



Falcon News

Lakota Middle School

1415 SW 314th St, Federal Way, WA 98023 (253) 945-4800

www.fwps.org/lakota

Pam Tuggle, Principal
Marin Miller, Assistant Principal



September 2009



Highlights From the Principal

What another great summer in the Northwest, with exception of those few days of extreme heat. Whew! I hope you all made the best of the sunshine while we had it. September is a month that always brings excitement, because getting ready for a new school year means we have the opportunity to “start all over” and set some new goals. What a great time to purpose in your mind which learning habits help you to be successful at school. Take a few minutes and write four or five habits you want to keep or add to your list. Some ideas I would like to suggest are:

- Be positive and believe in yourself
- Come to school prepared and ready to learn
- Arrive on time and attend school everyday
- Bring your learning tools/supplies
- Try to read for fun at least 20-30 minutes each day

I know our middle school students cannot wait to see their friends, their new teachers and even stop to say hello to their former teachers. I warmly welcome all of our returning students and families and extend a very special welcome to our sixth graders, new students and their families to our school. You have made an excellent choice to join our school community. Lakota Middle School has been delivering excellence in education in Federal Way for 50 years and we take pride in providing a positive, respectful and safe learning environment for all.

This year is a huge year of transition for our school. While we are exercising our brains and eagerly learning all of the “great stuff” this year, our new school will be in the building process right behind us. I will keep you up to date on the latest “construction news” via newsletters, Connect-Ed calls and our website. I have personally observed some amazing transformations already this

(continued on pg. 2)

Lakota Calendar

August

24 8th grade Schedule Pick-up, 4 - 7 p.m.

25 ... 6-7 grade Schedule Pick-up, 1 - 7 p.m.

September

3 First Day of School

3 Athletics begin

7 Labor Day - No School

17 PTA Family BBQ, 6:00 p.m.

22 Fundraiser Assembly

October

5 Back to School Night, 6:30-8:30 pm

9 Teacher Inservice, No School

16 Data Day, No School

29 - 30 SLCs, No School

November

11 Veteran’s Day

25 Early Release

26-27 Thanksgiving Break, No School

December

21-31 Winter Break, No School

January

1 Winter Break, No School

18 ... Martin Luther King Jr. Day, No School

29 Day Between Semesters, No School

February

15-16 Mid-Winter break

March

25-26 SLCs, No School

29-31 Spring Break, No School

April

1-2 Spring Break, No School

30 Data Day, No School

May

31 Memorial Day, No School

June

1 Snow Make-up Day

16 Last Day of School

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summer. How exciting...the new school we have all heard about, talked about, and helped plan is actually happening. We are scheduled to open the new Lakota Middle School in the fall of 2010.

Quite a few changes inside our building are happening as well. Our library will have two classrooms (with walls) in it for this year of transition. The computer lab will be relocated to the front of the school, across the hallway from the main office. The former computer lab is now two teaching spaces and the stage will be used as a teaching space once again. We also have some outstanding new staff members joining our Lakota Falcon team. Please read about them in this newsletter, and make sure you introduce yourself and get to know them. We all want to get to know you, as well. We are a very “family friendly” school. Last year we had more than a couple of thousand hours of volunteer time in our school, which is absolutely amazing and we want to continue with even more hours of volunteer time this year. We want **YOU** to be a partner with us in whatever manner you feel free and comfortable. For anyone willing to give time, we have a job for you. At Lakota Middle School, we have an ongoing declaration, “Together We Win.”

Please take note that the first day of school is before Labor Day this year. It is on Thursday, September 3rd, but this day is designed as an orientation day especially for 6th graders and new Lakota students, however all students are welcome and may attend. Parents/guardians are invited to accompany their students at the beginning of orientation on the first day. Orientation will begin in our gym at 8:00 a.m. Returning 7th and 8th grade students will report to their first period class, if they choose to attend on the first day. **All students** will report to their first period class on Friday, September 4th. Mr. Miller and I will be happy to see you and we will “meet and greet” you at the front door. Please call our office if you have any questions or need clarification. We are always happy to help. Together, let’s make this school year the BEST!!

