



Falcon Homeschool Program Newsletter

August 5, 6, 7, and 8 2024

UPCOMING DATES:

August 6th and 7th: Orientation and Open House see below for details

August 8th: Homeschool 101 workshop

August 12-15: First week of school

Front Desk Number: (719) 495-5373

Class Updates:

Arts and STEM Exploration 4th/5th Grade Ms. Jill

Welcome to FHEP! I am really looking forward to getting to know all of you this year and seeing previous students again!! This will be my 5th year teaching Arts at FHEP. This year, our visual arts focus areas will be the principles of design. For music and drama, we will be learning about musicians, instruments, songs, and folk tales from varying cultures throughout the world.

There will be a syllabus and other information at our orientation sessions next week, so I hope to see you all there!! Please email me at jill.foster@d49.org with any questions that come to your mind!

Ms. Heather M

Welcome! I'm so excited to join the FHEP team. I will be the long term sub for this class. I have an elementary degree and have experience homeschooling my own children and value this community.

This semester we will be learning about engineering and the human body. You will be able to find curriculum overviews and learning objections on the board outside my classroom. I officially hit the road running on Monday, August 5th. I'll be working closely with Ms Jill and Ms Leanne to make this

transition as smooth as possible. I look forward to meeting you all. I'll send out my contact information next week.

Middle School Arts

Ms. Jill

Welcome to our inaugural year of Middle School Arts at FHP! I cannot tell you how excited I am to begin our artistic journey this year! We are going to have a great year working on building arts technique and performance skills in the disciplines of visual art, music, and drama. We will also be developing arts notebooks as we study notable artists, musicians, styles, and genres.

I hope to see you all at our orientation sessions next week! Please email me at jill.foster@d49.org with any questions that come to your mind!

Ms. Stacy's Class (K-1)

A big heartfelt WELCOME to our Kindergarteners and 1st graders and families. I am looking forward to a fantastic year ahead full of growth and friendship. We will learn so much this year together, so be on the lookout for my class overview as it will be available at orientation or available outside my classroom door to grab. I am thrilled to have a chance to work with your children this year as we set off on a partnership together. Please know I am here to support you and your child however I can so please, don't hesitate to

contact me with any questions or concerns. Have a wonderful week. stacy.kley@d49.org

Literacy Foundations

Ms. Kassi

Yay, I am so excited to finally be starting our school year! This literacy class has been on my mind for quite some time. I have always been passionate about early literacy and helping students achieve a solid reading foundation. In fact, since I graduated college so long ago, I have taken many classes since the spring to update my teaching practices to the most current *Science of Reading* and reading brain research! I am thrilled to partner with our LF families this school year and help our students not only advance in their literacy skills but learn to love to read.

Please remember, mandatory Literacy Foundations Orientation for primary home educator: Wednesday, August 7th from 1-2:30. This event is for parents only! Families, we are partners! I eagerly await any questions, concerns, or ways that I can support you this school year. Please email or chat with me anytime! kassi.nemeth@d49.org

Ms. Kassi's 2/3 Class

Welcome back to school!!! We are going to have a blast this year. This is my fifth year teaching 2/3rd grade enrichment at FHP and I absolutely love learning with our students.

This year we will be learning about Pilgrims, Pioneers/Westward Expansion, Weather, and Living Things! In the spring we will be going to the zoo and building our own animal habitat based on what we learned throughout our spring science unit. Everyday in my class we will be participating in a read aloud.

Please do not hesitate to email me anytime with any questions or concerns at kassi.nemeth@d49.org.

Ms Leanne's Class (4-5)

Welcome to FHEP! I am so excited for this year and can't wait to get to know all my students. I have been teaching 4th and 5th grade at FHEP since 2012. I love my job. I have been happily married for 27 years and we have two adult children. This semester, children in my class will be learning about invertebrates and the American Revolutionary War. We will also do an art project each week.

There is a get to know me letter on my door and a list of units and learning objectives we hope to cover this year. I look forward to getting to know you and your family. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

leanne.mckinney@d49.org

Ms Heather M(6-7)

Welcome! I'm so excited to join the FHEP team. I will be the long term sub for this class. I have an elementary degree and have experience homeschooling my own children and value this community.

