



Fairfield Union Local School District

Rushville Middle School

Back To School Newsletter

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students:

We are so excited to welcome you back to school for the 2022-2023 school year. The teachers and the staff have all been very busy preparing for the upcoming first day of school on **Thursday, August 18th**. Our goal is to love, support, and care for the entire well-being of all our students. We want your child to grow academically, socially, and emotionally throughout their middle school years. We are confident that we can accomplish all of these things if we work together.

As always, please reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Tricia Haughn, Principal
Dawn Rice, Assistant Principal

First Day Outlook:

Bus Riders: Buses will unload from the west entrance by the cafeteria.

Parent Drop-off: Parents will come in the front entrance of Rushville Middle School and turn to the right. Traffic will flow to the front entrance of the building. Multiple cars will pull up along the front sidewalk and students will safely exit the car. Students need to walk on the sidewalk to the front door of the building. A staff member will be outside to help with this process. Please be patient in the parent-drop off line, as we always have many families choose this option for transportation.

Breakfast/Morning Routine: All students who choose to get breakfast will have that option available to them. Breakfast items will be "grab and go" and 5th grade students will eat in the cafeteria, while the 6,7, and 8 grade students will eat in the gymnasium.

All students will have extended time to practice their locker combination throughout the first few days of school. During the first day of school, students will learn classroom, building, and safety procedures that are expected. Students are encouraged to bring a clear water bottle with them each day.

Lunch: Students may pack their lunch or get lunch from our cafeteria.

Students' breakfast and lunch prices are as follows: Breakfast \$1.75 Lunch \$3.00

Dismissal: Students will have a staggered dismissal, beginning at 2:38 pm with bus riders. Students who are parent pick-up will be dismissed immediately after bus riders. All parents need to park in the Activity Center parking lot if they plan to pick up their child.

Rushville Middle School Staff

Administration and Staff:

Tricia Haughn, *Principal*

Dawn Rice, *Assistant Principal*

Lorrie Bailey, *Secretary*

Brian Funk, *Counselor*

Carole Osborne, *School Nurse*

Eydie Schilling, *Curriculum Director*

Gifted Coordinator

Trisha Rogers, *Psychologist*

John Turnbull, *Special Education Supervisor*

Andy Clark, *Athletic Director*

Fifth Grade Team:

Jodi Markwood Denise Schoonover

Laurette Bachmann Molly Oliver

Trent Johns Mary Beth Marcinko

Annamarie Dinan Kelsie Warnock

Sixth Grade Team:

Lisa Caton Hayley Elkins

Julie VerDow Suzanne Stewart

Jennifer Dilcher Holly Culver Kelsie Warnock

Seventh Grade Team:

Drew Stemen Jon Markwood

Jodi Forsythe Nate Stephenson

Scott Burke Lacie Murdock Casey Bischof

Eighth Grade Team:

Debbie Gatton Rachel Thomas

Liz Henwood James Miller

Chris Hass Marlo Grubb Nate Stephenson

Tutors:

Adam Phillippe

Electives:

Bobbi McKinnon Matt Gregory

Luke Boucher Julian Savage

Megan Leitnaker Jonie Fisher

Bart Smith Pam Bevis

Jennifer Miller Monica Phillips

Stephanie McCoy Jared Kitchen

Building Aides:

Cindy Swinehart Teri Hunt

Becky Pugh Jenny Ray

Custodians and Maintenance:

Ken McCarty Charlie Roberts Matt Smith

Jim Guseman Seth Cooperider

Food Service:

Melanie Baker Taryn Anderson

Peggy Elder Mary McCafferty

Marie Jasper Michelle Runkle

Staff Email Directory:

<https://www.fairfieldunion.org/Directory.aspx>

School Counselor News:

Mr. Funk is our building's school counselor. Mr. Funk provides services on an as-needed basis and helps to support students in their academic and emotional development. E-mail or call Mr. Funk for questions or concerns.

