faint of heart. You are dedicated, hard-working and you strive to build a joy of learning into each and every one of your students. I salute all teachers! May you be encouraged by these scriptures today and everyday!

Your partners in education,
*“The FF “A” Team”*
A Letter from our PTA President

Welcome Back! I hope everyone has had a relaxing summer because it is going to be another ROCKIN’ year at FFA!

School Administration have been working hard throughout the summer to prepare for the 2014-2015 school year. We have lots of fun educational and community building events planned.

This year, the PTA is taking on a very special service project for our school. Bank At School in partnership through Delaware Financial Literacy Institute. Delaware’s Bank At School teaches students financial management, using hands-on techniques and partnerships between schools and banks and credit union. Students have the opportunity to open free savings accounts, make weekly deposits and serve as junior tellers. Also, providing financial literacy lesson plans to teachers.

Thank you!

Delilah Starcks FFA PTA President
Delilah.starcks@ffa.k12.de.us

PTA Meeting will be held monthly at the Elementary School @ 6:30 pm.

Wednesday, October 8th

Wednesday, November 12th

Wednesday, December 10th
School Bus Blues

The beginning of the school year can be marked with many different challenges; however, some of our students have faced some unforeseen challenges with regard to the school bus and we wanted to hear what some of you had to say:

"We are picked up late in the morning and after school. We lose time at breakfast and at home."

"The bus routes are confusing and can cause us to be late. Some drivers go fast over the bumps or seem rushed driving their routes."

"Some stops have been skipped and students were not picked up."

"Lastly, we would like to ask why we have a new bus company this year. We miss the old company."

From Sec. 8-1 (Zachary, Daniel, Carmella, Rahina, Sussana, and Asia)

Greetings and welcome to the start of the 2014-15 school year!

You are reading the first edition of The Voice, a newsletter presented by the students of Family Foundations Academy. If you are new to Family Foundations Academy, welcome to a wonderful learning community. Each new school year brings with it the promise of what is before us. It is our belief at FFA that this new year will present opportunities for our school community to grow closer together and for our school to continue our quest for excellence for every learner.

In this newsletter, you'll find out about what's been happening at FFA plus you'll explore articles featuring your peers and we encourage all students to provide their thoughts and opinions as well as check out upcoming events. If you would like to be a special contributor to The Voice, please see Mr. Farrar (Technology) or Mrs. Harper (Business).
New Transition

The transition to middle school is different for everyone, but one thing that is the same for 5th graders is that this is an important step-up: it's a chance for adventure and a new You.

You'll encounter new classmates, new school subjects, new activities, and new teachers. This may seem scary because you're now a small fish in a big pond, but remember: all new experiences are frightening at first, but if you have the right attitude, you'll be a middle school PRO in no time!

Here's what a few 5th graders from Section 2 had to say about starting middle school:

Valentine - "Having to switch classes is tiring."

Nadia - "The heavy book bag is hard to carry."

Anthony - "I like the different specials."

What's for lunch?

Your peers from Sec. 6-4 (Wanijuku, Jessalyn, Marcelous) said they would like to see the following foods on the school lunch menu this year:

- Pizza, Tamales, Lasagna, Subway sandwiches, fried shrimp & french fries, nachos w/cheese & salsa, spaghetti & meatballs

Looks like your classmates made some really delicious suggestions!

Technology Tip of the Month

Here's a tip from Sec. 7-1 (Anya, Ahmire, Akeiba, Kayonna, and Gordon):

We should not share personal information because even if you trust the person, the information can get out. Your identity can be stolen, your computer or accounts hacked.

"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose." – Dr. Seuss
Curriculum Night Breakout Sessions

B132................. CONNECT ED
B133................. Leveled Literacy

Intervention

B134................. Dreambox
B135................. Raz Kids
B136................. Big Ideas

B137................. Social Studies- M.S.
B153................. Springboard

C139................. Go Math!
C140................. Science

C141................. Physical Education
C148................. Read 180

C142................. Meet The Deans
C149................. Special

Education/Title 1
Spanish Room... Spanish
1. Which session did you find the most informative?

2. Which session did you find the least informative?

3. I learned strategies to assist my child at home during Curriculum Night.
   - Strongly Agree
   - Agree
   - Disagree
   - Strongly Disagree

4. How would you rate our Curriculum Night?
   - Highly Informative
   - Informative
   - Mildly Informative
   - Not Informative

5. What suggestions do you have for future Curriculum Nights?
Welcome

Delaware School Bus Company Status

Bus issues – Statewide

How Family Foundations Academy is addressing these issues

Ground Rules

Q & A with bus company representatives

Solutions/Next Steps

Adjourn
SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Family Foundations Academy and its parents of the students participating in activities, services, and programs funded by Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) (participating children), agree that this compact outlines how the parents, the entire school staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership that will help children achieve the State’s high standards.

This school-parent compact is in effect during the 2014-2015 school year.

Family Foundations Academy Responsibilities

Family Foundations Academy will:

1. Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the participating children to meet the State’s student academic achievement standards as follows:
   Instruct students using Common Core aligned curriculum and materials.

2. Hold parent-teacher conferences (at least annually in elementary schools) during which this compact will be discussed as it relates to the individual child’s achievement. Specifically, those conferences will be held:
   Parent Teacher Conferences are held every quarter. Conferences are scheduled with each grade group as conveniently as possible for parents. However, in an effort to accommodate all parents, additional conference times can be scheduled at the convenience of the teacher and parent.

