

Greetings Ferndale Families!

This is PROUD Principal Caesar-Crawford.

We are super excited about Week #8 of SY21-22! Here are a few important updates and reminders for this week.

Instruction

The week of October 3 is an assessment week. Students will be taking benchmark assessments this week and the schedule will be posted to our website.

As a reminder, the instructional day begins at 9:20 AM each day. Please do not drop your student off before 9:00 AM each day as we need to ensure there is appropriate supervision for our students at all times.

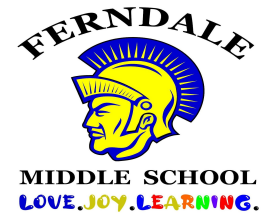
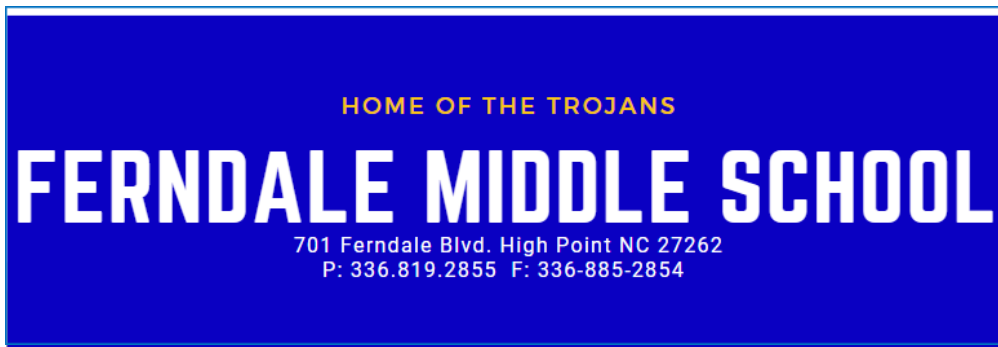
Students that arrive after 9:20 am will be marked tardy, receive a phone call home, and multiple tardies will result in an impact to their attendance record and student event participation.

Testing

Benchmark Assessments are given throughout our school year **to establish baseline achievement data and measure progress toward a standard or set of academic standards and goals. Please encourage your student to take these assessments seriously, as we want to ensure that we**

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are able to support the academic progress of all of our students and this is one of the ways we are able to accomplish this goal.

Interim Report Cards:

Interim Report Cards were sent home with students for all Grade Levels last week and they were emailed to the student and parent email addresses on file. If you did not receive an Interim Report Card for your student, please contact the front office at 336-819-2855. As a reminder, Quarter 1 ends on October 22 and reports cards will be distributed on November 2.

PRIDE Awards:

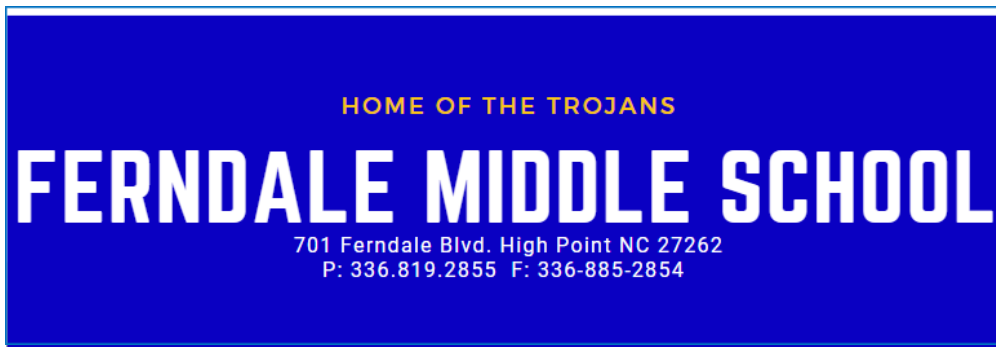
PRIDE Awards are awarded to students that have exhibited a Positive Attitude, Respect, Integrity, Dependability and Excellence since the beginning of the school year. We will celebrate the students that have been nominated and win these awards the week of October 11. We ask that you continue to partner with us in encouraging our students to exhibit these characteristics every day.

Immunizations

On September 24, the Governor issued an executive order extending the deadline for students in 7th and 12th to receive their required Tdap and MCV immunizations. Students who have not yet received their booster shots of these vaccines may return to school but must receive the vaccinations by October 31, 2021. Please schedule an appointment with the health department or your health care provider as soon as possible to avoid missing more instructional time. If you are contacted to ensure that your student has received the immunization, please ensure that you have the appropriate documentation to submit with your student this week.

