



Falcon Homeschool Program Newsletter

February 6, 7, and 8 2024

UPCOMING DATES:

February 16th: FHP @ IVES Social

February 19th: President's Day District closed

Front Desk Number: (719) 495-5373

Class Updates:

Arts and STEM Exploration

Ms. Jill

Don't forget that **next week** we will celebrate Valentine's Day!! In arts class, I will have Valentine's boxes that the students will have the opportunity to decorate. These boxes can hold the cards they receive. This week in Arts, we will continue moving forward on our bucket drumming, where we will learn a piece using eighth notes. We will complete our final art tasks related to shape this week and then will wrap up our time by turning our focus to analyzing the "Saturn" movement in Holst's "The Planets" composition. **Please mark Wednesday, March 13th on your calendar!! Our Arts and Stem class will be attending a show at the AFA Planetarium that day to complement our space study this quarter! More information will follow soon!** Please email me at jill.foster@d49.org with any questions that come to your mind!

Ms. Amber

This week we will be continuing our space exploration by first building a form of transportation out of materials from class and testing them to see if they can function. We will also be presenting our "Planet Commercials" as a class and learning all the reasons why we should live on that particular planet. We will also begin to explore what it looks like to live in space on the ISS. We will be celebrating Valentine's

Day **next week** in STEM as well, we will be making gift bags to receive Valentines from classmates and teachers. It's going to be an awesome week for our space explorers. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions. Email: amber.albrecht@d49.org

Ms. Stacy's Class (K-1)

Looking forward to another wonderful week in K/1. This week in Science, we will be wading into the sunlight zone of the ocean to study the unique Seahorse. In Social Studies, we will continue to learn about life long ago and this week we will be looking at how people made food long ago. We will also be talking about the chores that kids were responsible for. One of our chores will be making butter from whipping cream and students will then be able to try it if they'd like on a Saltine Cracker. I'll send a separate note with ingredients. If you do not want them to take part in trying the homemade butter, please let me know ASAP.

Next week we will be celebrating Valentine's Day together. Please note that we are not allowed to hand out food or candy. Stickers, bubbles, ect... are some great examples of alternatives. See attached class list for names of students. Please send Valentine's in a ziplock bag with your child's name on it. Hope you have a fantastic week and please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

stacy.kley@d49.org

Ms. Kassi's 2/3 Class

Hello Wonderful 2/3rd grade families! This week I hope your students are in class to participate in some fabulous activities.

Our study of Ancient Egypt will continue with studying the social class system. We will learn that the Pharaoh had ultimate power and was thought to be a god. We will then participate in a social class simulation where students will get to be farmers, slaves, artisans, soldiers, scribes, and government officials collecting taxes.

In science we will be learning about electrical forces and how opposites attract. We will be completing a mini lab where we will use static electricity to levitate objects!

Please note, we will be handing out Valentines next week. See the attached class lists. No food is allowed to be included from student to student but any other small trinket is fine.

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

Ms Leanne's Class (4-5)

I'm so excited to be back this week. I got wonderful reports from my subs. Thanks for allowing me time to be with my Dad. He is on the road to recovery, and I treasured my time with him.

In art, we will be learning about Picasso. We'll start off by doing one color art projects: using one color to set a mood or emotion. In science, we will explore beam and truss bridges. Lastly, we'll study the biographies of the two main generals during the Civil War. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. leanne.mckinney@d49.org

Ms Amber's Class (6-7)

This week in Science, we will be continuing our exploration of rocks and minerals. We will be learning about the different types of minerals and how their crystal structure can be modified in a lab. This will give us the background to begin making the solutions for our crystal lab and see which saturated solution can produce the best crystals. In Social Studies we will be continuing our travels out west learning about the Gold Rush of Colorado. We will pack our wagons and stake our claims on which land has the most gold. We will learn how to use geographic evidence to find gold and hussle like the pioneers did. It will be a great week with the Enrichment Crew! Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Email: amber.albrecht@d49.org

PROGRAM REMINDERS

All School Social

FHP @ IVES Campus-Wide Social Friday, February 16, 2024

We hope you will be able to join us for our second social event of the school year on Friday, February 16th. Please join us from 1-230pm at the Penrose Heritage Museum located at 11 Lake Circle Colorado Springs, 80906. Please visit their website for more information

<https://www.elpomar.org/About-Us/museum-and-legacy-properties/penrose-heritage-museum/>

Valentine Exchange the week of February 13,14, and 15

Valentines Day will be celebrated at FHEP on Feb 13, 14, 15th. On your child's program day, we are inviting our students to exchange Valentine's Day cards with their classmates. If your child chooses to participate in the exchange, please be sure to include ALL students in the class. A link to class lists was included in your email for your convenience! **As always, please help us protect the health of our children with allergies by keeping your Valentines free of all food and candy items.** There will be no class parties. Thank you!

