



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The 2018 Levi P. Dodge Middle School Scholastic Book Fair is coming up on March 1st and March 6th! Please plan on stopping by the Media Center to check out a wonderful selection of engaging and affordable books. Reading for pleasure inside and outside of school has real and long-lasting benefits. It unlocks the power of information and imagination and helps children discover who they are. Remember, all purchases benefit our school. See you at the Book Fair! Fair hours are March 1, 12:30 to 7:00pm and March 6, 2:30 to 7:00pm

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0f48aba72aaa8-book>

FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

I am sure that as many of you have followed the news that it is no surprise that Influenza/Flu has been widespread this year across our nation.

Many of our school families have been battling Influenza, strep throat and a variety of other viruses this winter. Here are some helpful hints to cut down on the spread of illnesses:

- We do want your kids in school BUT please remember if you have an ill child, *do not send* them back to school until they are ready and able to handle a full day of classes and activities.
- Please remind all family members to practice good hand hygiene, covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or sleeve.
- Routinely clean and disinfect commonly used areas and frequently touched surfaces. Flu can remain on surfaces for up to 8 hrs.

Please open the attached PDF, it is a helpful screening tool for parents and caregivers to use when trying to decide whether to send or not send a child to school.

SPRING 2018 STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES AT DMS – THURS. MARCH 1 & TUES. MARCH 6

Student-led conferences take place on March 1 and 6. We have had student-led conferences in place for many years and really believe in the value of the **student** being an integral part of the conversation. *It allows students the opportunity to assume greater control and responsibility of their learning, engage in the process of self-reflection and evaluation, and develop organizational and oral communication skills.* Once upon a time, conferences were almost an “unveiling” of a snapshot of where a student’s grades were at and that simply is not the case anymore with instant access to all sorts of evidence of learning. With Family Web Access and Schoology, students and their parent/guardian can monitor learning daily. Additionally, we encourage families to reach out to staff at any time with specific questions you may have, not just during conferences. You can access all of our staff via email or phone by clicking on our [STAFF DIRECTORY](#).

This spring we will continue with a slightly modified format that we believe will be very beneficial. We will still continue to have a 15 minute student-led conference hosted by the student’s Tiger Connections Teacher. Parents/Guardians can



sign up online [HERE](#) to choose a conference time. Feedback we have received during some of our recent PTP meetings is that it would be nice to have an opportunity to clarify a question with a specific teacher. Therefore we will have building-wide **“Open Times”** for parents to stop and visit with any teacher they wish. You may find that through Infinite Campus, Schoology, and the individual student-led conference that you do not have a need to utilize the “Open Times” and that is perfectly ok!

Please be mindful that our staff may have a number of students and parents that may want to see them during this short window so a few minutes would be an appropriate amount of time to visit. Additional time before or after our conference evenings can be requested directly from the teacher.

<p><u>“March 1st Open Times”</u> 12:30-12:45 1:30-2:00 2:45-3:00 3:45-4:00 4:30-4:45 5:30-6:00 6:45-7:15</p> <p>4:00-4:30 is our Staff Dinner Break</p> <p>*Conferences end at 7:15 p.m.</p>	<p><u>“March 6th Open Times”</u> 2:30-2:45 3:30-4:00 4:30-4:45 5:30-6:00 6:45-7:00</p> <p>4:00-4:30 is our Staff Dinner Break</p> <p>*Conferences end at 7:15 p.m.</p>
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STUDENTS INTERESTED IN TRACK AND FIELD

An informational meeting for Middle School and High School Track and Field will take place on Monday, February 26th at 7:00pm in the Recital Hall at FHS.

The deadline to sign up is April 9th. Please see the link below to sign up and the attached PDF for additional information.

<http://fhs.farmington.k12.mn.us/cms/one.aspx?pageId=2208741>

SIX WAYS TO GET MORE A'S

Does a child’s health impact their grades in school? YES! What can students do to improve their health and grades? Consuming at least one fruit and one vegetable daily and not drinking sugary beverages are just a few.

[Click here to find out the other three tips!](#)

Sponsored by the Farmington Area Wellness Committee





DMS GAMERS FUNDRAISING EVENT ON FEB. 26TH – CHIK-FIL-A – APPLE VALLEY 5:30 to 7:30

DMS GAMERS is an activity group that celebrates the unique talents and abilities of students who enjoy the competition of games. Our students socialize and mentor others through role playing, leadership, creativity and tournament management.

We invite you to come celebrate school spirit and raise money to keep our group supplied and funded. Please join us Monday February 26th at Chick-Fil-A (Apple Valley) Spirit Night for DMS GAMERS from 5:30-7:30 pm!