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Response to Choice: TikTok Challenges

We continue to remain diligent about monitoring the TikTok challenges that are posted online. Currently, there is a calendar of challenges that each violate a specific rule in the Code of Conduct. Any student found engaging in this challenge is taking part in the violation of the Guilford County Schools Student Code of Conduct. Disciplinary responses will be administered accordingly. Please help us encourage our students to not engage in this behavior, and instead to have pride for their school and the building.

Safety:

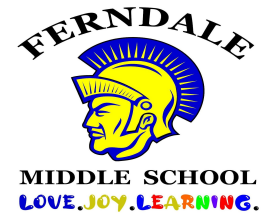
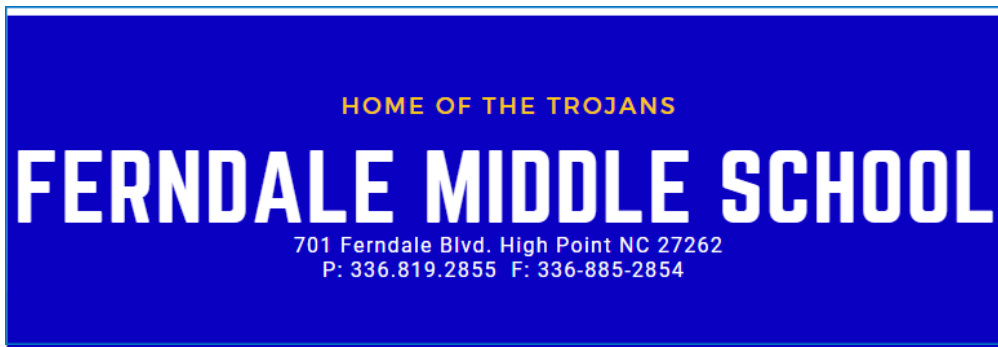
We want to strongly reiterate, that students exhibiting any symptoms such as fever, cough, weakness, headache, etc. should NOT be sent to school. If a student exhibits these symptoms during the school day, the student will be isolated until a parent can pick them up.

All students and staff are REQUIRED to wear masks at all times in class and common areas in the building. If you are in need of a medical waiver form to exempt your student, please contact the Front Office and we can arrange to have a form sent home.

Moving forward, a Family Notification Letter will be sent when the school receives a notification of a new confirmed positive/infectious COVID case in our school building. The letter will be sent to the families of any students who may have been present in the impacted classroom or area with the positive/infectious person. Please refer to the Guilford County Schools website re-opening of Schools Q&A document for further information at www.gcsnc.com/reopening.

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Bus Behaviors

As the school year progresses, we would like to ask for your help in partnering with us to ensure that students understand the importance of adhering to bus rules. Students should remain seated at all times, remain distanced in their seats for safety, and adhere to the instructions of the bus driver at all times. Any non-adherence to the bus driver rules will result in a disciplinary response that could include suspension from the bus.

Early Dismissal:

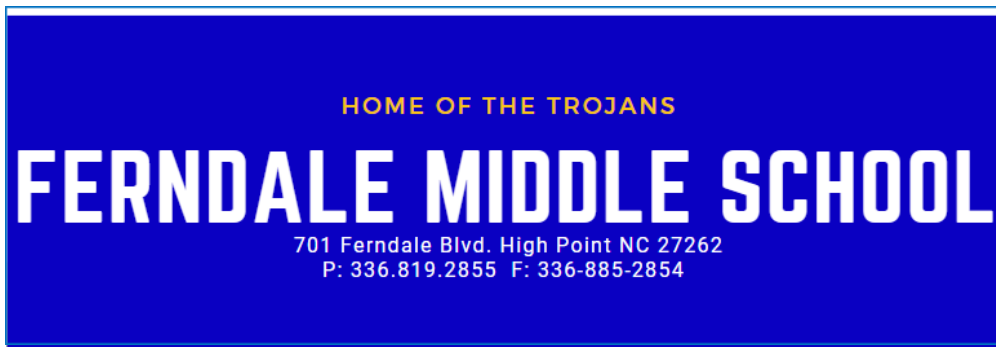
Early dismissal begins at 2:30 PM each day, and only then with prior notice to the front office. Early dismissal for students will be permitted for medical reasons and student or family emergencies, etc. Excessive early dismissals will result in a letter sent home and require a meeting with the Principal. It should also be noted that any dismissal before 1pm each day is considered an absence **(as all students must be in school for at least half a day in order to be marked present.)**

Athletics

If your student has tried out and has been selected to play a sport in our athletics program this year, please be reminded of two things:

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- If they are unvaccinated, your student will have to undergo COVID-19 testing and that testing schedule/information will be shared in future communications.
- Your student must maintain specific academic and behavioral expectations in order to continue to participate.

