

Falcon News

Important notes:

- ACT for Seniors is on Oct 25
- PSAT/NMSQT for Juniors is on Oct 15
- Get your 2014-2015 Yearbook now! Order at the Front Office

Important Highlights:

Students Council	
Members	2
Fall Book fair	5
Yearbook Sales	
Information	9
College Fair	12

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Mr. Ali Tekin

My first year at Frontier School of excellence went really well. The best thing that I liked about the school has been the collaborative effort put forth by administrators, teachers, and students to do better. There were two main focuses I had during the 2013-2014 school year. Acknowledging individual differences, strengths and weaknesses, to better support each individual has been one focus and celebrating

successes has been the other focus. Our students had many successes and we took the time to celebrate their success.

FSE received very good news at the end of the year about our 2013-2014 Annual Performance Report. We improved our score by about 10% compared to the year before and became one of the most improved schools in more than 550 school districts in Missouri.

I believe we also have had a better start this year and we will celebrate more successes and improve our school to make it one of the best schools in Missouri. I believe both the staff and students have the potential to accomplish this goal. I am enthusiastically waiting to witness all the successes we will accomplish with the collaborative effort.

Mr. Mark Barber

Hello parents!
I'm the assistant principal of academics and we are moving forward with our gains in 2014 to help students be even more successful in the 2014-2015 school year. We have added Saturday school for ACT preparation, a middle school gifted math program, and plenty of enrichment and tutoring opportunities for your children.

Furthermore, we have begun using the ALEKS program to give students an opportunity to accelerate through math instruction, a school-wide science fair to promote discovery, and a senior Capstone project to prepare students for college.

If you ever have any questions, please feel free to ask me at any time during the school day. Finally, if you are interested in being part of our parent organization please feel free to contact me.

Mrs. Tustison



Mrs. Tustison would like to welcome Ms. Shurn. Ms. Shurn is the student teacher for the fall semester, and will be taking over Mrs. Tustison's classes until December.

The Juniors have started working on the ALEKS Program. The ALEKS Program is a computer-based math classroom that allows students to work on their level and at their own pace. The Juniors are working on this during class every other day. The program will continue to build student confidence and create independent learners.

Please remember that the Juniors will take the PSAT on Wednesday, October 15th!

"...students learn material quickly when it captivates their senses!"

Ms. Leidy Quitián

I feel so excited to talk about this specific activity because even though it looks simple, the results are fantastic! Spanish III is an especially active group.

There are just 12 students, but they have a lot of energy. I have tried this activity with them to try to focus their energy in the learning process in a fun way.



I presented on September 18 the topic "The preterite tense of the regular verbs ending in -ar, -er and -ir" through a PowerPoint presentation with the students using repetition, listening exercises, and sentence completion to gain practice with the target language.

I also showed them a GramActiva video where people talked using those verbs in the preterite tense. They responded well to that because students learn material quickly when it captivates their senses!

Thanks for letting me share it with all of you!

Student Council Members

Congratulations to our winners of the 2014-2015 Student Council Elections!

Want to contribute to Student Council or have a suggestion? See your president or come see Ms. Frye in room 121.

Middle School –

President: Jessica Ray

Vice-President: Kimberly Ramirez

Secretary: Edith Almanza,

Treasurer: Gabrielle Haley

High School –

President: Benjamin Salvador

Vice-President: Tedaja Dean

Secretary: Daja Lewis

Treasurer: Keealondre Roseberry

Ms. Mary Beth Amsler

The Art room has had some fun adventures these past couple of weeks. The high school students have learned how to create drawings using a technique called pointillism. This involves students taking a fine sharpie marker and creating a drawing using only a series of dots, and helps students understand how much patience it takes to make a really unique drawing.

For the middle school students, we have had some fun using candy wrappers to create a painting. Students gained the skill to mix paint to the desired colors they wanted, while also making a painting that looks like a candy wrapper.

During the enrichment part of the day students were given the chance to dress a fellow student by only using newspaper and masking tape, and had a fashion show at the end of the enrichment time. Students really liked this activity and came up with some crazy dresses!



Newspaper fashion show

Mr. Collin Watgen

With the start of each new school year comes a set of new opportunities. New experiences, new challenges, and new successes await students and teachers at every twist and turn in the academic year. This year, a new opportunity was created for all students to learn how to play brass, woodwind, or percussion instruments.

