



## Falcon Homeschool Program Newsletter

January 23, 24 and 25 2024

### UPCOMING DATES:

February 19th: President's Day District closed

Front Desk Number: (719) 495-5373

### **Class Updates:**

#### *Arts and STEM Exploration*

##### *Ms. Jill*

We have another great week in store in Arts this week! During music time, we will review dotted half notes, play the entire Liberty Bell March, and then start taking a look at a song called Copper and Tin. For our visual art time, we will wrap up some shape art tasks that allow us to create with both geometric and organic shapes. Finally, we will be traveling to Mercury to hear and analyze Holst's version of this planet. Please email me at [jill.foster@d49.org](mailto:jill.foster@d49.org) with any questions that come to your mind!

##### *Ms. Katrina*

This week we will be continuing our investigation of the solar system. Students will be assigned a planet to research and to create a commercial about. The commercial will encourage people to move to the planet by using the planet's unique features as selling points. We will also continue our quick build engineering challenges. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Email: [katrina.trujillo@d49.org](mailto:katrina.trujillo@d49.org)

##### *Ms. Stacy's Class (K-1)*

Looking forward to seeing all 3 classes this week. Thank you for sending in those cold weather clothing items. It sure helps make for a more enjoyable recess for students. This week in Social Studies, we will be continuing to look at life long ago and this week we

will explore the homes people lived in the past and how they are similar and different than in the present. In Science, we will be wading into the Tidal Pools this week. Students will learn the reason why the earth has two tides cycles a day and how these tides leave tidal pools with tidal pool creatures and why they are important. Have a wonderful week and please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. [stacy.kley@d49.org](mailto:stacy.kley@d49.org)

##### *Ms. Kassi's 2/3 Class*

Brrr! Cold weather is here! Please make sure your student has all the cold weather gear to be out in lower temps. We will go outside if the temps are warm enough (usually about 20 degrees with wind chill) and some children get very cold if they have insufficient cold weather clothing.

This week in social studies we will learn about Ancient Egyptian clothes, makeup, hair, and the food they ate. Students will get a chance to try a date, a common sweet treat during Ancient Egypt! ***If you DO NOT want your student trying a date please email me immediately.*** Can you guess the most common food during Ancient Egyptian times?

In science we will be learning to identify forces (pushes or pulls) acting on an object. We will also discuss contact and noncontact forces such as magnetism and gravity. Students will be creating a chain reaction simulation to practice using gravity and contact forces.

*Please do not hesitate to email me anytime with any questions or concerns at [kassi.nemeth@d49.org](mailto:kassi.nemeth@d49.org).*

### *Ms Leanne's Class (4-5)*

Lights, Camera, Action! This week students will be wrapping up our energy unit. They will be recording energy conservation news reports. In art, Tuesday students will be writing their Haikus doing black ink art. Wednesday and Thursday students will be water coloring. Last week as a class, we discussed short term goals. Ask your child what their goal is! No time for social studies this week, but we'll jump back into biographies the following week. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

[leanne.mckinney@d49.org](mailto:leanne.mckinney@d49.org)

### *Ms Katrina's Class (6-7)*

I am excited to continue our study of Earth's materials in Science this week. We will be looking at the properties of water and will be doing a science lab investigation to explore those properties. In social studies we will be heading West for our "Pikes Peak or Bust" gold mining project. Students will be working on budgeting in order to buy supplies to fill their wagons and will be staking a claim in the Gold Fields. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions. Email: [katrina.trujillo@d49.org](mailto:katrina.trujillo@d49.org)

## **PROGRAM REMINDERS**

### ***Farewell Ms. Katrina***

FHP Families, we are sad to share the news that Ms. Katrina will be ending her time at FHP shortly. An opportunity has come along that is better for her family, and we strongly believe that family must come first. We are going to really miss Ms. Katrina around here, and we wish her the very best in her next endeavor and those that follow. Ms. Katrina has been a strong asset to our team for close to five years, and she has certainly left her mark here at FHP. We will miss her creative mind, generous heart, and passion for teaching.

We are optimistic that we will be able to fill her position shortly, and our team will work hard to allow for a smooth transition. Ms. Katrina's last official day with us will be Feb 2, 2024 and we hope to have found her replacement by then. Of course we always wish for transitions to happen during more convenient times like over the summer; unfortunately, family needs often don't follow the school calendar.

We hope you'll join us in wishing Ms. Katrina well, and please know that our hearts and minds are focused on her STEM and Enrichment classes and students. As always, your children are our first priority. Ms. Katrina's position is posted on D49's website, and we hope to host interviews in the near future. If you or your student are interested in serving on the interview committee, please send a quick email to Ms. Nancy ([nancy.carder@d49.org](mailto:nancy.carder@d49.org)) letting her know the first name and last name and any relevant qualifications (child is in a class of Ms. Katrina, parent has been a part of our community for a long time, etc) of who is interested in serving on the committee. We will then reach out with further details.

## ***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/1RcdCmU4SYXwmVhJrA3Pyk0gP0MTDClkF/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–Now Through Monday, February 5th***

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](http://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.