With Falcon Pride,

Pam Tuggle, Principal

Clubs, Activities & Extended Learning Opportunities

Research tells us that school success is directly related to school involvement. We have multiple opportunities for students to be involved., Some of our extended learning opportunities, clubs and activities are:

Activity	Advisor
ASB/Leadership/Ambassador (Associated Student Body)	Ms. Smith
National Junior Honor Society (NHJS)	Ms. Storms
Boeing Math & Science Workshops,	Ms. Conklin
Math Night (for students & families)	Ms. Braun
Math Team (Competition)	Ms. Wong
Latina Girls’ Leadership Academy	Ms. King
Friends of Rachel	Ms. Garrett
After-school tutoring for reading and math,	Various teachers
Study Table for Athletes,	Mr. Cross
Peer Leadership (Equity & Diversity)	TBA
Drama Club	Ms. Freelund
Zero Hour Jazz Band,	Ms. Kovach
Zero Hour Choir,	Ms. Dooley

ELO buses are available on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. They leave school at 3:40 p.m.



Family Partnerships

The Federal Way School District’s Family Partnership Office would like to hear ideas from parents and staff about simple ways parents can support their student’s learning at home.

The department would like to gather the best ideas and tips to share with parents who want to support their children’s academic success, but whose work schedules do not allow them to participate in school meetings, committees or activities.

To share your ideas you can call 253-945-2273, or send an e-mail to tmoore@fwps.org or schedule an appointment at a location and time most convenient for you.

Assistant Principal's

**C
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N
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R**
by
**Marin
Miller**

It has been an exciting summer at Lakota. It has been amazing to watch the construction of our new school over the summer. As I write they are raising the first walls of the new Lakota. Seeing the machinery working you know that it is really happening and we will have a new Lakota next year.

Teachers are setting up their classrooms and getting ready for the school year. Students and parents are going back to school shopping. There is a lot of excitement in the air.

On a personal note my third child, Liam, who was born at the start of last year is doing great. He is crawling around and pulling himself up on things. He will only eat solid food but has no teeth. I am sure you will see him at several of our school functions.

I want to thank you for your on-going support of Lakota. Your involvement in Lakota is what truly makes this such a great school. I always have an open door policy, so if you ever have any questions, comments, or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me. Clear communication is the key to helping all students be academically successful.

Speaking of involvement, we are at the start of our first sports seasons. Lakota Football, Girls Fast Pitch and Lakota's new Girls' Cross Country team will be starting another exciting year. I would like to take a moment to welcome Mark Cross as our new head Football Coach. With Mrs. Mohler heading Fast Pitch and Mrs. Smith our new Girls' Cross Country head coach, I know that we will have a great first season. Remember all students that wish to participate in sports in the Federal Way School District must turn in their athletic packets, purchase an ASB membership, pay their athletic fee, have a current physical examination and abide by all provisions of the Student Athletic/Activity Code before they are allowed to practice. So, make sure to get everything turned in as early as possible.

Just a reminder for all returning students and for all our new incoming 6th grade students, Lakota is a uniform school. Please review the 2009-2010 uniform policy included in this packet. You can find also find a copy of the 2009-2010 uniform policy on the Lakota Middle school website at <http://schools.fwps.org/lakota/> If you have any questions about the uniform policy please let me know.

Lakota also has a school wide discipline program. The "Falcon" discipline program is built on the philosophy of helping students take responsibility for their own actions. The goal is to provide a safe classroom environment and optimum learning environment for all students. Students are expected to follow the four B's.

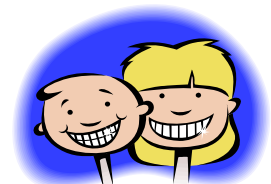
- ❖ Be Respectful
- ❖ Be Responsible
- ❖ Be Accountable
- ❖ Be Empowered

As part of that discipline program we also spotlight the outstanding behavior of all our students through our Gotcha program. When a staff member observes a student showing respect and/or supporting another fellow student they will receive a Gotcha. Students also receive Gotchas for demonstrating Falcon pride for the school building and environment, being helpful and supportive to staff and/or taking responsibility for their own actions. The slip can be redeemed on Fridays during the student's lunch. When redeemed the student is entered into a regular drawing for rewards on the Gotcha Wheel. So if your student receives a Gotcha you know they are demonstrating excellent behavior. Getting ready for a new school year, watching the new Lakota being built and celebrating student achievement is making this an exciting start to the 2009-2010 school year. I know it is going to be a great year.

Marin Miller
Assistant Principal

REMEMBER:

LAKOTA IS A UNIFORM SCHOOL!



Construction Zone



This year will be a transition year as we watch the new Lakota Middle School emerge before our eyes. And, before you know it, we will move into our new school.