News from our School Secretary, Mrs. Bailey:

Welcome back to school everyone! I am looking forward to seeing everyone on August 18. Please remember to call the school if there will be an absence. Doctor and dental excuses can be turned into the front office each morning and should be received within 3 days of the appointment. If you need anything from the office, just ask. Let's make this year the best it can be!

School Fees:

There are no classroom school fees for the 2022-2023 school year, but if you would like to pay past years' fees, you may pay your child's fees online by visiting our website. At the bottom of our home page, look for Quick Links and click on PaySchools Central to set up an account. <https://payschoolscentral.com/>

News from the Clinic:

Welcome Rushville Middle Students. I have a few reminders for this year. Students need to enter the clinic from the hallway door not through the office. If no one is in the clinic please have a seat and someone will be with you.

Parent, please check your students for any symptoms of Communicable Disease prior to sending them to school each day. If your child displays any of the following symptoms, DO NOT send them to school:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

If your student displays symptoms of Communicable Disease during the school day you will be called to pick them up from the clinic. Please make arrangements to pick up your student promptly. Because of social distancing requirements space in the clinic is very limited. We are unable to use school transportation to take any students home.

As mandated, all students and staff will be required to wear face coverings while on school transportation.

As a reminder, all medication needs to be supplied from home. Prescription meds need parent and physician permission. The Medication Permission Form can be downloaded from the Fairfield Union Website. Non-prescription medication requires a note from parent/guardian.

All medication prescription and non-prescription must be in the original container. Medication must be delivered to school by an adult.

I'm so excited to be back and for the beginning of a new school year. We want to do anything we can in the clinic to help you and your student at the Middle School. Please feel free to call or email at any time with questions or concerns.

Mrs. Osborne, School Nurse

Clubs/Activities:

Art Club:

The Art Club is passionate about creating Art! We will work on individual projects as well as projects around the school as needed. In the past we have collaborated with the annual Book Fair, bulletin boards and various art requests around the school. We look forward to seeing you at RMS Art Club in the Middle School Art Room!! This club will be held on Wednesdays after school for til 4pm. Please see Mrs. McKinnon if you are interested to begin a sign-up sheet.



Leo Club:

Leo club is passionate about student-led community service and outreach. It is very important for students to be active, positive participants in our local community. Leo club allows students to work together on brainstorming and implementing positive activities and projects into their local community. Some projects this year could include making small tie blankets for babies at Fairfield Medical Center, cards/paper flowers for local nursing home residents, and even collecting materials and letters for soldiers. If you are interested in joining Leo Club please see Mrs. Phillips in room 209!



Student Council:

Every school year, students select 12 members from each grade to represent RMS through student council. Student council assists the building in creating a healthy learning environment and helps to support the school district's mission. Elections will be held in September, see our school counselor, Mr. Funk, for more details.



Power of the Pen:

Power of the Pen is a creative writing competition that spans all of Ohio. Each year a writing team of 7th and 8th graders compete in three different tournaments, putting their skills to the test against other writers. We will start mid October, and continue through January-February. You will develop writing skills that will last a lifetime. If you are interested in finding out more about POP, look for an email mid-September. Let's celebrate your unique, creative voice.
Ms. Forsythe- Power of the Pen Coach



MathCounts: MATHCOUNTS is a national enrichment, club and competition program that promotes middle school mathematics achievement through grassroots involvement. MATHCOUNTS inspires excellence, confidence and curiosity in U.S. middle school students through fun and challenging math programs. The program is available to grades 6-8, and we will begin regular meetings starting after the Fair

break. Our MathCounts team will compete at Zanesville and at Columbus State Community College this coming spring.
Mr. Burke

Robotics Club:

Robotics Club for 7th and 8th grade will be combined this year! In Robotics Club we will be using the EV3 Lego Mindstorm robot to participate in a FIRST LEGO League Challenge! Through FIRST LEGO League you will experiment and grow your critical thinking, coding and design skills by working with a team to build a robot and compete in mission-based robotics games. This year's theme is SUPERPOWERED - you will explore where energy comes from, how it is generated, how it gets to you, and the future of energy. Click [here](#) to watch the FIRST LEGO League season reveal video!

