



ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION CHANNELS FOR FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

District Website and Online School Information

The district website: www.fhps.net, contains a wealth of information. The best way to use the site, if you are looking for something in particular, is to use the search mechanism in the upper right-hand corner of the homepage. The creation of the district website and school pages is encouraged as a means of communication with students, parents/guardians, staff, families, community members and the public at-large. Please bookmark www.fhps.net on your mobile and electronic devices. The website is a portal to all school pages where you will find important upcoming activities and events, reminders, announcements and school news.

Sign Up to Receive Emailed News Bulletins

One thing you can do immediately to start receiving news from the district is to subscribe to our emailed news bulletins. Go to: www.fhps.net, and scroll down to the bottom of the home page, and click on "Subscribe to News." These news updates are usually emailed once a week and contain information from around the district, such as upcoming events, school/student/staff accolades, achievements, accomplishments and more.

SchoolMessenger

SchoolMessenger is used to communicate a variety of information. This push notification system is an automated messaging service. The district uses this system to inform families of school delays or closures, when there is an emergency at a school, and information from the superintendent. SchoolMessenger is also used by each of our schools to communicate, primarily through email, non-emergency information, school reminders, and activity updates. SchoolMessenger allows families to set preferences on how messages are received, such as an email, text and/or phone call. You can manage your preferences through the Parent Portal of PowerSchool. To "opt in" to text messages you must text "YES" to 68453 from your mobile device. There is also a SchoolMessenger app available to download. The app provides families with a powerful way to stay engaged with their school and the district. The app is available for both Android and iOS devices. ***Please note, this communication tool is the primary method for schools to communicate information to families.*** Parents should always contact their child's school to update their phone number and email contact information if or when a change occurs. New families in the district will receive a letter in October with their student's account and login information.

PowerSchool

Parents and guardians can access PowerSchool, our student information system, through the Parent Portal. For our kindergarten through sixth-grade families, you are able to view contact information, important school information, and student attendance. For our seventh through twelfth-grade families, you may also view student's grade history, teacher comments, and more. Parent Portal is also used to update your SchoolMessenger preferences as mentioned above, or you can install the SchoolMessenger app. ***Please be sure to update your child's school with any changes to your contact information. This includes telephone numbers as well as email addresses.*** New families in the district will receive a letter in October with their student's account and login information.

-Continued on back page.

Social Media Like and Follow Us!: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube

The district also posts news and updates on social media channels such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. Please make sure to like and follow us on the following channels:

- <https://www.facebook.com/fhps.net>
- <https://twitter.com/FHPSnews>
- <https://www.youtube.com/user/foresthillsps>



School Lunch Accounts and SchoolPay

Forest Hills Public Schools uses an online program for families to keep track of a student's prepaid lunch account. Families can deposit funds into a student's account, monitor purchases made on the account and view account balances. Funds deposited are available for the student to use within a matter of minutes. The electronic payment system is called SchoolPay. SchoolPay handles all payments from one easy-to-use, full self-service interface. You can access SchoolPay through the Parent Portal of PowerSchool. For additional information, including how to create an account, please visit our website www.fhps.net/departments/foodservice. If you are new to the online computer system, you will need your child's Student ID number. A child's student ID will be given to new families once school starts.



Versatrans e-Link

FHPS communicates bus stop information using the e-Link system. This secure link allows parents and guardians to view essential school bus route information. E-Link provides parents and guardians with all the necessary information about their child's bus schedule. For additional information, including how to create an account and access your child's bus schedule, please visit our website at www.fhps.net/departments/transportation. Families will receive communication before the start of school detailing bus route information, including bus stop location, bus number and arrival times.

Versatrans MyStop App

Versatrans MyStop App provides mobile access to bus information. With MyStop, parents and guardians know exactly where their child's bus is on the route and an estimated time of arrival (ETA) at their stop. The location of the bus is automatically updated to accommodate any delays. Update frequency is dependent on a user's data plan. The app is available for both iPhone and Android devices. When using the app, parents and guardians can choose to receive push notifications alerting them to changes in their child's bus schedule. Links to the apps are available on our website: www.fhps.net/departments/transportation.



Forest Hills Public Schools
All learners achieving individual potential

Administration Building

6590 Cascade Road SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546
phone: (616) 493-8800 | fax: (616) 493-8519 | website: www.fhps.net