



WILLIAM H. FARQUHAR MIDDLE SCHOOL

17017 Batchellors Forest Road • Olney, Maryland 20832

Phone: 240-740-1200 • Fax: 301-774-7505

Office of the Principal

August 6, 2018

Dear Farquhar Family:

On behalf of the Farquhar faculty and staff, we would like to welcome you to the 2018-2019 school year. This year we welcome a new administrator to our community, Ms. Amy Councilman, Assistant Principal. As we look forward to this school year, our team is excited about *maximizing opportunities for our students to collaborate and connect in order to increase their level of school engagement (MC²=E)*. Our entire faculty is committed to ensuring every student connects to their academic content and also participates in an extra-curricular activity.

This year we want to inspire all of the Farquhar Families to be actively engaged in our school, but more importantly, your child's individual academic performance and social development. We will have several forms of communication to support and enhance your engagement this school year.

- **Parent Academy:** This year we will be launching our first ever Parents Academy for incoming 6th grade parents. This Academy is designed to give you a head start on all things middle school, review important information, and answer any questions as you transition your child.
- **Monthly Newsletter (FMS News):** We publish a monthly newsletter that is posted on our school website, as well as, the PTA parent listserv. The newsletter will include information from the Grade Level Teams, Counseling, Athletics, Curriculum Information, PTA and MCPS.
- **ConnectEd Calls:** Parents may expect to receive messages by email or phone via the ConnectEd system. This message will include activities, featured events and important school updates.
- **School Website:** The site includes information on Grade Level Teams, Counseling, Athletics, Media Center, Curriculum Information and much more.
<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/farquharms/>
- **Farquhar Morning Show:** This student-produced morning show provides daily announcements, a glimpse into middle school and showcases the expertise of Farquhar's TV production class.
- **PTA Listserv:** The parent-maintained discussion board is a tool for parents to connect with one another about school events.
- **Twitter: @farquharms:** Social media is not just for kids! Twitter is a great way to receive quick reminders about school events, hear of exciting classroom experiences and see pictures of key events.

There are important events occurring in the upcoming months to place on your calendar in preparation for the first quarter of the school year.

- **6th Grade and New Student Orientation Day:** Thursday, August 30, 7:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. This event is for incoming 6th grade students only or newly enrolled 7th and 8th grade students.
- **Parent Academy:** Thursday, August 30, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. This event is for incoming 6th grade parents only.
- **First Day of School:** Tuesday, September 4, our doors open for students at 7:45 a.m. and dismissal is at 3:00 p.m.
- **School Picture Day:** Wednesday, September 12
- **Back-To-School-Night:** Thursday, September 20, specialized meetings begin at 5:30 p.m. and school-wide event from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- **After School Activities:** Begin Tuesday, October 2

Through collaboration, we will continue to nurture a school climate where excellence in teaching and learning is a daily reality for each and every student.

Sincerely,

Joel L. Beidleman
Principal