



Falcon Homeschool Program Newsletter

April 9, 10, and 11 2024

UPCOMING DATES:

April 24th: Ms Stacy's field trip to the Denver Aquarium

April 30th: Ms Leanne's field trip to the Royal Gorge

May 9: Ms. Amber & Ms. Heather's field trip to the Gazette

Front Desk Number: (719) 495-5373

Class Updates:

Arts and STEM Exploration

Ms. Jill

Last week, we worked hard guessing the animals Saint-Saens used in his *Carnival of the Animals*. Some of the guesses were really hard due to Saint-Saens tricky musical jokes!!! This week, we will listen to the pieces again now that we know what the composer had in mind and analyze some of the musical ideas we hear. We will also continue learning about the element of value in visual art and working on reading music through our body percussion and bucket drumming pieces. Please email me at jill.foster@d49.org with any questions that come to your mind!

Ms. Amber

I hope everyone's first week back was great! It was so amazing to see everyone's smiling faces. This week we will be continuing our space travels and learning how rockets travel from earth to space. We will be covering Newton's Laws and applying them with an alka-seltzer rocket launch. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Email: amber.albrecht@d49.org

Ms. Stacy's Class (K-1)

It was fantastic seeing all my students last week. Looking forward to another great week.

Our field trip is coming up soon so please be sure to fill out the survey and send in your permission slip and funds by April 17th.

In Social Studies, this week we will be learning about different places in a community. In Science, we will be learning about the fascinating Shark.

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

stacy.kley@d49.org

Ms. Kassi's 2/3 Class

Thank you families for helping our field trip be an amazing success! Especially thank you to our carpool drivers who helped everyone be able to attend the trip.

This week we will be learning about Ancient Roman houses, the marketplace, coins, and Roman numerals. Students will get to create their own Roman coin.

In science, we will be discussing liquids and how we interact with liquids daily. Teams will get to build a dam out of legos to help control the flow of water using solids.

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

Ms Leanne's Class (4-5)

We will continue learning about pointillism this week and create our own pictures. In science, we will look at a variety of building materials. When should we use plastic? When is wood a good idea? What's the difference between iron and steel? Your child will soon know! Thursday's class will also be making their suspension bridges. In social studies, we will start looking at the major battles that occurred during the Civil War. We'll start with a map this week and learn about the battle of Ft. Sumter.

Our field trip survey to the Royal Gorge was sent out last week. I want everyone to go! Feel free to reach out if you have any questions or if you aren't sure you've turned everything in. I'll be needing lots of drivers and chaperones. I appreciate your willingness to help in advance. We have the best parents! Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. leanne.mckinney@d49.org

Ms Amber's Class (6-7)

Hello All! I was so thrilled to see everyone's smiling faces last week. I hope it was as joyous for you as it was for me. This week in science enrichment we will be continuing our exploration of light and sound waves as well as the electromagnetic spectrum. We will be using slinkies to mimic the different wave motions. In social studies enrichment we will be studying ancient China's tea ceremony and the history behind it. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions. Email: amber.albrecht@d49.org

PROGRAM REMINDERS

New Field Trip Policy

IMPORTANT - We have a new policy for completing paperwork for field trips: First you must complete the survey that will be sent to you via email three to four weeks before the field trip. It lets us know if your child is attending and if your child needs a ride. Then we need your permission slip, and money; if money is needed, turn these in together. All of these steps need to happen before the field trip. Our teachers have put a lot of time and effort into finding wonderful field trips that go with their curriculum, that they feel their students will love and benefit from. We want all our students to experience our field trips.

However, our new policy is that all items are due no later than one week before the field trip: the survey, permission slip and money (if applicable). If those items don't get turned in one week prior, your child will not be able to attend the field trip. We will have a list on the board in the multipurpose room of all the upcoming field trip dates and what's needed for each one. Your child's teacher will also have due dates on their wipe boards outside their classrooms.

Bridge Program Pre-Assessments

We are planning on administering pre-assessments for RISING Bridge Program students (students entering their second year of the Bridge Program do not need to pre-assess) on April 16, 17, and 18th during their time here with us. An email containing more detailed information about what to expect will be sent out on Tuesday, April 9.

Confirmation Emails for Re-Enrollment for the 2024-2025 School Year

On Monday, April 1, you should have received an email from Ms. Katie with confirmation details pertaining to your child's enrollment with FHP for the upcoming school year. Obviously, if you've already let us know that you won't be returning next year, you shouldn't have received an email. If you haven't received an email and you plan on returning to FHP next year, please contact Ms. Katie (kathryn.boal@d49.org) so we can make any necessary corrections.

Chaperone and Driver Info

Spring Classroom Field Trips are Quickly Approaching - Have you completed a background check yet?

Field trips for our program depend on parent drivers and chaperones. If you would like to help out our program and volunteer, you will need to have a background check completed by District 49.

- If a background check is completed between July 1 and Feb 28, the background check is valid through June 30.
- If a background check is completed between March 1 and June 30, the background check is valid until June 30 *of the following year*.

To complete a background check follow this link and complete the application linked at the bottom of the page. The cost of the background check is \$5.00. Thank you so much for your willingness to help our program with this need. [Volunteer applications](#)

****Please note that if you would like to go on the field trip with your student, but are NOT chaperoning or driving other students, you do NOT need to have a background check completed.**

If you have any questions regarding volunteering, please contact Ms. Nancy at nancy.carder@d49.org

Help for High School: A Day of Seminars and Workshops

Thursday, Apr 25, 2024@ The Campus

Our FHP staff is so excited to invite all current middle and high school FHP parents to our second Help for High School Day filled with helpful seminars and workshops. This year we will be having three different sessions which all focus on something different: High School 101, Transcript Workshop, and Concurrent Enrollment Info Session. Parents may sign up for one session or all three! If interested please register for the workshop by April 24th using the following link for the sessions you would like to attend: [Help for High School](#)

Homeschool Helpful Tips

Looking Ahead to Next Year: Part 2- Curriculum

Welcome back FHP families to our series on looking ahead to next year! This week I would like you to analyze your curriculum and review the reflection questions you thought about last week.

For each child and each subject consider the following questions:

- Was our curriculum a good fit for each child for each subject?
- Is/Was the curriculum too difficult or too easy for one or more of my children?
- Could I combine some subjects next year for multiple children such as science, social studies, and electives to make our schedule lighter?
- What curriculum will I continue, what curriculum do I need to replace?
- Can I modify an existing curriculum rather than purchase more.
- Do I need to go down a level or review a grade level with one or more of my students for mastery?
- Do I need help choosing a curriculum to better meet the needs of our family or child?

I will be very honest, I have spent A LOT of time researching curriculum over the years and bought curriculum that only sat in my basement! Be aware what works for another family may not work for your children. It is good to get recommendations from friends but you MUST do your own research. I usually started my search with Cathy Duffy Curriculum reviews then would review publisher websites. On the publisher websites you can often find the table of contents, skills taught, sample pages, helpful tips and even teacher videos.

Curriculum choice will be one topic we will discuss in our Homeschool 101 Workshop coming in August 2024 and all FHP families are welcome to attend.

Resources to research curriculum

Rainbow Resource: <https://www.rainbowresource.com/>

Cathy Duffy Curriculum Reviews: <https://cathyduffyreviews.com/>

Homeschool Buyers Club: <https://homeschoolbuyersclub.com/>

Find Joy in your every day!

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