



Falcon Homeschool Program Newsletter

January 16, 17, and 18 2024

UPCOMING DATES:

January 15, 2024: Martin Luther King Jr Day, District closed

Front Desk Number: (719) 495-5373

Class Updates:

Arts and STEM Exploration

Ms. Jill

It was so great to see everyone last week and get busy with our next semester! Please continue to bring warm layers for when we are able to go outside for recess! This week in Arts we will continue working on shape for our art tasks, specifically organic shapes this week. We will also be learning the second half of the Liberty Bell March percussion piece. Finally, we will do a listening activity related to the "Venus" movement in Holst's *The Planets* composition and review what we learned about Mars last week. Please email me at jill.foster@d49.org with any questions that come to your mind!

Ms. Katrina

This week we will continue our quick build weekly challenge. We are also starting our study of the Solar System with an overview of the planets and special features. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions. Email: katrina.trujillo@d49.org

Ms. Stacy's Class (K-1)

Brrr...boy it's been cold. Hope you all have been staying warm the last few days. Please send in those winter jackets, hats and gloves this week just encase the temps rise enough to let us have some outside time. This week in Science, we will be exploring how much of the earth is made up of water. We will discuss land and water on earth and how the earth is

mostly made up of water. Students will get to sample and describe fresh water and salt water. In Social Studies, we will be looking at how people long ago got food and clothing.

Please mark your calendar for our K/1st field trip to Denver Aquarium on Wed. April 24th @ 10:15. This is my favorite field trip as we get to see all we have studied about the ocean come to life. More information to come as the date gets closer.

Have a great week and please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

stacy.kley@d49.org

Ms. Kassi's 2/3 Class

This week we will continue learning about Ancient Egypt! We will learn that the Ancient Egyptians used a written communication using hieroglyphs. We will learn that recently humans have been able to translate hieroglyphs thanks to the finding of the Rosetta Stone. Students will be decoding messages and writing their cuneiform names.

In science we will be learning about patterns of motion. We will discuss how we can often predict patterns of motion in our everyday lives.

Please make sure students have cold weather jackets, hats, and gloves! Sweatshirts are often not warm enough this time of year.

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

Ms Leanne's Class (4-5)

This week we will learn about Haiku poems and do some black ink artwork to decorate them. I'll talk about poetry and share with students about a poetry contest the PPLD is doing. It's open to only 4th and 5th graders. If you are interested, I printed out the rules for the contest and they are hanging on my door. I would love to see FHEP students enter. In science, we will learn about nuclear power. Then we'll start our last activity for our energy unit: kids will be recording news reports! In social studies, we'll continue to read biographies on the major leaders of the Civil War. Students will be asked to reflect on leaders' experiences and make connections to what influenced them as they grew up. Don't hesitate to

contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

leanne.mckinney@d49.org

Ms Katrina's Class (6-7)

This week in Science we will begin our study of Earth's materials. We will start with the properties of water and will do an investigation of those properties. In Social Studies we will start packing our wagons and heading west for the "Pikes Peak or Bust" gold mining group activity. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Email: katrina.trujillo@d49.org

PROGRAM REMINDERS

Health and Wellness Reminders

Hello Families! As we are getting back into the routines of life after the holidays I wanted to remind everyone to take extra precaution with all the illnesses spreading like crazy this time of year. Continuing to practice healthy habits with handwashing, staying home when sick, and taking that extra day "just in case" is always welcomed. These terribly cold days are awful, but if we can, we like to take children outside to experience a change in environment and run out some of their energy. With that, please make sure your kids are prepared with warm coats, hats, and gloves. Lastly, again a reminder that we are a NUT FREE environment so watch those lunches and snacks for ingredients as well as "may contain nuts" in the labels. Below is a link regarding CDC guidelines for "how sick is too sick" for coming to school.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RcdCmU4SYXwmVhJrA3Pyk0gP0MTDCIkF/view>

I hope you all stay happy and healthy, please reach out with any concerns.

Ms, Rachel

rachel.white@d49.org

2024-2025 Re-Enrollment Survey-It's Here!

What an exciting time of year it is! We have already begun enthusiastically planning for next year, and I bet you have too! We are thrilled to announce that the 2024-2025 Re-Enrollment survey is ready for you to complete at your earliest convenience (sent via email). **Please try your best to complete the survey by 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.

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-January 9-February 9 Testing Window

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.

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

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.

The After Holidays Blues

When our family used to homeschool, some of the hardest months for all of us were January and February. The anticipation, preparing, and joy that the holidays bring can cause difficulty in returning to routines, school schedules, and learning. Let's face it, the holidays are filled with exuberant fun and when they are over the winter blues may set in for children and adults.

So how can you transition your family back to your homeschool days? I would suggest, ease back into your homeschool day the same way you did at the beginning of the year.

-Start with a lighter first week with a few subjects your family enjoys..

-Reaffirm your homeschool WHY and remind yourself as the parent why you are homeschooling.

Perhaps revisit your homeschool vision and if you have never created one take a few moments to watch the recorded **Homeschool Refresh Workshop** found on our FHP Families webpage: [FHP Homeschool Support](#) *Remember as the homeschool parent, you set the tone for your homeschool!*

-Take it easy on yourself and your children. Always look for the joy in the small moments and start an awesome family read aloud, read poetry together with goodies, make family and individual goals for the new year, and/or refresh your school area/supplies.

-Remember that humans love to have something to look forward to, like the holidays. Perhaps plan a family outing after the first week of homeschool: go to lunch, find an indoor swimming pool, go to a used bookstore and let each child pick out a new book to read, or plan a playdate with another homeschool family. Any reward for a job well done that fits your family will work.

Take care of yourself and your family during these cold winter months! Please feel free to reach out anytime. I am here and happy to support you!

Additional Resource: [Homeschooling in Winter \(homeschool mom blog\)](#)

Find Joy in your everyday!

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

Winter is Here–Snow Days are a Possibility

This is the time of year when snowfall and cold temperatures cause school closures. Before leaving the house, be sure to check on D49's weather status on the D49 website. We would hate for anyone to make an unnecessary trip in icy driving conditions or frigid cold temperatures.