This band meets during the enrichment period every day. Students with previous instrument experience are given a chance to lead small groups of beginning students, and all players are progressing under the watchful eye of the director, Mr. Watgen. I'm excited to help guide these students in experiencing and improving their music

education at this school, and see huge gains in the level of each student's skill, music literacy, teamwork, and leadership. Expect more announcements throughout the year about performance dates, ask your student in music about what he or she is playing in class, and I wish everyone "Happy Practicing!" for the rest of the school year.



Mr. Anthony Zinicola

"This year we are also introducing various animals into the classroom."

Hello, I am Mr. Zinicola, the Biology teacher. This year I am pushing the students harder than they have been pushed before. The classes as a whole will be taking on more responsibility with science projects to include the upcoming Science Fair. I am

excited about all the challenging projects the students have chosen and impressed with how they are staying on top of the various sections of their Science Fair Project papers. I encourage all parents and guardians to dig in and lend a hand with your student's project

and let them know that you support them. This year in science we are also introducing various animals into the classroom. Students will learn how to handle and care for various animals as well as learning the life cycles and characteristic of these animals.

Ms. Laura Delgado

In Mrs. Delgado's Communication Arts classes, we have been working hard on our writing skills. We have written a creative story using figurative language. The students had a lot of fun with

this. We have written some analysis pieces that reflected our understanding of plot development and theme in short stories. We are currently finishing up with creating our own memoir of a favorite

childhood memory. Students are getting better at using varied sentence structures within the writing, which makes the pieces even more interesting.

Mr. Kyle Lawson

"The program shows exactly what students are understanding and have mastered..."

Hello all, this is Mr. Lawson speaking for Algebra I. We are off to a strong start and hope to continue this for the remainder of the school year. We have already made it to chapter 3, which is ahead of the planned schedule. Things will slow down a bit, however, because students will now have

time in the computer lab every other day to work on ALEKS. This is a mathematical computer program designed to help students on the exact topics they are most ready to learn. The program shows exactly what students are understanding and have mastered, but also what possibly needs to be

re-taught in class. I am confident that this program will help to guide the class in a way that will be beneficial to everyone. Let's keep this year going strong!

Mr. Serkan Dirik



The mission of this Turkish Class is to improve the students' knowledge and skills of Turkish language and its culture. One method is encouraging and motivating them in a friendly contest that will help them to develop understanding and respect among cultures. We participate in the Turkish Olympiad every year. This

year we hope to have an entry for every category. We will prepare for a singing category, poem reciting contest, art contest and Turkish Language contest. I would like to wish good luck to all the future contestants!

"We participate in the Turkish Olympiad every year."

Mr. Adem Bilgin

For 7th grade Math, the students have a lot of potential. Through hard work, they continue to prove themselves. Our goal for this year is to get better grades and work toward more complex math concepts. In Geometry class, our goals focus on passing the EOC exam. Their success is our success and their hard work thus far is very commendable.



Book Fair Information

The Book Fair will be held in the library from October 20th to the 24th. Teachers must accompany their classes when students attend the Book Fair.

Parents, along with their children, can also check out the Book Fair at Parent/Teacher Conference. The online Book Fair will be from October 15-November 4th and the link will be placed on our FSE website.

We did great last year and were able to get some free books for our school Library! I'm hoping we can do even better this year.

"I'm very pleased with the enthusiasm and hard work I've seen so far..."

Ms. Laura Columbatto

WOW! These first five weeks of school have been a whirlwind! As a new teacher at FSE, I'm very pleased with the enthusiasm and hard work I've seen so far, and am so excited to see how much better we're going to be in the future. As the school's English Interventionist, it's my obligation and

pleasure to ensure all students are performing at their very best. I focus a lot of my time on students who need extra help sharpening their reading skills and push them past their comfort levels in order to see some real breakthroughs. My ultimate goals are to boost student's

confidence, assist them in becoming better readers and speakers, and improve test scores and grades. We are excited and anxiously working toward developing a middle school gifted program for English for second semester and it's going to be AWESOME!

Ms. Andrea Kenepaske

Welcome to the 2014-15 school year! My name is Ms. Andrea Kenepaske and this is my first year with FSE. I'm very excited to get to know all my students as I teach High School Social Studies this year.

My passion is introducing students to new ideas and concepts through the lens of history. In an increasingly global community, I feel it is important for students to understand the

intricate relationships societies have made over the course of history. I hope this year will be full of intrigue and excitement as we journey back through time together.

Ms. Shelby Feummeler

Hello! This is Miss Fuemmeler, and I teach 6th, 7th, and 8th grade math. The students are doing great so far. Sixth grade just finished Chapter 3, and 7th and 8th grade are finishing up chapter 2. All three classes are slightly ahead of schedule.