Day: Wednesday (EXCEPT for the first Wednesday of each month)

Time: After school until 4:00 PM



The first club meeting will be on September 14th. A sign up sheet will be provided as spaces will be limited.

7th Grade Teacher News:

Mr. Stemen-

Hello! I am new to the district, but this will be my 12th year teaching. In 7th grade Reading I look forward to looking at a wide range of texts. I like to incorporate independent assignments that stem from larger novels or informational text. There will also be a lot of discussion and group work so everyone has a chance to hear, and learn, from other student perspectives. I am excited to get started and eager to meet everyone.

Mr. Markwood

Welcome to 7th grade Science. I am Mr. Markwood. I am excited to get started with my 19th year of teaching. I am sure this year will be great. This year we will be exploring a wide range of different topics in science. We will be covering topics from the water cycle to energy to ecology. I look forward to meeting all of you in the days to come.

Ms. Forsythe -

Welcome to 7th grade ELA. It is my honor to have this opportunity to teach all of you this year. I have so many exciting writing and research projects planned for you. You will learn the techniques to effectively craft all types of writing, for example, evidence-based literary analysis, explanatory, argumentative, and narrative writing. All of our writing will follow the Evidence-Based Writing framework. Socratic Seminars, Escape Rooms, and Review Stations will support you in gaining confidence in your writing. Plus, there is an optional Book Club membership that you can join. Imagine discussing your book with your peers; the Book Club projects are countless and immense in value. Just sit back and get ready for a great adventure in ELA; you will be glad you did!

Mr. Burke -

Welcome 7th graders, I will be starting my 25th year in the classroom, I still look forward to each day with you and my colleagues. Make sure that you have plenty of notebook paper and pencils for my class. 7th grade math takes an integrated approach touching on many different areas of math. A large part of the year will be spent working on using positive and negative numbers in an algebra context and ratios and proportions. We will start out the year with unit in probability and geometry. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Mr. Bischof-

Welcome to 7th grade Social Studies! I look forward to an exciting year of learning about ancient history. In social studies this year we will dive into a wide variety of the ancient world dating back from 750 B.C. to 1600 A.D.. We

tackle Ancient Greece and Rome and look at the lasting impacts they had on later civilizations and our world today. I'm looking forward to a wonderful year as we broaden your historical knowledge.

Mrs. Murdock- Welcome Mathematicians. I am excited to be starting my 12th year teaching and my 1st year here at FMS. I am planning some pretty exciting stuff. I like to learn through activities, so be ready to get up and move. We will be learning about decimals and integers using money, fractions using measuring tapes and rates and ratios by going "shopping". It is going to be a great year. I am looking forward to meeting you all.

Mr. Stephenson-

Hey everyone! I'm an Intervention Specialist and will be in several classrooms throughout the day teaching and helping students. I'm looking forward to meeting you all, and welcome back to school!

Mr. Smith

Greetings! I am the new S.E.L. Wellness teacher. I look forward to meeting you all throughout this school year as we build on the life skills crucial to understanding ourselves, developing positive self-image, taking responsibility for our actions and forging relationships with the people around us!

We will continue to focus on character strengths and how they apply to the middle school student.

Mr. Boucher-

Welcome to Physical Education. Our focus this year will be learning and developing skills to improve and enhance our overall level of fitness. We will be participating in a variety of sports and activities for health, enjoyment, challenge, self expression and social interaction.

Mrs. Leitnaker-

Hello and welcome to Health Class! Health is a semester class where we will learn about the 3 different areas of Health. The goal of Health Education is to positively influence our decision making and improve our overall health and well-being. We will be discussing many topics, including; Personal Hygiene, Stress management, Safety, Nutrition, Physical Fitness, and Alcohol and drug prevention.

