



August 28, 2024

Hello Farmingdale Students and Families,

Welcome back to the 2024-25 school year! I truly hope you had an amazing summer.

I am excited to share our theme for this school year: **"Farmingdale School: Where Our Students and Staff Are Out of This World!"**

Farmingdale is not just a place where education happens—it is a vibrant community where extraordinary individuals come together to create something remarkable. This year's theme perfectly encapsulates the essence of what makes our school shine.

Our students approach learning with a sense of wonder and enthusiasm that is nothing short of extraordinary. Whether they're exploring new ideas in the classroom, collaborating on projects, or showing kindness and support to one another, our students exemplify what it means to be truly exceptional. Their talents and abilities make them stand out in ways that are nothing short of out of this world.

Equally remarkable are the dedicated staff members who work tirelessly to support and nurture our students. Our teachers and staff go above and beyond, investing their time, energy, and heart into all they do. They bring innovative teaching methods, unwavering patience, and a deep commitment to each child's success.

Together, our students and staff create a dynamic and supportive community that is indeed out of this world. It's this collective spirit of excellence and dedication that makes Farmingdale School a place where extraordinary things happen.

As we move forward this year, let's embrace our theme with pride and enthusiasm. Let's continue to support each other, celebrate our achievements, and strive for new heights.

Over the summer our staff has been hard at work, making repairs to the building, deep cleaning and getting our classrooms and instructional spaces ready for students to return. We are excited to welcome back all of our Farmingdale students and families on **Thursday, September 5th**. Please meet us on the Academy Street side near the flagpole at 8:35 am and have students line up with their class, weather permitting. Our staff will be waiting for you. Parents are welcome to stay for our opening exercises, which should last about 10 minutes. In case of rain, students will meet in the gymnasium and unfortunately, we will only have space for students and staff.

We have a **shortened day on Thursday, September 5th** with dismissal at 12:45 pm. Please have your student(s) bring a healthy snack. The following day, Friday, September 6th, will be a typical full day with dismissal at 3:15 pm.

Please be on the lookout for a separate email regarding [OnCourse Connect Annual Registration](#). [OnCourse Connect](#) is our parent portal, and **each family is required to complete the Annual Registration process** and acknowledge understanding of several documents, as well as verify that your information on file is correct. The person who previously has been designated as the “primary” contact will be receiving the email along with personalized login information. **Please note that until the Annual Registration module has been submitted, the parent portal will not open, your child will not be able to access OnCourse for classwork, and report cards will not print.** Once you receive your email, please complete the process as soon as possible. The main office is available to help if you have any difficulty with completing the module.

Other items of note:

### 1. Emergency Contact Updates

Our One Call Now notification system enables us to provide you with school information using email, text message, or telephone instead of paper copies. The notification will include school closing and late start or early dismissal information during inclement weather. Please provide the district with the following on the OneCallNow update form that will be sent home: cell phone numbers, work numbers, email address, and other contact information so the system can keep you well-informed.

*In addition, please update emergency information with the BEST numbers to reach you or an emergency contact of your choosing in the event your child will need to be picked up from school. It is expected that a parent/guardian or emergency contact will pick up an ill student within 30 minutes of contact.*

### 2. Arrival/Dismissal Procedures

Your child’s safety is our number one priority. In order to ensure a safe and effective arrival and dismissal each day, please review the following procedures:

#### **Driving, dropping off, and picking up students:**

- Drive cautiously and with patience.
- **All students are expected to exit the car only in the “Kiss and Ride” section in our back parking lot area ONLY (off Southard Avenue).** Please be mindful of others behind and in front of you and quickly drop off your child. Have your child(ren) exit the car on the curb side only. If you wish to walk your children to the door each day, you are welcome to park in the parking lot assigned for visitors. **Please do NOT drop your students off in front of the school on Academy Street or in any other area.**
- In an effort to ensure the safety of both students and guardians, the State Police will be on hand to monitor area traffic in the Borough of Farmingdale as students arrive to and from school. Please be mindful of speed limits and speed bumps.

- When you pick up your K-5 grade student at the end of the day, you are required to park, get out of your car, and meet your student at the area designated by his/her teacher.
- **In addition, all K-5 parents will be required to complete a Farmingdale Dismissal Procedures Form indicating whether their child can walk home unescorted or will be picked up each day.** This form will be due back immediately. Please adhere to these rules as they ensure student safety in our parking lot at dismissal. If your child is expected to be picked up by a person not on your form on a given day, please call the main office as soon as possible to notify us and then email our school secretary, Mrs. Governale, at [kathleen.governale@farmingdaleschool.com](mailto:kathleen.governale@farmingdaleschool.com) so the request is in writing.
- **Helmets:** All students in 3rd grade and up who choose to ride their bike, skateboard, or rollerblade to school must wear a helmet. Bikers must secure their bike with a lock. Bike racks are available. Also, **permission must be granted within the “Permissions” section of the [OnCourse Annual Registration](#) module.**
- No changes have been made to the bell schedule for the 24-25 school year. Students need to arrive prior to 8:35 or they will be considered late. Doors open for arrival at 8:25 am.

### Arrival and Dismissal Locations:

Please see the table below for your child's grade and entrance/exit door:

Grades	Entrance	Exit
Pre-K-Fireflies	Their classroom doors	Same classroom doors
Pre-K-Honeybees	Library door	Library door
K&1	Their classroom doors	Same classroom doors
Grades 2-5	Blue gym door	2nd Grade = 2nd Grade side door 3rd Grade = Breezeway door 4th Grade = Blue gym door 5th Grade = Blue gym door
Grades 6-8	Blue gym door	School Entrance/Main Office Doors

### 3. At Home Technology Request

All students in grades 3-8 will be allowed to use a district device at home for HOMEWORK ONLY, if needed. **If your child needs to borrow a chromebook (3-8) to utilize for HOMEWORK ONLY, please make your request within the “Technology” section of the [OnCourse](#) Annual Registration portal and acknowledge the accompanying documents.**

Students will be required to travel back and forth to school with their fully-charged device each day as they will also utilize the device in the classroom.

### 4. Visiting the School

When visiting our school, please call ahead to notify us that you will be stopping by, and remember to state your name, your child's name, and present ID after ringing the doorbell in order to gain access to the building.

5. When visiting the school, **please park in the visitor lot and walk to the entrance of the school. Visitors are not permitted to park in the fire line (in front of the office) and leave their car unattended for any length of time.**

Our student/parent handbook will be provided to students on the first day of school. Please review this handbook carefully with your student(s) and promptly sign and return the form that acknowledges that you reviewed it.

Please take the time to view our school website at [www.farmingdaleschool.com](http://www.farmingdaleschool.com) and our X account (formerly Twitter) @FSDVikings. Our goal is to provide you with information that you can access at all times. Please feel free to let us know if there are additional items that you would like to see added to the website or events and/or activities you would like us to share via social media.

Farmingdale School District is fortunate to have an active Parent/Teacher Association that works with our staff to ensure that all students are provided with valuable learning opportunities as well as resources. Please help support our school by joining the PTA. Information will be sent home on how to join.

We are looking forward to an exceptional year ahead!

In education,  
Edith Conroy, Ed.D.