You will notice right away that we are a “construction zone.” However, the architects and contractors have assured our safety during this process. All construction workers will wear a name badge to identify themselves. Fences and barriers will keep us from entering restricted areas.

Staff, students and visitors to our school will have to respect the construction areas and follow the directions on the signs.

Because of the construction there have been many changes inside the building. Many teachers have moved, so be sure to refer to your school map.



New Phone Number?

Please let us know when you have a change of address or a new phone number. It is also important to keep your emergency contact information current. You can send a note to the front office, e-mail us or give us a call.

If there is a medical or other emergency involving your student, we need to be able to contact you right away!

Welcome New Staff!

Jerry Howard - will teach 8th grade Cambridge Language Arts/History.

Delores Kennedy - will join us as a Special Education para-educator.

Deborah Kovach - our new Band Director.

Doris King - will join our Special Education Team.

Emetri Marzan - our new Night Lead Custodian.

Mark Orr - will teach 6th grade Cambridge Science.

Eric Sladek - will teach 6th grade Cambridge math. He is also our new Assistant Football Coach.

Melissa Storms - will teach 7th grade Cambridge Language Arts/Social Studies.

Laurie Sukola - will teach 8th grade Science.

Chris Williams - will teach 7th grade Cambridge math.

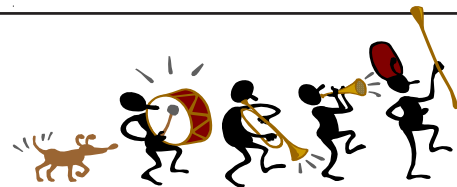
Holly Kave - is our new LPN. She will be in the health room Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Friday.

Did you forget something?

If your student forgot something, please drop it off in our front office. We are always happy to deliver lunches, musical instruments, P.E. clothes, or homework. When you bring it in, please make sure your student's name is visible, so we can get it to them quickly.



Welcome Back Lakota Bands!



I am really, really-really, **REALLY** eager to meet all of our band musicians! You may be curious and even apprehensive about having a new director. Mr. Jacobus and I have known each other a long time (he taught *my* kids), so I know and love your excellent tradition, and I respect the fact that you will miss him very much. Some things may be a bit different now, but what will be familiar and comfortable is that we get to create awesome music together, share great times and camaraderie, and take on challenges one day at a time. I love to laugh, to learn and to make music—hope you do, too!

Band Supplies

- No instruments needed the first day
- **Everyone:** spiral or sidebound notebook, # 2 pencil, reeds, valve oil, cork grease, or other instrument supplies as applicable, *Accent on Achievement* book you used last year.
- **8th graders**—*Bach and Before Band* (for your instrument).
- **7th graders**—*Standard of Excellence Bk 2* (blue) for your instrument.
- **6th graders**—patience! We have a lot to do before we choose instruments and play for the first time... If you already **HAVE** your instrument, you will be using *Standard of Excellence Book 1* (red).

I can't wait to meet you all—but first enjoy the rest of your summer! ~ **Mrs. Kovach**

School Nurse Notes

Welcome back to all returning Falcons and welcome new families. I am the school nurse and I am in this office Mondays and Wednesdays. If you have health concerns, need insurance or help finding a provider, give me a call.

Reminder! if your child has a potentially life threatening condition such as diabetes or an Epi-pen for severe allergies. I must have all orders, medications and care plan in place **BEFORE** school starts including training appropriate staff. Please call or email me to set up an appointment.

With the emergence of H1N1 Swine flu, please start making alternate plans now to follow Public Health guidelines if your child becomes sick with a flu like illness.

Public Health encourages the community to prepare now for the expected resurgence of H1N1 in the fall:

Individuals and families should make plans now for keeping themselves and their children at home and away from work, school and child care programs if they are ill until they are no longer infectious. This also means working with schools to assure learning continues at home whenever possible.

As fall is upon us, it isn't too early to think about flu shots. The CDC is recommending all children get yearly flu shots. Talk to your health care provider about getting them for your students as well as yourselves. A vaccine for Swine flu is in the works and may include 3 separate shots. As soon as I hear of it's availability I will forward the information to you.



A reminder about medications; **all** prescription medications taken at school must have a written doctor's order, parent permission and labeled container. This includes inhalers for asthma. You can pick up the forms from the front office or the health room. Over-the counter medications may be carried by the student with a written note from parent/guardian, and one day's dosage. **Remember no sharing with other students.**

To reach me, call 945-4809 or email soverton@fwps.org with any questions, concerns or comments.

Sue Overton RN, BSN

Gotcha!

