



## Falcon Homeschool Program Newsletter

January 30, 31 and February 1 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 are going to have a busy week in Arts class! We will be continuing our work on our bucket drumming pieces, hoping to improve our dynamics as we practice! We will also make predictions and analyze how we think Holst went about composing the Jupiter movement of his musical piece, "The Planets." Finally, we will wrap up shape related art tasks and projects from the past few weeks. 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 finishing up our Planet commercials and will get to share them with the class. This will be my final week with the FHP program. I want to thank you all again for allowing me to be a part of your homeschool journey, and for sharing your incredibly talented and kind-hearted children with me. I will miss all of my students and families so much! You all hold a special place in my heart. 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 another fun week in K/1 class. Looks like it's going to be a lovely week weather wise, however I'd appreciate it if you still send in a jacket for the chilly morning recess.

This week in Science we will continue to learn about the interesting Tidal Pools by classifying tidal pool creatures. We will then dive deeper into learning more about one of the creatures, the Crab.

In Social Studies, students will learn how people traveled in the colonial days.

Valentine's Day is around the corner and I wanted to let you know that we will be decorating bags to put our Valentine's in. If you student has a box or something special that they want to use that is fine too, but please know I have a bag for each student. Just wanted to let you know it's not necessary to bring anything in. 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*

Hello wonderful 2/3rd grade families! We have a great week planned!

In social studies, we are going to continue to learn about Ancient Egyptian transportation (mainly boats) and houses. We will be watching how Egyptians today still make mud bricks using soil, clay, and straw. We will also be drawing a Pharaoh's boat after looking at Pharaoh Khufu's sun boat on a virtual trip to Egypt.

In science, we will be continuing our unit on forces and motion by learning about balanced and unbalanced forces. Imagine a balanced game of tug of war! Students will be given materials to support a metal marble defying the force of gravity.

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)*

Students did great on their news reports last week. I hope they had a chance to share how to save energy with you. Their videos will be available for viewing in a few weeks. I told all my students already, but just so you know, I will be out this week. My dad had major surgery and I am back East helping him and my mom. I have wonderful subs set up for the week. Ms Wendy will be there on Tuesday and Wednesday. She has subbed in our program before and has had a child go through FHEP. Ms Jill, our Wednesday Art teacher will be my sub Thursday. Should be seamless, both ladies are wonderful.

Since our energy unit is over, we will start with an introduction to engineering. Our focus this semester is architecture: we'll be building and designing bridges, skyscrapers, and domes. In art, students will be painting with watercolor. Last week we practiced various techniques using watercolor. Now they'll have a chance to show off their new skills and demonstrate

what they learned. In our Civil War unit, we'll be comparing and contrasting the leaders of the Union and the Confederates in a venn diagram. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns, I'll be back next week.

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

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

This week we will be continuing our investigation of the properties of Earth's materials. We will be learning about minerals and crystals and will be growing our own crystals over the next couple of weeks. In Social studies, students will be completing the journey west simulation. It will be fun to see what groups will make it! This will be my final week with the FHP program. I want to thank you all again for allowing me to be a part of your homeschool journey, and for sharing your incredibly talented and kind hearted children with me. I will miss all of my students and families so much! You all hold a special place in my heart. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions. Email: [katrina.trujillo@d49.org](mailto:katrina.trujillo@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/>

### ***Update on Our New Teacher***

We interviewed for our 6th/7th Science, Social Studies, and Skills and STEM Enrichment teacher on Thursday, January 25th. Thank you to the parents and student that joined to be a part of our interview committee! We will share more information about next steps in the upcoming newsletter or via email. As always, your children are our top priority, and we aim for a very smooth transition.

## ***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](http://www.d49.org/Page/10310)

## ***2024-2025 Re-Enrollment Survey--Closes in One Week!***

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-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.

## ***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