

Fatima Monthly Newsletter

August 28, 2018

Welcome to another exciting school year! I have enrolled some new students who seem to really enjoy our school, and I have met our new faculty who also seem well-prepared. Our new faculty members in the high school are Mr. Hunter Gomez who teaches history, Ms. Andrea Brune who teaches business classes, and Mr. Ryan Lewis who teaches music. It has been a real pleasure working with them, and I think they will be real assets to Fatima.

Now it's time to meet the new parents and let everyone know that communication is the key to our students' success. If you ever have questions about a class, feel free to email or call the teacher. My phone line is open, and my email box is never too full to answer any questions you may have about our school or your child. The more we work together, the more we can accomplish.

The Newsletter contact list – is growing fast. Some of you might be on the list twice. If this bothers you, please email me and I will try to find your name and remove it. Some of you might want to be off the list because your darlings have now graduated. Just email me. And some people might want to change their email address or add another one. Just email me. I will work hard to keep this beast under control.

Please realize that the emails that I send do not go to a particular group of parents – it goes to all of them! So even if you don't have a senior, you might get an email about a project graduation meeting. Sorry, but the logistics of keeping a list for each grade level would be astronomical since people have kids in more than one grade. So, if you don't mind, just bear with the emails that really don't pertain to you.

Text Alerts: Want to receive texts about Fatima's events or updates? Go to our website www.fatimacomets.org and click on the right side where it says "text/email alerts." Then follow the instructions. Now instead of receiving all the texts, you can choose to be part of the high school, the elementary or the sports texts or emergency texts. So you won't have to get all the sports texts or elementary texts if you don't have a child in the program!

Free and Reduced Lunch Forms: if your family qualifies for the free or reduced lunch, we beg you to apply. The more students we have on this, the more money Fatima gets from the government to keep our school running. And you get to save money yourself –

so it is a win-win situation! You might be surprised that you qualify. A family of four who makes less than \$43,568 a year or \$3,631 a month or \$838 a week can qualify! The form is relatively easy, and we will help you fill it out. So please check to see if you qualify!

Daily Bulletin: Please check the bulletin and the web page periodically. They are filled with all the information that students tend to forget to tell us. Just go to www.fatimacomets.org for more information.

Parent Portal: What a Great Way to Stay Informed! If you would like to sign up for the parent portal, send an email to parentportalaccess@fatimacomets.org or go to our website on the right side for a direct connection. If you are having trouble with the parent portal program, contact our technology coordinator at brian.stegeman@fatimacomets.org.

So what can I get from the parent portal: Lots of things from your student's current grades in a class to how much they spent at lunch that day to discipline referrals to the classes they still need to take to graduate. Teachers update grades as fast as they can, but they definitely have them updated every three weeks for mid-terms or report cards. You can see exactly what score your child received on all their homework and tests and what they have and have not turned in. This is a great resource for keeping up with your child's progress.

Calendar on the Webpage: If you go to the Fatima webpage (www.fatimacomets.org) and click on the word "Calendar," you will get a calendar with all our information. These are great to print and hang on your fridge! You can also use the Calendar List, but it might not have as much information on it.

Free After-School Tutoring is again available after school Monday through Thursday from 3:15-4:00 or later. Various teachers will be ready to help students with whatever tutoring they need.

Encourage your child to take advantage of this opportunity. Then when the student leaves, he can have his homework done and the rest of the night is his to enjoy!

Extended Library Hours: The Library will stay open after school until at least 4:30 Monday through Thursday. It may stay open later if there is a need. Students may come to the library to work on homework, use the computers, or just quietly hang out. They may not stay after school if they are unsupervised. So, if your student needs to stay after school, remind them that they are welcome to stay in the library.

Organizations to Join: Many of our clubs and organizations are beginning to form, and we encourage all students to become as active as possible. Involvement looks

great on resumes and applications. Encourage your child to find a couple of clubs to really be active with. This looks better than having their name on lots of rosters but not really doing much in any of them. Fatima offers the following clubs and organizations:

Letterman's Club, National Honor Society, FBLA, FCCLA, SADD, StuCo, FFA, Art Club, Spanish Club, Random Acts of Kindness Club, Archery Club, chess club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and sign language club.

There are no requirements to join the Archery, SADD, Random Acts of Kindness, chess, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, sign language, and FCCLA. For Letterman's, you just have to be a part of a Fatima sports team and for National Honor Society, you must apply. For the others, you must have had a class in the area.

SADD-STUDENTS AGAINST DESTRUCTIVE DECISIONS: Anyone can join! SADD promotes a safe and drug free lifestyle. Our club is responsible for planning Red Ribbon Week in October. Members have the opportunity to participate in seatbelt checks, adopt-a-highway, open gym nights, Powder Puff Football, SADD sponsored blood drive and other events. Clubs give you the opportunity to get involved and learn leadership skills. Membership and extracurricular activity involvement are components of many job and scholastic applications. If you missed the meeting, sign up and pay dues to Mrs. Ahlstrom in the nurse's office by Friday.