You've been caught exhibiting excellent behavior at Lakota. When the staff of Lakota observes a student, showing respect and support for fellow students, demonstrating Falcon pride for the school building and environment, being helpful and supportive to staff and/or taking responsibility at Lakota for their actions, they will be given a Gotcha slip. The slips are bright colors and will have the student's name as well as explaining the excellent behavior that they were observed demonstrating. The slip can be redeemed on Fridays during the student's lunch. When redeemed, the student is entered into a regular drawing for rewards on the Gotcha Wheel. The Gotcha program is one of the many ways that Lakota celebrates student successes. So, if your student gets a Gotcha, be sure to celebrate with them. It means we Gotcha doing something good.

GOTCHA!

You've been caught exhibiting excellent behavior at Lakota.

Thank you!

Mrs. Tuggle
Mr. Miller

Assigning Teacher/Staff _____

Student Name: _____

Date: _____ Grade: _____

_____ showing respect and support for fellow students
_____ Falcon pride for school building and environment
_____ helpful and supportive to staff
_____ take responsibility at Lakota for your actions

This slip will be put into a regular drawing for a weekly reward during lunches.

Attendance Information You Need to Know!

When a Student Stays Home Sick

Please call our Attendance office when you know your student will be absent for the day. You can call before school starts and leave a message with your student's name and reason for absence. Our attendance line is 253-945-4812.



The school needs notification each day your child is ill unless you have notified us in advance. You can call any time of the day, or send a note when your student returns to school.

When a Student Arrives Late

If you are not in your first period class when the bell rings, you are tardy. Consequences for tardies are progressive.

Set your alarm – Oversleeping is not considered an excused absence or late arrival.

When a Student Leaves Early



If your student needs to leave early for an appointment, please send a note with them in the morning. We will issue an Off -Campus pass and you can sign them out in the office.

Last-minute appointments or plans do come up, and we just ask that you call us as soon as you know, and we will do our best to get the pass to your student ahead of time.

On-Line Grades

To view your student's grades on-line, please access this website:

<http://grades.fwps.org>

- 1 Select Lakota from the list
- 2 Enter your student's ID number
- 3 Enter your student's password
- 4 Click "Check Grades"
- 5 Click "View Grade Book" graphic to view gradebook details

Your student's number & password are available from the office or their teachers.

When a Student is Absent Too Much

Students with accumulated unexcused absences will become subject to the Becca Bill (Washington State's Compulsory School Attendance Law). Failure to comply with the law may subject the student and parents to legal sanctions. Excessive absences significantly affect students' academic achievement.

So, come to school!

Requesting Homework

If your student is absent for three or more days, you can request homework from their teachers. Allow 24 hours for our office to gather your student's work.

If you know in advance that your student will be absent for three or more days, please let the Attendance Office know in writing. Your student can request homework in advance from his or her teachers for the time they will be gone.

Stay Connected and Informed

Lakota and the Federal Way School District provide a number of ways that you can stay connected with your student's achievement in school.



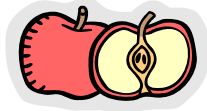
- ◆ **Email or call teachers.** The Lakota website provides staff e-mail and phone numbers.
- ◆ **Homework Hotline** - Lakota teachers record homework information that is available on their voicemail. Phone numbers are available on our website.
- ◆ **Connect-Ed** phone messages.
- ◆ **The Lakota and Federal Way Public Schools websites** provide up-to-date information.
- ◆ **Lakota:** www.fwps.org/lakota
- ◆ **FWPS:** www.fwps.org
- ◆ **The Lakota Newsletter** goes home every six weeks with progress reports, and has lots of important and interesting information.

Lakota Lunches

Lunch will be provided starting the first day of school. A full lunch including milk is \$2.75. You may purchase a meal ticket, 20 meals, for \$55.00 prepaid.

Breakfast is \$1.50. Milk is \$.50 and adult meals are \$2.50/ breakfast, \$3.75/lunch. You can also pay for any number of meals online or by calling 945-5555. That way you don't have to worry about bringing lunch money to school! It is effective immediately.

Free and Reduced Meals - If you were in the Free and Reduced Meal Program last year, you will receive an application in the mail for 2009-2010.



If you have an application on file from the 08-09 school year, you have a 30-day grace period (ending October 15) to renew your application. During this time your student will be on the same meal status as the prior year, even if you reapply and your meal status changes.