PTA

Are you interested in participating in our PTA this year? Please contact Krista Hannah at hannahk@gcsnc.com. We will announce our first PTA meeting for the school year in our next ConnectEd Message.

Transportation

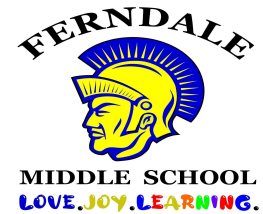
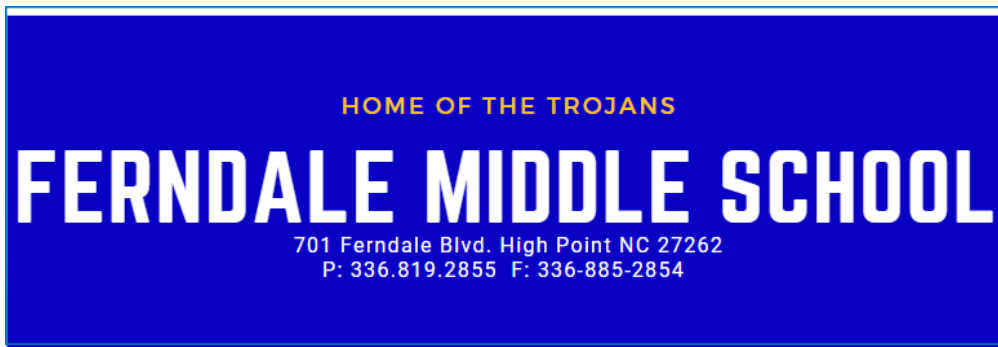
If you are experiencing transportation issues at this time with an assignment you have already been provided, please contact our front office and we will be happy to assist you. If you have made a transportation request as recently as last week, it will take up to 10 days to fulfill this request. For further assistance with transportation see below:

[Who to contact](#) detailed contact list for Transportation Services.

[Here Comes the Bus](#) – Provides student bus assignment, GPS tracking of the bus arrival for pick up.

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[School Bus Locator](#) – Provides parents access to view bus route information, student ID and birthdate are required to log in. Bus information will only exist if a request has been submitted.

[Parent Portal](#) – PowerSchool Transportation tab contains student bus assignment information.

[School bus stop appeal](#) - allows parents to request a change to their student's bus stop.

OneCard

Our school will be transitioning to the use of One Card this month. Once issued their OneCard, students will be able to board the bus, enter the building, and be counted for attendance purposes daily. All students will be required to have their OneCard with them daily at the beginning of the instructional day in order to board the bus. Informational flyers will be sent home this week with more information for parents. This information will also be sent posted on our website.

Technology:

If your Grade 8 student was issued a device in previous school years and has not returned it to school this year, please ensure that they return it this week. They will have the chance to return it in homeroom.

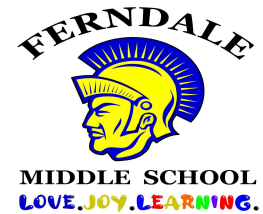
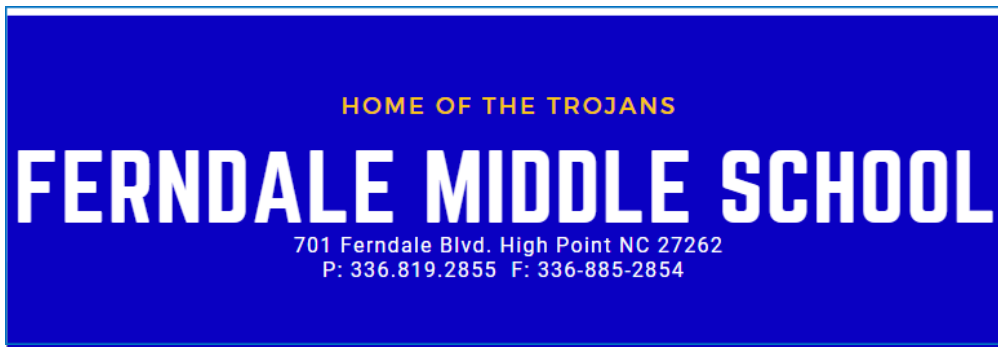
Cell Phones:

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A reminder that the use of cell phones for purposes other than an approved instructional activity are strictly prohibited. Parents, please remind students that they are to keep their cell phones in their backpacks during the school day unless instructed otherwise by a teacher or administrator that it can be used for instructional purposes. Non-adherence to this policy will result in a disciplinary action.

