

SUMMER UPDATE 2017

August 4, 2017

Welcome to all new and returning Four Rivers families; it's our 15th! To a great year ahead.

STAFFING UPDATE

- Help us welcome new members to our staff--you can find bios for our staff (changes in process) on the school's website under "About Us", [OUR FACULTY AND STAFF](#): **Anneke Dunnington** is our new 7th grade English/Social Studies teacher. **Robin Sidel** joins the Div 1 team as a second Assistant Teacher. **Marc Guillaume** is teaching 8th grade science while **Jessica Farwell** will teach 8th grade Math. **Jackie MacNeish (English)** and **Hannah Cummins (Social Studies)** comprise a second job share in 8th grade. **Bethany Hobbs** moves from 7th grade to 9th/10th grade social studies. **Dovrah Plotkin** will be the new Div 2 Assistant Teacher. **Robin Pfoutz** will be teaching 11th/12th grade math and serving as an 11th grade crew leader. **Kathy Leone** joins us as an Americorps volunteer working on our academic support team.

ADVISOR MEETINGS & REGISTRATION

- **SIGN UP FOR ADVISOR MEETINGS 8/28 (8:30-4:00)**: We begin our school year with a meeting to give you a chance to meet with your student's advisor and they give us a chance to get to know each student. They are required.
 - Advisor meetings take place on Monday, August 28th between 8:30 and 4:00.
 - See [CREWS 17-18](#) to find out your child's advisor. As a rule, Mr. Leaf, our Dean of Students, does not change these assignments unless there is a serious reason to.
 - Go to [ADVISOR MEETING SIGN-UP INSTRUCTIONS](#) and follow the steps.
 - Please call the office at (413) 775-4577 if that process doesn't work for you.
 - If you absolutely cannot make a meeting on that Monday, contact the advisor directly to set up another time (first initial followed by last name @frcps.org).
- **REGISTRATION 8/28 (8:00-4:30)**: Registration materials are being mailed home this week and should be returned to the school by 8/25. Please stop by the Common Room either before or after your advisor meeting to make sure the school has all the necessary completed documents for your child to start the new year. A reminder that all fees from 16-17 school year have to be paid prior to students being enrolled in classes for 2017-18.
- **THE STUDENT AND FAMILY HANDBOOK**: All students and parents need to sign off *in the Advisor Meeting* that they have reviewed the [STUDENT AND FAMILY HANDBOOK](#), where we document policies, procedures, and practices that govern our school. New Families, you are encouraged to start with the Background page.
- **RESPONSIBLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY**: All students need to sign an agreement to follow rules for responsible use of technology at school. Read the policy so you can sign with commitment in the Advisor Meeting.

INFORMATION FOR THE START OF SCHOOL FORMS

Here is a list of the materials to look for and where to find them on the website. The Four Rivers website (www.fourriverscharter.org) is your **go to** for all back to school information! Look on the right side of the home page and look for the white box - **Start of School Forms**.

- Fall Sports and Afterschool program information
- Soccer Registration Form
- Cross Country Registration Form
- Free & Reduced lunch application: Applications need to be renewed each school year. Those who qualified last year will have a thirty day grace period once school starts. Lunch bills are emailed home and payment is due in one week. Credit is extended for

lunch and breakfast purchases up to \$45.00.

- Driving policies and student parking permits: All student drivers must fill out a parking permit application (a new one each year) if they wish to park in the school parking lot.

For other items:

- Summer Reading and Supply Lists (link on right side of the home page under **Highlights**)
- Updated Academic Calendar 2017-18: (link is under **Calendars & Events**)
- Carpool Directory for 2017-18: This is a list of all families by town. Contact Leslie Taylor (ltaylor@frcps.org) to request a copy.

Orientation trip forms included in the Summer Update Mailing:

- High school families: Students in grades 9, 10 & 12 have overnight orientation trips which require you to fill out forms:
 - Twelfth graders head to Star Island in Portsmouth, NH. Please note, Star Island requires a photocopy of both the front and back of your child's health insurance card.
 - Ninth and tenth graders are going to the Path of Life in Vermont.
 - There is a **Trip Pledge Form** for you and your student to sign, saying he or she will not bring anything on the overnight that they shouldn't. A parent has to confirm their signature in person or with a phone call to Mr. Leaf (Dean of Students) or Mr. Garbus (Principal). Follow the instructions on the form.
 - If your child requires medication during the school day or on an overnight, you must submit the **medical form (MED-3)** completed and signed by your child's physician.
 - The forms are due to the office by Friday August 25th at 4:00pm.

NOTES FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

- **BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT 9/20:** Mark your calendars -- we invite you to join us on September 20 for our annual Back to School Night. This will give you an opportunity to meet your child's teachers and learn more about the program. This is an adults only event (leave the students at home, please).
- **LIFETOUCH Picture Day 9/28:** more information on picture ordering will be out the first week of school
- **Student Led Conferences for November:** the dates have changed to November 8th and 9th. There will be an early dismissal on 11/8 at 12:30 but NO early dismissal on 11/3.

We have a great school year coming up, with a terrific faculty, engaging learning experiences, and our always lively students ahead. See you soon.

Questions? Contact Carolyn Wood in the office -- 413-775-4577 or cwood@fourriverscharter.org.

Peter Garbus
Principal and Head of School