The students recently began using the ALEKS Program, which will put us in the computer lab every other day. Though this will slow us down, it will allow our class to skip over certain sections, as they will become masters of those sections thanks to the ALEKS Program.

The students are enjoying using ALEKS because it gives them a choice in what they're learning. I look forward to the rest of the school year, and I can't wait to see my student's progress!

"...it will allow our class to skip over certain sections, as they will become masters..."

Special Education Department

Hello from the Special Education Department! We are new to FSE this year and are excited to be here. We are looking forward to a successful school year with our students and fellow staff members. We would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves. The SPED team is made up of Dr. Susan Kirkpatrick, Jan Jackson, Anna Murawaka, and Karen Albertin. The team members are under SPED Director, Lorie Friend, who has been affiliated with FSE for seven years. Loris has been a SPED Director for Kansas City Charter schools for sixteen years. Dr. Susan Kirkpatrick is

our Process Coordinator. Dr. Kirkpatrick recently retired from Grandview School District as their Assistant Superintendent. She has also been the SPED Director in St. Louis, MO. She brings great insight and energy to the school and is excited to be here. Jan Jackson is a SPED teacher. She is retired from the Odessa School District. She was also the Process Coordinator for Odessa. She has been teaching for 25+ years and is looking forward to many more. Anna Murawaka is a SPED teacher and Reading Specialist. She is recently retired from the Lee's Summit district. Anna has

taught for 16 years and also looks forward to many more. Karen Albertin is assisting the teachers while working on her certification. She studied Music Education at the University of Kansas and previously taught preschool. She enjoys working with the students and is excited to be here.



Ms Paula Davis

The Science Fair will be held at FSE on Nov. 15. The science classes have dedicated one day a week for students to work on their projects in class. The Science Fair is a tradition here at FSE and we appreciate the parents who have stepped up to be a supporting factor to the success of their child's project.

Suggested Science Project Deadlines:

Sept 19: written materials list and procedures
 Sept 30: all research should be done and printed
 Oct 3: written hypothesis
 Oct 10: written abstract
 Oct 13 & 14: students type (and print) abstract, materials list, and procedure
 Oct 16 & 17: ALL EXPERIMENTS MUST BE FINISHED

Oct 24: type and print data tables and graphs. For your convenience, please use Excel

Oct 31: written conclusions and backgrounds. Conclusions are just the graphs and tables explained in paragraph-form. The background should include research and citations.

Nov 3 & 4: type and print all conclusions and backgrounds.

Nov 7: final draft of research paper with work cited page printed

"The Science Fair will be held at FSE on Nov. 15."

Ms. Mary Peach

"...there are SEVEN languages spoken between us!"

My goal is to help everyone understand English better. Mostly, I'm working with several students who are proving to be amazing individuals. Some of our English Language Learners at the school are wonderful writers.

Others are great at remembering very small details in what they learn. In my Enrichment class, there are SEVEN languages spoken between us! The students have impressed other teachers and me with what they are showing us they have

learned in the first five weeks of school. I look forward to all the ways they continue to impress us this year.

Ms. Cameron May

Howdy! My name is Cameron May and I'm one of the high school social studies teachers at FSE! This year I have the pleasure of teaching Geography, African-American History and Government. My goal is always to help students increase their critical thinking skills. I try to make learning as much fun as possible while still challenge my students academically. I

will also be preparing some of our seniors to participate in Youth in Government (YIG) in Jefferson City, MO this November. YIG is a program sponsored by the Jefferson City, MO YMCA that offers students an opportunity to participate in the democratic process. Students spend three days in the Missouri capital debating legislation in the House or Senate

chambers, act as attorneys to try their cases in a mock trial, or work as part of a media team covering the entire event. The YIG motto is "Democracy Must Be Learned By Each Generation" and this program will give our students the opportunity to be an integral part of the democratic process. I look forward to working with you and your student during this academic school year!

Ms. Emily Gannon

"The students seemed to really enjoy the drama and the scandal..."

Greetings from Miss Gannon and Room 130! In 8th grade English, we have been reading John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* and learning how to annotate (or write in) the text. We've also talked about some literary devices in *Of Mice and Men* such as imagery and theme. We just wrote our very first essay and peer edited it!

Next stop, final draft! The students are getting used to reading a novel and discussing it in class to help better understand the novel. In English III, we just finished reading Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*. The students seemed to really enjoy the drama and the scandal in this play about the Salem Witch Trials. They

practiced using vocabulary from the play each week and did visual representations of five of those vocabulary words at the end of the play. The students also had a choice between 11 essays to wrap up *The Crucible*. I was very pleased with the results and we are going to continue to revise our writing!