3. Provide parents with frequent reports on their children’s progress. Specifically, the school will provide reports as follows:
   Teacher contact parents frequently via phone contact and email.

4. Provide parents reasonable access to staff. Specifically, staff will be available for consultation with parents as follows:
   Staff is available to consult with parents from 7:30 a.m. - 7:50 a.m. and from 3:30 - 4:00 p.m. However, teachers may contact parents after the school day at the teacher’s discretion. Parents are also welcome to email parents and/or leave messages with the school secretary, however teachers are not available during instructional times.

5. Provide parents opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child’s class and to observe classroom activities, as follows:
   Parents may volunteer at school-wide events, field trips, academic events, class events and other activities as planned with the classroom teachers. /
Parent Responsibilities

We, as parents, will support our children’s learning in the following ways:

Describe the ways in which parents will support their children’s learning, such as:

- Communicate with the teacher any learning challenges my child is struggling with.
- Ensuring that homework is completed or communicate when requirements are not understood.
- Help my child see how to use reading and math to pursue his/her interests and goals.
- Volunteering within the school when possible.
- Use reading and math materials the school sends home.
- Each week to help my child promoting positive use of my child’s extracurricular time.
- Staying informed about my child’s education and communicating with the school by promptly reading all notices from the school or the school district either received by my child or by mail and responding, as appropriate.

Student Responsibilities

We, as students, will share the responsibility to improve our academic achievement and achieve the state’s high standards. Specifically, we will:

- Write down assignments, do my homework every day, and turn it in when it’s due
- Read at least 30 minutes every day outside of school time.
- Give my parents or the adult who is responsible for my welfare all notices and information received by me from my school every day.
- Come to school prepared to learn
- Work on my math and reading skills at home, using the materials my teacher sends home.

______________________________  ______________________________
School                          Date

______________________________  ______________________________
Parent                          Date

______________________________  ______________________________
Student                        Date
Annual Title I
Parent Meeting

What is Title I and How Can I be Involved?

Family Foundations Academy
September 24, 2014
Definition of Title I:

- For a schoolwide program, schools with a percentage of at least 40% are eligible.
- Title I is allocated to schools based on the percentage of students receiving free/reduced lunch.
- Provides federal funding to schools to help students who are low achieving or at most risk of failing behind.
Title I School-Wide Program.
operates a
Family Foundations Academy
Performance targets:
- Students who experience difficulties in meeting the State's
- Title I funds will be used to provide additional assistance to all

Academic achievement:
- Title I funds are used to serve all children in order to raise

Program of the school:
- The school uses Title I funds to upgrade the entire educational

Schoolwide means:
The school must develop a comprehensive site plan and annually review the effectiveness of the plan.

- Student achievement:
  The school must collect and analyze data that reflects at least 40% of the school's students meeting or exceeding state standards.

- To be a "Schoolwide School":
Family Foundations Academy’s
Title I School-wide Program
How does Title I support families?:

Title I funds can also be used to:

Translate school information into families’ first language.

Host activities to help families help children learn.
Provide transportation, childcare, interpretation during meetings, and school activities.

Offer parenting classes for parents.
How does Title I support students?
Focus Goals

* (Insert the identified goals for the upcoming school year.)
Curriculum and Instructional Strategies:

- Common Core Curriculum
- Read 180-Reading Intervention Program
- Dreambox Math program
Assessment:

- Each student is assessed at the beginning and end of the school year in order for the Data Team to benchmark progress or the lack thereof. This information is used in conjunction with the Response to Intervention (RTI).

Teachers assess students with both formative and summative assessments.
(Insert state performance targets for reading and math for the current school year.)
Title I Parent Notification Requirements
The Parental Involvement Policy is on the school's website and is available at any time to be faxed, emailed or mailed home at a parent's request.
School-Parent Compact

- The Parent-School Compact is also on the school’s website and available in print at the request of the parent.

- (Insert here information on where the Home-School Compact is located and how parents can obtain a copy. Provide parents at the meeting a copy and discuss at this time.)
Parent's Right to Know - Student Achievement

- Parent will be provided with information and resources regarding state testing timelines, at home activities and test results pertaining to Smarter Balance and DCAS Social Studies and Science tests.
(this time)

(Insert here information on Highly Qualified status or

teacher that is not highly qualified)

been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a

Schools are required to notify parents if their child has

Non-Highly Qualified Teachers

Parents Right to Know –
Community Collaboration with the Community

Decision Making

Learning at Home

Volunteering

Communicating

Parenting

Six Types of Involvement

Keys to Successful Partnerships:

How Can You Be Involved?
Parent Involvement Opportunities

- PTA
- Parent Night
- Math Night
- Teacher Appreciation
- Classroom parent
- Holiday events
- Field trips
- School dances
Parent Involvement

Decision Making

Involvement in various committees.

Insert a list of opportunities for parents to be involved in decisions at the school including how they can be...
Right to Request Meetings

The school must respond to any request of parents.

Upon the request of parents, the school must provide regular opportunities for parents to participate in appropriate, as appropriate, in the formulation of suggestions and to formulate suggestions for parents to meet with parents.

The school must respond to any suggestions as soon as practically possible.
Questions?
Contact Information

- Dr. Tennell Brewington (302) 324-8901 ext 224
- Ms. Janeen Harris (302) 324-8901 ext 314