FCCLA – All students at FHS are invited to join the FCCLA organization. More information can be found at libbertfcs.weebly.com under the FCCLA tab.

The first STUCO Meeting will be on Oct 9 at 7:30 a.m.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes will have their first meeting tomorrow morning (Wednesday).

Archery Club: to join, pick up a form from Mrs. Temmen and return by Thursday. There will be a parent meeting at 6:30 on Sept 5 in the KC Hall.

Fall Sports Have Begun: Softball, Boys' Soccer, Volleyball, and Cross Country will all begin soon if they haven't already. If you would like a list of events, go to our webpage or have your child pick up a schedule in the high school office.

Fall Sports Pictures will be taken on Wednesday, August 29.

Days Off: Fatima will not be in session Friday August 31– Nichols students must attend. Fatima and Nichols students will be out on Monday, Sept 3.

Seniors: sell those football tickets! If you aren't going to sell them, turn them in to the office ASAP! The more we sell, the better project graduation will be!

Calendar of Events

August 31 – NO School – professional day for teachers – Nichols WILL attend
Sept 3 – No school – Labor Day
Sept 18 – Mid-quarter
Sept 19– Board of Education Meeting
Sept 19 – Picture Retakes
Sept 26 – Nichols out 9:45
Oct 8 – No Nichols
Oct 11 and 12 – No Classes at Fatima – Nichols WILL attend
Oct 11 – Parent/teacher conferences
Oct 19 – Barnwarming Dance

The Counselor's Corner

Schedules: All students should have their schedules finalized. If a student wishes to make a schedule change now, he or she will have to get permission from the principal, parents, and the teachers he or she is leaving and going to. Students will be able to change schedules again after Christmas break when we start the new term.

Freshmen Missouri Connections: Early in September (right now scheduled for Sept 12) I will meet with all freshmen to get them started on the Missouri Connections website. We will take some inventories to find a career and do some searching of tech schools and colleges. I advise all parents to go to the website too! Try it at www.missouriconnections.org

Have you received a letter in the mail for college admissions assistance? This is a company trying to make money on helping your child get into a school. They will tell you that the consultation is free, and it is. Any services they provide after the consultation will probably cost. I can do the same things for you for free, and I am right here to help you at any time.

No Class Rank: please realize that we have implemented a board policy that we do not rank students. Most of the time this will help students who are applying for scholarships. For instance, last year we had a LOT of kids with a 4.0 GPA. If a student had one A-, his or her rank looked terrible, but the GPA was 3.998. If a rank is not listed, most scholarships and colleges will instead look at the GPA.

We will still have a top 10% for the class, and a student will have to be in the top 33% for the Schwartze Scholarship. But for all other purposes, there will be no rank.

Students can now take Speech for 3 hours of credit from State Technical College. To be eligible, a student must have a 3.0 cumulative GPA or special permission from the college. In addition, a student must have a math ACT score above 15 and a reading ACT score above 17. Students can also take the accuplacer and earn scores that are comparable to the ACT requirement for admission.

If your child wants to take the speech class for dual credit next semester, make sure they meet these ACT requirements or take the ACCUPLACER at State Tech and meet that score's requirements before the next semester.

The class is listed as COM 121 Public Speaking, and will cost \$264.

Students can now take Biology for dual credit through Missouri Valley. This is a one semester class – first semester only. Student who take the class **MUST** take it for college credit since it is taught by a teacher at Missouri Valley, and our teacher is the proxy. This will earn the student 4 hours of science credit. 3 hours are lecture and 1 is lab. The course is called BI 104- Principles of Biology.

Students can now take Chemistry I and/or Chemistry II for dual credit through Missouri State University in Springfield. Chemistry I becomes CHM 116/117 for 4 hours of credit. This course does not count toward a major or minor in any physical science program. It is a general education course at Missouri State. Chemistry II becomes CHM 160-161 for 4 credit hours. This course is recommended for science majors, chemistry majors and minors, and most preprofessional students (i.e. nursing). These courses are not considered general education.

If your child is going to take the chemistry courses, you should check with the school your child plans to attend to see which class they need.

Chemistry Students need to register by the end of the day this Saturday. Papers have been given to the students.

Lincoln Dual Credit Classes: Juniors and seniors with a 2.5 to 2.99 GPA can now take dual credit classes with permission from the counselor and the parents. They must complete the paper that was in their locker on the first day of school. Juniors and senior students with a 3.0 or higher are eligible without special permission.

IF YOUR CHILD IS TAKING DUAL CREDIT CLASSES FOR THE FIRST TIME he or she **MUST** apply to Lincoln. There is a separate form for this.

Lincoln DUAL CREDIT FORMS telling the classes the child wants to take **MUST BE SIGNED BY PARENTS AND TURNED IN TO THE OFFICE BY Wednesday!** If you turn one in, you will be financially responsible for paying for the class

Dual Credit Payment: You will not be expected to pay for the Lincoln or Missouri State classes until the middle of September. From now until then, Lincoln and Missouri State will be getting everyone in their system and setting up their portals. Then in September we will get information about how you can access your portal and see your bill balance. You will be able to pay from there. For Missouri State you will be getting a bill in the mail

MOST DUAL CREDIT CLASSES CAN BE TAKEN FOR HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT ONLY! Make sure you will need the class for your major, and that it will be accepted at your university. Your dual credit teacher can help you with this, or you can check the transfer equivalency on the college web page.

