

STUDENT HANDBOOK



PHOENIX

Dear Parents,

The Phoenix teachers would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to Farmwell Station Middle School. Unlike the elementary self-contained classroom, the middle school organizational structure of sixth grade is based on a “team” concept. Teaming is designed to address the unique educational, social, and emotional needs of the middle school student. Your child’s middle school team consists of a core group of academic teachers, one counselor, and a dean.

Ms. Cuddihy (Science)

Ms. Cuddihy has been teaching in Loudoun County since 1999. This year is her eighth year at Farmwell Station Middle School teaching 6th grade Science. Before that, Ms. Cuddihy taught 5th grade at Dominion Trail Elementary School. Ms. Cuddihy earned her Masters in Technology Integration from George Mason University in December of 2002. Prior to that, she received her Bachelor's of Science from James Madison University with a degree in Interdisciplinary Social Sciences and minors in Middle Education and Sociology in 1999.

Ms. Cuddihy enjoys traveling, reading, and spending time training her puppy, Maxwell. She is really looking forward to working with a new group of students and getting to know each of them through class and team activities.

Ms. Jackson (Math 6)

Ms. Jackson graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Science degree in Food Science and a minor in Chemistry. She earned two masters degrees from the University of Pittsburgh - a Master of Health Administration degree and a Master of Business Administration degree.

Prior to joining the Loudoun County Public School system and Farmwell Station Middle School, Ms. Jackson was an educator in the field of healthcare and pharmaceuticals. In addition to being the Math Subject Area Lead Teacher at Farmwell, she also teaches Math 6 and Math for ESL students.

Originally from Pittsburgh, Ms. Jackson has 3 children born on 3 different continents, coaches travel soccer, and speaks Spanish.

Mr. Lappalainen (Learning Specialist)

Hjalmer W. "Bill" Lappalainen (Mr. L) is beginning his fourth year at Farmwell Station after having taught science, social studies, and math in Florida for seven years. He received his B.S. in Elementary Education from the University of Wisconsin - Superior and a Master's Degree in Special Education from the University of Florida.

Mr. L is a transportation enthusiast and holds a merchant seaman's card from the U. S. Coast Guard, a commercial pilot's license, a CDL driver's license and is a certified railroad conductor. He has also taken a ride on both an elephant and a camel. He has visited all 50 states and 4 continents.

Mr. L's hobbies include any activity including railroads and agonizing over the fortunes of the Washington Nationals. His summer vacations always include spending time by a small lake in Northern Wisconsin. He has four children, six grandchildren and one great grandchild. Mr. L. lives with his wife, Evelyn, and two cats, Thelma and Louise.

Mrs. McMellen (Accelerated Math 6/7)

Mrs. McMellen is a seventh year teacher in Loudoun County. Prior to coming to Loudoun County, she taught thirty-three years in Berkeley County, West Virginia. She holds a Bachelors Degree from Shepherd College and a Masters Degree from West Virginia University. This year Mrs. McMellen is teaching 6th graders who will be taking Math 7. She is excited to be teaching again at Farmwell Station Middle.

Mr. Peters (Social Studies)

Mr. Peters will be in his fourth year of teaching 6th grade social studies. He graduated from Radford University in 2004 with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences with a teaching concentration and a minor in religious studies.

Mr. Peters is a diehard sports fan. He regularly attends Capitals and Redskins games. During college football season, you will see that Mr. Peters strongly supports the University of Michigan (His father attended U of M and his grandfather taught there). Mr. Peters lives in Centreville with his beagle Charlotte. While not attending to Charlotte's every need, Mr. Peters can be found coaching or playing a variety of sports.

Ms. Rice (ELL)

Ms. Rice has been teaching ESL in Loudoun County for ten years. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in German from the University of Tennessee, a Master of Business Administration from Auburn University, and a Master of German, English, and Spanish Linguistics from Saarland University. She taught EFL to adults in Germany before moving to Virginia. She is currently teaching ESL beginning, intermediate, and advanced reading and ESL Social Studies. She is also a cosponsor of the Salsa Club. Prior to becoming a teacher, Ms. Rice served as a contracting officer in the US Air Force for seven years. She is currently teaching reading skills to English language learners at Northern Virginia Community College. Throughout the year she volunteers at Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve and Friends of Homeless Animals. During the summer she volunteers at Bluemont Concert Series in Leesburg, Shenandoah Valley Music Festival in Orkney Springs, Wolftrap National Park for the Performing Arts, and the Potomac Celtic Festival.

Mrs. Rivinius (Language Arts)

This is Mrs. Rivinius's tenth year of teaching 6th grade language arts at Farmwell Station. Prior to coming to Loudoun County, she taught elementary school (fifth and sixth grade) for six years in Fairfax County. She holds a Bachelor's degree in French from SUNY Buffalo and a Masters in Middle Education Curriculum and Instruction from George Mason University. She is married, has two boys, and resides in Leesburg, VA.

Mrs. Rivinius's favorite hobbies include traveling, writing, and photography. In fact, if she weren't a teacher, she would love to be a photojournalist for a travel magazine. Mrs. Rivinius likes traveling so much that she and her husband have a friendly contest going to see who can get to all fifty states first. Right now she and her husband are tied, 48-48.