If you were not on the free or reduced meal program last year, you will need to either send meals with your student or pay for meals at school until your application for 2009-2010 is processed and approved. If you have questions about any Nutrition Services programs, please call 253-945-5555.

Connect-ED

The Federal Way Public School District uses ConnectEd as one way to communicate with parents. It provides notification of school closures, emergencies, attendance information and event information. In order for it to work, we must have correct contact information for you. If you need to change your contact information, call the office, 253-945-4800.

2009-2010 Student Planner

Student planners will cost \$3.00 this year. All students are required to have their planner at school everyday. If a student misplaces their planner, then replacement cost will be \$5.00.

Planners contain the student handbook – all students and parents are responsible to read the handbook so you will know and understand school policies and procedures.

P. E. Uniforms

All Lakota students are required to wear P.E. uniforms that consist of shorts, t-shirt, shoes and socks. Students must wear Lakota P.E. uniforms. They can purchase them on their schedule pick-up night, or any day in the main office. Students make the payment in the office, then take their receipt to their P.E. teacher for the uniform.



Students do not have to purchase new uniforms if their old ones still fit. Shirts are \$7.00, shorts are \$8.00, sweat pants are \$12. If you cannot afford the cost, please let our counselors know, and we can make arrangements with your family. Locks are provided for the P.E. baskets, and cost \$5.50 to replace if lost.



The Wheels On the Bus

2009-2010 bus schedules are listed here:

<http://www.fwps.org/info/bus/lakota.html>

If you do not have internet access, you can find them printed in the Federal Way Mirror. Please check them carefully, as they may have changed from last year.

If you have questions about buses, please call FWPS Transportation, 945-5900.

Bus Passes

Students must have a note with parent permission and signature for them to ride a different bus. Bring the note to the office before school or during lunch, so a bus pass can be given for that day. Bus passes are good for that day only.

Schedule Pick up

8th Grade

Monday, August 24, 4 - 7 p.m.

6th and 7th Grade

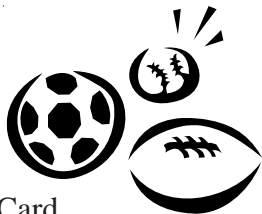
Tuesday, August 25, 1 - 7 p.m.

This is the the day you get all your stuff! In order to pick up your schedule, you bring in all the forms completed. And that is just the beginning!

You can also:

Purchase ...

- PE uniforms
- ASB cards
- Planners
- Lakota Wear (from the PTA)
- Composition Books
- Athletic Fees
- Annuals



Turn in forms ...

- Yellow Emergency Card
- Athletics
- Free and Reduced Lunch
- Health History
- Allergies and serious medical certification
- User Agreement and permisson form for electronic information systems

It is a good time to ...

- Clear up any fees and/or fines
- Ask questions about your schedule
- Talk to coaches
- Review the grade level lists of books, turn in the form if you want to exclude any.
- Pick up the FWPS Annual Notifications.

And especially ...

- Have your picture taken!
- Even if you don't want to purchase pictures, you still need to have them taken for the year-

book!

Teachers, counselors, administrators and coaches will be present to help and answer your questions.

Cell Phones

The FWPS policy regarding cell phones is included in this newsletter. Students may carry cell phones with them at school, but may not have them turned on for any reason during the school day.

They must be turned off prior to entering the building each morning and they can be turned on once the final dismissal bell has rung.

Use of cell phones for any reason during the school day can be disruptive and is prohibited. The phone must remain in a pocket, backpack, or purse. Cell phones out during the school day can be cause for discipline and the phone can be taken by a staff member. The school is not responsible for loss or theft of cell phones.

If you need to get a message to your student, please call the office at 945-4800. We are always happy to get your message out, and students are always able to use office phones to call home.

Lakota Supply List 2009-2010

- Three-ring binder with subject dividers
- Pens (non-erasable) 2 red, 2 blue or black
- Pencils (No. 2), several packs
- Notebook paper college-ruled (large pack)
- Colored pencils
- 2 Glue sticks
- Flash drive (1g)
- Ruler - with both metric and standard measurement
- Pencil pouch
- 1 pink eraser
- 1 large box of Kleenex
- Flash drive (1g)
- Sturdy backpack or bookbag
- Protractor (optional)
- Inexpensive calculator (optional)
- Lakota Planner (\$3, available at schedule pickup)
- Composition Notebook (75 cents for wide-ruled, \$2 for quad-ruled and available at school beginning on schedule pick-up day)
- Pocket Dictionary/Thesaurus (optional)