Please open the attached PDF to learn more information and you will need to show the attached flyer when you place your order.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT NIGHT

Dodge Middle School will be hosting an informational meeting for 5th grade parents regarding the 2018-2019 transition to middle school on Tuesday, March 13 beginning at 6:30pm in the cafeteria.

2017-18 ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

At Farmington Area Public Schools, we are committed to providing our students with personalized learning experiences. To best achieve this, we regularly assess students' growth. Various classroom and standardized assessments aid teachers in providing for individual instructional needs and identifying class trends. We strive to consider the whole picture when serving our students. Having multiple types of assessments helps provide a fuller picture of each student's needs.

Farmington Area Public Schools administer two sets of large scale standardized assessments: the Minnesota State Accountability tests and the NWEA MAP tests. We highly encourage you to read more about what each assessment provides for your student(s), and [have provided a chart](#) for this purpose.

Parents and guardians do have the right to request their student(s) not participate in a scheduled assessment. If you wish your child not to take one or more of the planned assessments, please make sure you understand the role of the assessment and complete the appropriate form.

ATTENTION WRITERS:

DMS Young Authors Club begins meeting after school on February 5, 2:30-4. We will meet most Mondays up until Spring Break. Writers will have time to work on their personal choice, learn from other passionate writers, and be able to share their writing with peers, if they choose. There is no cost for this club and registration can be found on the DMS Staff and Student News Group in Schoology. Question can be directed to Mrs. Ammerman, kammerman@farmington.k12.mn.us

ATTENTION PARENTS OF CURRENT 8TH GRADE STUDENTS – REGISTRATION INFORMATION

If you were unable to attend the parent information meeting hosted by FHS school counselors last Thursday, click on the link below for the video presentation.

<https://youtu.be/FMdw4jtcYEc>



Take Care,

Chris Bussmann, Principal

DID YOU KNOW?

Attendance Line: 651-460-1505

If a student will be absent, a parent/guardian must call Dodge Middle School's attendance line at 651-460-1505 between 7:00 AM and 8:15 AM each day of the absence. We ask that parents/guardians provide the reason for the absence at the time they call. The school determines if the absence falls within the excused or unexcused parameters. If the school does not receive a call from the parent/guardian the day of the absence, the student's absence is automatically unexcused.

To request a pre-excused absence, a parent/guardian needs to complete the online "[Request to Waive Unexcused Status of Absence](#)" form (a link to the form is provided here).

You can access this link by visiting the Dodge Middle School webpage and clicking on the green icon located on the bottom right of the page titled "Pre-Arranged Absence". Below is the image of the icon on the DMS website:



Please note that the form should be submitted at least 5 school days in advance of the absence.

Assignments & Homework Shortcuts

We've created a shortcut for you to view your child's weekly assignments and homework that are maintained in a Google Doc organized by grade level houses.

You can access these shortcuts by visiting the Dodge Middle School webpage and clicking on the yellow icon located on the bottom right of the page titled "Assignments". Below is an image of the icon on the DMS website:



You can also click [HERE](#).

The most recent information is located at the top of the document while past week's information can be viewed by scrolling down the document. This information is also present through Schoology.

Should you have a need to access specific assignments, please use your Parent Schoology Access Code or have your student visit the specific course in Schoology. Questions related to specific assignments should be directed to your student's teacher.

Upcoming Events

February 26th: DMS Gamers Group fundraiser at Chick-fil-A in Apple Valley – 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

March 1st:
2-Hour Early Release
Student-Led Conferences – 12:30 pm to 7:15 pm
Book Fair in the DMS Media Center – 12:30 pm to 7:15 pm



- March 6th: Student-Led Conferences – 2:30 pm to 7:15 pm
Book Fair in the DMS Media Center – 2:30 pm to 7:15 pm
- March 9th: NO SCHOOL – District Staff Development Day
- March 19th: District Band Jubilee – FHS – 7:00 pm (Grade 8)
- March 22nd: Choirpalooza – FHS – (HS and grade 6)
- Mar. 26th – Apr. 2nd: NO SCHOOL – Spring Break

COMMUNITY RESOURCES HIGHLIGHTS

We're always updating the [Community Resources page](#) on our website with new events and activities that support our Farmington community. Click to learn more!

COMMUNITY RESOURCES HIGHLIGHTS

We're always updating the [Community Resources page](#) on our website with new events and activities that support our Farmington community. Here are a few that are ongoing or coming soon:

- **THE EDGE**
“This Edge” is a summer youth program for students entering grades 6-9- (up to age 16). The program is run through Burnsville Community Ed and in partnership with Farmington, Lakeville, Shakopee and New Prague Community Education departments. The Edge provides daily field trips and experiences that help kids develop their independence, gain responsibility, and accountability, and improve interpersonal communication. Please open the attached PDF for more information!