Mrs. Stewart (Language Arts)

This is Mrs. Stewart's fourth year teaching at Farmwell Station Middle School, and she is looking forward to an exciting year with her students! She is a graduate of Virginia Tech University...GO HOKIES! She completed her Masters Degree in Middle Education from George Mason University in 2000 and went on to teach language arts at Eagle Ridge Middle School. She enjoys reading novels, traveling to new places, relaxing at the beach, and spending time with her family. She lives in Leesburg with her husband, son, and two daughters. She is looking forward to sharing her passion for reading and writing with her students.

Ms. Dominski (Counselor)**Mrs. Eisner (Dean)**

THE AGENDA

The Agenda, which should be purchased on the first day of school, is the student's assignment notebook and calendar. Most of the school policies and procedures are included inside. Please read it together to become familiar with the information. The Agenda is to be brought to all classes each day. It is to be used by the students to record homework, quiz/test dates, and due dates for projects. It will also be used as a _____.

HOMEWORK POSTED ONLINE

Students and parents will be able to verify homework assignments on each teacher's website, which can be accessed by going to the FSMS website (<http://www.leps.org>) and clicking on the STAFF link. Click on the teacher's name and then the calendar for updates.

MAKE-UP WORK

If a student misses class, it is his/her _____ to acquire the necessary printed materials from each teacher. Other textbook, research, and note taking assignments should be obtained by reliable peers within the classroom upon the student's return. Students will be given full credit for assignments completed for an excused absence, provided that the school absentee policy is followed. If necessary, extra help is available during the resource period or at other times by appointment.

HOME-SCHOOL COMMUNICATION / CLARITY/ REPORT CARDS

In sixth grade, the students are expected to be responsible for keeping their parents informed about classroom and other school activities that take place. Each day, the teachers will give daily reminders for the students so they are always up to date on assignments and special class activities. If, however, there is ever a time that you have a question that your child cannot answer, please let us know through a note, email, or a phone call to the main office. The phone number is 571-252-2320. We will return your call as soon as possible. The best time to reach team members is from 8:30 – 10:00 on B days.

In order to keep parents informed about long term special projects, descriptions of the projects will be sent home the day they are assigned so that the due date(s) can be recorded on a calendar at home. Parent _____ will be required. These parent signatures will be counted as "homework assignments" and will assessed on the basis on timely return to class.

Parents will be able to view their child's grades through the Clarity system. Please register for this at the beginning of the school year. Also, please remember when you register to provide a current email address that is checked daily so your child's teachers can communicate with you more effectively. You may log on to Clarity periodically to check on your child's progress. In addition, students will receive report cards at the end of each marking period. If you ever have any concerns about your child's progress you can email or call the teacher to set up a conference (either with one specific teacher or with the entire team if necessary).

GRADING SCALE

A+	98-100	A	93-97	A-	90-92
B+	87-89	B	83-86	B-	80-82
C+	77-79	C	73-76	C-	70-72
D+	67-69	D	63-66	D-	60-62

SUPPLIES

The following supplies are needed for each subject.

Science:
one black 1.5 inch binder
one 70-page spiral notebook that is hole punched
one three-hole punched two-pocket folder
one jumbo-sized book cover
one box of tissues

- Math:** one green 1.5 inch binder with one package of dividers (5 tabs)
 one 3-subject spiral notebook
 one jumbo-sized book cover
- Language arts:** one red 1.5 inch binder with one package of dividers (5 tabs)
 two composition notebooks
 one 70-page spiral notebook that is hole punched
 one two-pocket folder with prongs
 one box of colored pencils (8 count) and a yellow and orange highlighter
- Social studies:** one blue 1.5 inch binder with one package of dividers (5 tabs)
- All subjects:** one homework folder(4 folders spiraled together)
 lots of loose-leaf paper and lots of pencils

DISCIPLINE PLAN

It is important for all students to understand that rules are necessary to make sure that everyone is treated fairly and that the school environment is conducive to learning. Therefore, all team Phoenix students will be expected to follow the same four rules in every classroom. They are:

- Respect yourself, others, and all property.
- Be prepared to learn as soon as class begins.
- Be attentive. Listen to and follow directions.
- Be responsible for your actions and decisions.

Our discipline plan will be based on the following positive and negative consequences:

Positive Consequences:

- The Phoenix Students of the Month
- Quarterly award ceremonies
- The Phoenix Student of the Year
- Praise and special privileges
- Special team activities (to be announced)
- That good feeling you get when you make the right choices

Negative Consequences:

- Step Aside
- Team Consequence (including parent contact)
- Parent Conference
- Referral to _____.

****AN EXTREME BEHAVIOR MAY REQUIRE AN IMMEDIATE REFERRAL TO THE DEAN.****

Please fill out this bottom portion to indicate that you have read this handbook, and provide The Phoenix teachers with the following important contact information on the next page. Please return this portion to your child's language arts teacher by September 6th. Thanks!

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

Student Signature _____

Date _____