Photo Release

Based on Board decisions in November 2023, District 49 has made some changes to its Photo Opt Out policy. If your child has previously been "media denied" you should have received an email from the district on Thursday, January 25th, to fill out a new form to keep them as such. If you would like to opt out of photos and haven't done so yet there will be a form in powerschool available. Going forward this will need to be done yearly. Photos are used mainly as a tool to promote our program on social media and show on the FHP facebook page all the fun and exciting things we do here. To opt out of photos use the instructions found at www.d49.org/Page/10310

2024-2025 Re-Enrollment Survey—Closes TODAY at 12pm!

Thank you to the many families who have completed the Re-Enrollment Survey on behalf of their students. **The survey will be closing on Monday, February 5, 2024.** After that time, we will assume that if you have not completed the survey that your child will not be returning to FHP. **If you need to make changes to the survey, it will allow you to go in and make changes until we close the survey on Monday, February 5, 2024.**

Completing the survey holds your student's enrollment in FHP for the upcoming school year, even if you need to make changes afterwards. The sooner you complete the survey, the better your chances of getting a requested spot are.

As you will see in the survey, we have some **exciting new options** that we've added to our Enrichment Program. We work hard at FHP to continue to grow to meet our homeschooling community's needs, and the new program additions have been carefully considered, conceived of, and originated by our staff. We know our families love our existing options, and we really hope you love the new options too!

Click [here](#) to get started with your child's re-enrollment.

Please Note: You will also receive an email from D49 asking for re-registration information. The information you provide needs to be updated annually (emergency contact information, etc) and is in addition to the questions asked in this survey.

If you have a child who will be new to us, and you would like to start their application, **click [here](#) to get started with our informational videos and application.** If you have interested friends or family, please feel free to share this link!

STAR 360–Closes on February 9, 2024

If you would like your child to take the STAR 360 assessment during this middle-of-year window, the opportunity is here! Click [here](#) to learn more.

We will have a spring testing window from mid-April to mid-May.

Information Sessions for Next Year

If you are eagerly awaiting learning about the options available for next year, we are excited to share these options with you. If you know of other families that are interested in enrolling, we are happy to announce that we have our information ready to roll for our Enrichment and Bridge Programs, and prospective families can begin by clicking [here](#).

To learn more about our Academic Program (grades 7-12), please plan to attend our Information Sessions that are scheduled as follows:

Thursday, February 1 at 3:00

-OR-

Tuesday, March 5 at 3:00

6113 Constitution Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80915

*Attendance is highly recommended for families moving from the Bridge Program to the Academic Program.

Information Session for the Construction Program and Culinary Program Offered at Patriot High School–This Week!

Did you know that students in grades 9 and up can attend the Construction Program or Culinary Program offered at Patriot High School? These programs are well taught, highly engaging, build practical skills and confidence, and offer certifications. For more information, visit Patriot High School's website at d49.org/phs for more information about their programs.

On Wednesday, February 7 from 9:30-10:30 AM, Patriot High School will be hosting an Information Session for parents about the Culinary Program as well as the Construction Program. High School will be hosting a tour for all high school students interested in the Construction or Culinary programs on Tuesday, February 13 from 9:00-10:00 AM. Students can come to the front of the school to be let in. They will spend the full hour at the program they have chosen, hearing about the program and participating in a hands-on activity. We strongly encourage attendance in both of these events if your child is interested in either of these options.

Helpful Homeschool Tips

Ms. Kassi's Top Tips for Writing in K-2

Teaching writing can be an extremely daunting task for all teachers, whether in the classroom or at the dining room table. Today I would like to encourage families by reminding them to keep writing extremely holistic and relevant to their young elementary age students. Below you will find my Top 10 Tips for K-2 writers!

1. Start journaling/writing NOW, it is never too late
2. Students can begin drawing pictures and parents can write dictated words and sentences.
3. Encourage any form of writing that includes letters (early writing stages: letters are symbols that represent a sound)
4. Students should write about what they know: everyday occurrences, movies, books, toys, playdates, etc. Remind students writing is similar to talking! They can write whatever they want to talk about. *Perhaps have them share their writing with others:* write to grandparents, host a family author's chair once a week where children can choose one piece of writing to share with the family, write a list for the store, create a birthday card, etc. HAVE FUN!
5. With reluctant writers try *Buddy Writing*: students write a word or sentence then you scaffold/write the rest. Decrease your help slowly over time as students become more comfortable.
6. Spelling, spacing, and grammar ARE NOT as important as getting ideas on paper. Never over edit with your K-2 students! *The main goal in K-2 is to get students to enjoy writing!* Even published adult authors have editors and utilize technology for editing.
7. As you introduce phonics (sound/letter relationships) begin helping students incorporate the previous phonics skills taught. Perhaps ask students if they would like support/editing and write the "dictionary spelling" underneath their words. Always praise attempts and never force students to constantly erase misspelled words. This can be discouraging! Students best sounded out spelling is great in these early years!
8. Have special writing materials they can only use when they write: a journal with lines and a space for a picture, pencils, colored pencils, stickers, etc. Work they are proud of can be published on a computer!
9. Start with a few days a week and continue to build to 4-5 days per week
10. After 2nd or 3rd grade, **OR** when your student is comfortable writing sentences and paragraphs then begin to introduce formulaic writing: narrative, persuasive, expository (reports), and descriptive.

Find Joy in your every day!

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