This semester our social studies unit will be about the branches of government and the election process. Our science unit will be on ecology. You will be able to find curriculum overviews and learning objections on the board outside my classroom. I officially hit the road running on August 5th. I'll be working closely with Ms Heather K and Ms Leanne to make this transition as smooth as possible. I look forward to meeting you all. I will send out my contact information next week.

PROGRAM REMINDERS

Welcome from our new principal, Paul Austin

I am excited, honored, and humbled to be the Program Manager for the Falcon Homeschool Program. As a family that has successfully homeschooled three children (two girls and one boy), I can confidently assure you that homeschooling is not only possible, but also incredibly rewarding. Ignore any doubts or skepticism from others; your choice to homeschool is a commendable one.

I've been in education for the past 33 years and have been married to my wonderful wife for 29 years. Over these years I was mainly teaching science and now have served in administration positions for the past three years. When the opportunity to pour my experience and expertise into homeschoolers, families, and education as a Program Manager...I was ALL in. I am always up to go fishing and would rather be outside than inside. Please know that my door is always open and drop in when you get a chance to say hi.

While homeschooling presents challenges, the flexibility it offers allows you to take breaks when needed, celebrate growth and progress, and discover that learning can occur anyplace, anytime. You know your child better than anyone, and this insight lets you tailor their education to what works best for them. Homeschooling means you can control the influences on your children's education, aligning their learning with your family's values, beliefs, and priorities. Homeschooling is a powerful way to preserve what matters most to your family.

We at FHP are here to support you in creating a supportive, comfortable learning environment that meets your children's personalized educational needs. I look forward to partnering together in this fulfilling journey of homeschooling.

Paul Austin

Paul.austin@d49.org

Orientations and Open House Times: Please read carefully

*Bridge Program Orientation (new and returning) Tuesday, August 6th: 9:00- 10:30

*Returning Families Open House for Enrichment Tuesday, August 6th 11:00-12:00

*K/1 Orientation (New and Returning) Tuesday, August 6th: Tuesday Class, 1:00-1:30, Wednesday Class, 1:45-2:15, Thursday Class, 2:30-3:00

*New to Enrichment (Grades 2-7) and/or Arts/Stem and/or Arts Orientation Wednesday, August 7th, 9:00-10:00 or 10:30-11:30

* Literacy Foundations (no students) Wednesday, August 7th 1:00-2:30

**Please use our parking lot as well as the surrounding streets for parking as we will fill the lot pretty quickly.

Introducing our new Health Assistant, Ms Tracy

I am so excited to be joining all of you this coming year here at Falcon HomeSchool Program and I am looking forward to meeting you soon! I am your new Receptionist/Health Room Assistant.

I have lived in Colorado Springs since 2005 when we moved here from Roswell, New Mexico, for my husband's job (*he sells lollipops!*), and we just fell in love with Colorado! My husband and I have a 21 year old son, he and his father own my heart and they bring me such joy!

I play bass and sing in a couple of Bluegrass bands with my husband, who plays anything that has strings and he sings as well. My son played baseball in high school and we loved going to all his games. We have three dogs, one for each of us in the family, their names are Rockette (Border Collie/Corgi), Dooley (Maltese/Yorkie), and Shady Grove (Border Collie). I love to crochet and have taught myself how to crochet animals and booties so far. If you ask, I might be willing to share a few pictures of my creations with you...heehee! I also enjoy drawing, painting, and quilting!

Well, now is there anything I haven't shared? Probably, but maybe at a later date we can enjoy more stories with each other! I look forward to learning all about each of you this year!