You will not pay for all dual credits now. You will sign up for others in January and pay in February, especially the math classes. These are the Lincoln classes students can sign up for now:

Fatima HS (60's) 8/18 -12/21

| Course # | Course Name | Instructor | Credits |
|-------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------|
| BED 208-60 | Integrated Comp Apps | Charlotte Heckemeyer | 3 |
| ENG 101-60 | Comp & Rhetoric I | Kathy Rolwes | 3 |
| PHY 101-60 | College Physics | Kim Luebbert | 4 |
| PHY 101L-60 | College Physics Lab | Kim Luebbert | 0 |
| PSY 101-60 | General Psychology | Donna Mueller | 3 |

JUNIOR PARENTS: The PSAT-NMSQT test will be given at Fatima on the morning of Oct. 10th. This is a junior version of the SAT test and must be taken if your child wants to qualify for the National Merits Scholarship. Students must score in the top ½ of 1% to earn this scholarship. It is much like the bright flight award for the ACT. Students may want to take the test to get practice in general test taking skills. The cost is only \$16 and must be paid to Mueller before Wednesday, September 5.

Parents of Gifted Sophomores: if your child is interested in attending the Missouri Scholar's Academy in the summer, your child will need to take the PSAT. Give Ms. Mueller a check for \$16 by this Wednesday, September 5.

Junior Parents: Many Junior parents ask if their child can start applying for scholarships or "get things going" early. Generally there are not many scholarships available for juniors. The few that are available will be posted in the bulletin. The big thing that juniors need to do is start looking at colleges and go on college tours. I have

put in all junior lockers a paper that tells what they should do when they go on a college tour. When these kids come back to me as seniors, it would be helpful if they had narrowed their college selection to about 3-5 schools.

What Can Juniors Do? They need to be going on college visits! I have a form that must be filled out if they want to not be counted absent! See Mueller! I will be having a meeting with juniors in October to tell them more.

Senior Parents: If your child is planning to attend a college or tech school, he or she should get started with the application process. I met with all the seniors to stress to them the importance of doing this immediately and to give them handouts. The sooner we get these out, the better the chance that your child will get a scholarship.

Speaking of scholarships, there are a few in but not many YET. They will be coming in like mad soon. Stay tuned to the bulletin for any updates.

Scholarships on line: I will give all seniors a list of websites to use for scholarship searches. This also needs to be done SOON!

ACT Test: The next ACT test will be September 8. The deadline for registering for the October 27 test for the regular fee is September 28. Students are encouraged to apply online at www.actstudent.org. You will get your results faster that way!

ACT is now offering a June and a July test! I worry that we will NOT get results back from the July test in time for students to qualify to take College English for dual credit!

College Representative Visits: College reps are starting to call to set up school visits. Students will have to sign up if they wish to visit with the college representative. Then a pass will be given to them so they can come to the meeting. We will have a list in the bulletin. Encourage your child to come and see these representatives if they are remotely interested in the college. It is important that every child find the college that fits his or her personality and style.

College Rep Visits:

Sept 11 – William Woods
Sept 13 – State Tech
Sept 27- Missouri State Springfield
October 22 – MU

All college visits will be during second lunch shift. Students will get their trays early and eat in the library with the representative.

A+ Schools: If a student meets all of the A+ grant requirements, he or she will be able to attend a Missouri tech school or community college tuition-free! The requirements include having a cumulative 2.5 GPA, passing a math test (EOC, COMPAs ETC) at a proficient or advanced level, 95% attendance, maintaining good citizenship and staying free of alcohol or drug convictions, and performing 50 hours of tutoring. This is a pretty easy way to earn \$10,000 or more! Some four year colleges also offer scholarships for students who graduate with the A+ credentials.

So if your child is a freshman, sophomore, or junior, have him or her fill out an agreement form. If he or she doesn't make the cut, it won't hurt anything. It's just the first step in the process. We would like to have 100% of our students turn in the form. The form can be picked up in the high school office.

For more information on this program, go to the DESE website at www.dese.mo.gov/divimprove/aplus.

Scholarships

Seniors considering Washington Univ in St Louis: Let Mueller know if you would like to be nominated for the Danforth Scholars Program to receive a full or partial tuition scholarship. This competitive program is looking for students who have exhibited a capacity for service and leadership, academic excellence, and a willingness to embrace a rigorous academic curriculum.

The Joke's On You!

Psychologically Speaking



he psychology instructor had just finished a lecture on mental health and was giving an oral test. Speaking specifically about manic depression, she asked, "How would you diagnose a patient who walks back and forth screaming at the top of his lungs one minute, then sits in a chair weeping uncontrollably the next?"

A young man in the rear raised his hand and answered, "A basketball coach?"