Mrs. McKinnon-

Hello from the RMS Art Room. The goals for this Art Class will be learning to create many amazing art projects. We'll learn about color theory, drawing techniques and basic construction. We'll also get our hands in some clay using many techniques such as slab building, attaching and shaping and each student will have an opportunity to use the pottery wheel developing skills progressively through the semester. All the while, I'll be pulling in math, social studies and various other subject connections for some sneaky cross-curricular learning. It is my goal that all students will leave art with a strong capability to solve problems creatively, which is a highly sought after skill in today's world. The class expectations are below. Class expectations are as follows:

1. Respect other students and the adults in the room. 2. Respect the art materials and classroom space. 3. Think like an artist. If students are having significant trouble following the expectations, we can work on a solution together. All assignments and reference video will be posted on google classroom just in case you miss the in class demonstration.

Mrs. Phillips- Welcome to Career Exploration! Career Exploration is a semester course. This class will allow you to examine and explore the components of your career choices. We will focus on career awareness, personal awareness, and educational awareness as these components relate to the process of career choice. You will also examine career planning skills and take self-inventories to help you identify and explore various career options. You will also work on improving self-esteem, improving communication, identifying leadership qualities, ways to improve your ability to work with others, and you will set goals for the future.

Mrs.(Señora) Fisher- ¡Hola estudiantes! I'm so excited to start off this school year with offerings of Spanish and the Hispanic World Culture! No matter which class of mine you will be in, you will be learning some *español* and *cultura*

about the Spanish Speaking countries! There will be *música, videos* and *literatura!* My goal is to make the language comprehensible to everyone and to have fun doing it! In this class, *práctica es muy importante!* So be ready to be engaged! Email and Google Classroom will be essentials for this class (and every other class). See you soon! *¡Adiós!*

Mr. Gregory-

Welcome to 7th and 8th Combined Choir! Learning to focus with 2 grades together will hopefully increase our sound and cooperation skills with one another. For this year in choir we will cover how to sing in 3 part harmony, how to start navigating voice changes, how to read more difficult rhythms and melodies, and start to learn “Solfege” (a system used for reading music) . We will have 3 concerts this year and one trip. There will be a couple singing tests to monitor your progress throughout the year to make sure we are growing. I’ll see you very soon!

Mr. Kitchen-

Welcome to 7th Grade Band! I am incredibly excited that you have chosen to continue participating in band! If you are brand new to the band this year, I look forward to meeting you and catching you up on what we learned last year! A major focus for us this year will be to continue learning how to play our instruments through book exercises, sheet music, and small chamber ensembles. We will have bi-weekly playing checks to monitor your progress as we continue through the year together! Band will almost always be hands on, but I may have us use chromebooks from time to time as well! I look forward to the first day of school and am excited to make some great music with you all!

Mrs. McCoy-

Welcome to 7th Grade Multimedia Applications! A big theme for class during the first quarter will be around the engineering design process and how it has helped advance technologies to improve our lives. You will also consider the impacts of computing devices on the health and well-being of social interactions and you will learn about components of cybersecurity to keep your digital identity safe. Throughout the quarter you will use digital applications to create artifacts in hopes to teach others what you have learned. I look forward to seeing you back in school!

Mrs. Miller-

Welcome to Math Lab! I am excited to start a new year with all of you. In Math Lab we will be reviewing previously learned skills as well as helping you in your understanding of your new grade level skills. We will be using manipulatives, playing games, small group activities, and hopefully some fun math projects. Be ready for some fun with Math!

If you are joining me for personal finance, we will be covering topics such as money in our lives, budgeting, credit, saving, and investing just to name a few topics. Looking forward to seeing everyone again!

Mrs. Fisher-

¡Bienvenidos! Welcome to Exploratory Spanish! In this class we focus on the Geography of Spanish speaking countries as well as the culture! We focus on foods, music, traditions, holidays and festivities. We learn about famous people from many Spanish speaking countries and learn a little bit of Spanish as well! I look forward to sharing the world with you!