Health Room Update

Hello Wonderful Families! Just a quick reminder for you all about the D49 Annual Health Form that is to be filled out **each** year for **each** of your children found in your parent portal. This is a great tool for me to reference any health concerns and details that may pertain to your child. If your child has more severe health needs where medication is needed in my office, i.e. inhalers, epipens, controlled medication, and so on please connect with me to make sure we have proper documentation and action plans set in place- **these do need to be signed by a doctor**. If you need any forms I have some hard copies in my office or you can find a lot of useful information on the d49.org website under "nursing services". Remember, I am a "health assistant" delegated by our school nurse Patricia Prettyman, so if you would like to get with her in regards to any special concerns, please let me know, she is the one I report to when it comes to meeting health standards. Some things to keep in mind- immunization shot records- we do need updated records as you have them. Also, if you are needing medical or nonmedical exemptions, you can find those on the d49.org website as well, including procedures on obtaining nonmedical exemptions. Again to reiterate, **we are a peanut/tree nut free environment and do have children with severe allergies in attendance, so please double check your ingredients!** Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Ms. Tracy

tracy.denson@d49.org

Start and Finish Times

Start Time: Our front doors will be opened and someone will be attending the Kiss and Go Lane **at 8:15am**. We share the parking lot with the preschool next door that opens its doors at 8:30AM, so arriving at 8:15 will cause less congestion in the parking lot.

Our **classes start at 8:30**. Please make sure your student arrives at school before this time as entering a classroom late is disruptive to our teachers and classes.

Dismissal Pick-Up:

We ask that all parents come into the building to pick up their students. This gives you a chance to have a short conversation with your student's teacher each day. Please be sure to park in a designated parking space. We will open our main door **at 3:10 pm** so that you may come into the building and head to your student's classroom. Teachers will begin dismissal, from their classrooms, **at 3:15 pm**.

***Please Note:** Banning Lewis Preparatory Academy (the school adjacent to ours) dismisses at 3:15 as well, please be sure to plan for traffic accordingly when scheduling what time to arrive at FHP.

***Please Note:** There is a neighborhood street (Pacific Crest Drive) just north of our doors that has parking along the street, a crosswalk, and a sidewalk leading to our doors. This will be a great place for overflow parking if it is needed.

Everyone's Favorite: Beginning of School Paperwork -

All FHP 'beginning of school' paperwork is electronic!! All parents need to log into their PowerSchool Parent Portal and select 'forms' on the left hand side of your screen and fill out all forms electronically. Please note, once you are in your Parent Portal, you will see each of your students have a tab at the top of the page. Parents will click each student tab, then choose 'forms', fill out and submit all the paperwork.

We need the following forms for each Enrichment/Bridge student, as soon as possible:

1. Annual Contact Verification
2. FHP - Annual Health Form (not the D49 one)
3. FHP Parent/Student Handbook Signature Page (our handbook is located on our website: [Parent Handbook](#))
4. Photo Opt-Out
5. FHBE: Enrichment - D49 Computer, Network, and Internet Acceptable Use Agreement (AUA)
6. **Bridge Students Only:** FHBE: Bridge and Academic - D49 Computer, Network, and Internet Acceptable Use Agreement (AUA)
7. **Bridge Students Only:** FHP: Academic - Mutually Agreed Upon Plan (MAP) Form

D49 PowerSchool Parent Portal: [PowerSchool Parent Portal Link](#)

Cannot remember your log in or password? Please contact Nancy Carder to get yourself up and running!

Don't have a PowerSchool Parent Portal? Please click here for a help page that will walk you through your set up: [PowerSchool Parent Creation Guide](#)

Calendars for 2024-2025 School Year

Please see below for our 24-25 School Year Calendar. This calendar will give you all the important dates including, start dates, dates of our breaks or holidays, special activities, etc.

[24-25 Student and Staff Calendar](#)

Homeschool Helpful Tips

Homeschool 101 Workshop: Thursday, August 8th

Choose 9-10:30 OR 11-12:30

I would like to cordially invite all FHP families to attend our **Homeschool 101** workshop next week. This workshop will allow you to make connections with other FHP families, create a vision for your homeschool, choose curriculum that best fits your family, and schedule your days. As a former homeschooler myself, I loved to lean on other successful families and homeschool experts. Much of my workshop ideas come from Pam Barnhill's "Plan Your Year," program. So if you absolutely cannot attend either of the workshops next week and you are looking for support, check out her resource. It is definitely more fun in person though!

This workshop is for parents only, especially the primary home educator!

I am excited to see all of our new and returning homeschool families next week!

Find joy in your every day!

Ms. Kassi, FHP Home Based Education Specialist
kassi.nemeth@d49.org