Front Office Hours:

Our Front Office phones are answered between the hours of 8:45 AM and 4:45 PM. Our office number is 336-819-2855.

Nutrition:

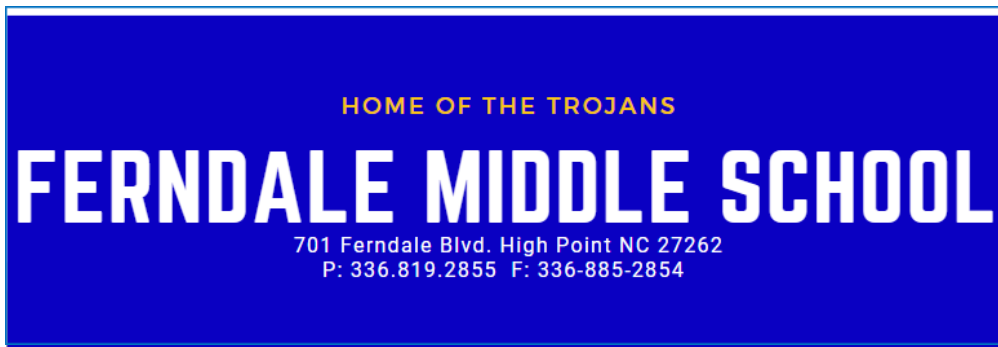
Breakfast will be served daily from 9:00 AM to 9:20 AM and is free for all students. Lunch will be served daily according to each grade level schedule.

Car Riders:

To keep our car rider line moving in the morning, please ensure that students have their masks on, bookbags sealed, OneCards ready, and are prepared to exit the vehicle as quickly as possible. Please do not stop or park your vehicle in the car rider line. Parking is available in surrounding areas of the school lot.

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Grade 6 and 7 parents may pick up students in the car rider line in the front entrance of the school.

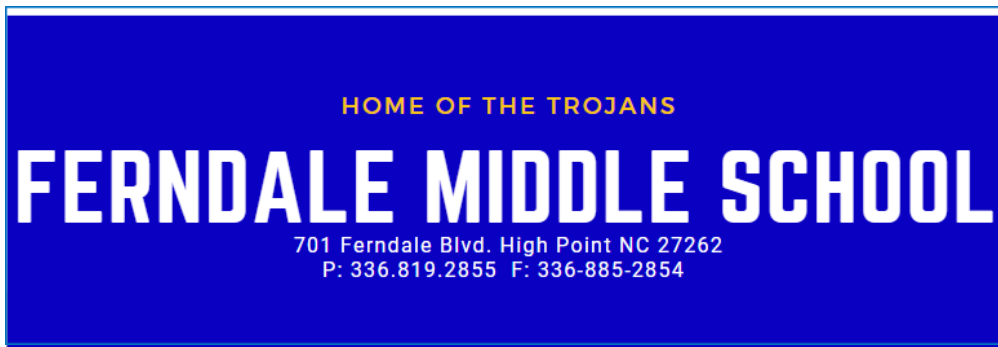
Grade 8 parents may pick up students in the car rider line in the front of the Grade 8 annex of the school.

Have a great week!

Principal LaToya C. Crawford - Ferndale Middle School

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FMS INFO BELOW:

#lovejoylearning #TrojanPride

FOCUS for the 2021-2022 school year – **Love, Joy, Learning!**

FMS VISION STATEMENT

Ferndale Middle is a global learning community that inspires innovative leaders.

FMS MISSION STATEMENT

Ferndale Middle creates an empowering culture that fosters critical thinking, problem-solving, and achievement.

FMS SCHOOL-WIDE EXPECTATION- At Ferndale Middle, we show
"PRIDE":

Positive Attitude
Respect
Integrity
Dependability
Excellence – in all we do.

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