Ms. Jamie Frye

Looking forward to my 3rd year at FSE.

In 6th grade geography we are working with maps and physical features.

7th grade is studying Ancient Egypt in world history.

The Revolutionary War and states quizzes can be seen in 8th grade. Your state project is due Oct 13th!

The seniors sociology class is trying to understand society and culture around the world.

“...First Annual Foreign Language Festival...!”

Ms. Elizabeth McCracken

I am very pleased to be able to say that the amount of French that students remember from last year has jumped greatly. They were able to breeze right past several sections with little review. All grades have already finished their 1st chapter, in record time. We completed 6+ chapters last year and I hope to finish the book this year.

We are trying to include more spoken French in the classroom. We are doing this by using French phrases for the more common questions you would hear during class. They are doing a great job remembering and pronouncing them.

We are also proud to announce our First Annual Foreign Language Festival this year! It will be held in late March or early April (date to be confirmed later). It will feature students from FSE and FSI presenting songs, poems, dances, and other forms of art. These will be done representing the various foreign languages we have and teach in our schools. Please join us!



Yearbook Sales Information

The 2014-2015 Yearbook is already on sale!!! Don't miss out on your chance to share the memories!

Purchase now will reserve your book. If you wait until after Spring Break we might run out.

Yearbooks only cost \$20.

You can pay with cash, check, or credit card at the front office.

Buying a yearbook will allow your student to *dress down* the last two weeks of the school year.

Don't wait!

Buy one now!

Ms. Dawn Bates

My name is Dawn Bates and I'm one of the English teachers at FSE. This year is my fourth year here and I'm teaching 9th and 12th graders. This year, the 9th graders are focusing on using text-based evidence to support their discussions and essays, as well as drawing information from several sources to use in one argument. So far, we've read several short stories and poems with similar themes. Soon, they will start reading their first novel of the year, "Lord of the Flies." Seniors are

focusing on the ACT and completing their Capstone project. All seniors will take the ACT on Saturday, October 25. This means we have approximately 10 in-class days remaining to prepare for this high stakes test. Please encourage your senior to be here every day! As for the Capstone project, we are quickly approaching the due date for choosing a mentor. All mentors need to be chosen by Friday, October 3. The students are working hard on revising their research questions, and have

already started reviewing articles for facts and quotes that will appear in their final research paper. The seniors will also be visiting the UMKC library soon to do further research. I'm looking forward to helping all my students step outside their comfort zones this year and accomplish all they set out to do.



Don't forget your AR tests!!!

Mr. Mustafa Dursun

Greetings! My name is Mustafa Dursun and I am happy to be joining the FSE staff this year! This year I am teaching physical science along with physics. I look forward to working with you and your students this year!



"Greetings!"

Mr. Soner Mercan

I am excited to announce some outstanding news about our school! Let`s start with AR quizzes. We are here for all students who want to take an AR test from 7-7:30 every morning. We are ready to help all the time in the Computer Lab.

For middle school computer classes, continue the Typing Master Course, they have completed taking almost all the course, 7th graders have also completed Microsoft Office Word.

Juniors and seniors are gaining skills in Adobe Photoshop, they have learned how to adjust and modify their images to take them from good to amazing. I'm excited for the coming progress this year!

Thanks for letting me share it with all of you!

"This year we are also introducing various animals into the classroom."

Ms. Melissa Meyer

Hi Everyone!

My name is Melissa Meyer. This is my second year as the Family Resource Specialist at FSE. I work with the students, teachers, staff and families to help students be successful.

I provide case management services, family resources, behavior interventions and triage services. I am looking forward to this school year and working with your students. Please feel free to contact me anytime.

Ms. Amanda Wisdom

Ms. Wisdom teaches English 2 and half of English 3. This year in Ms. Wisdom's class, students are working diligently to develop complex analysis skills. One of the ways the students love showcasing this is through Socratic Seminars. This gives the students a chance to break down and defend their interpretations of complex texts.



"(The Socratic Seminars) give students a chance to... defend their interpretations of complex texts."

Ms. Ebony Neal

During physical education, we just finished the pre-testing of the FitnessGram. This is a nationwide fitness test that is used to assess physical fitness and activity levels in children. It is completed two times each year, with the goal being improvement in every fitness area. The FitnessGram consist of a mile run, sit ups, pushups, sit and reach, PACER test, and the trunk lift. Measurements taken during the testing are

height, weight, and body fat percentage. Each portion of the test is aligned with one of the five components of health-related fitness mentioned on www.fitnessgram.net. Each child is assessed based on national standards, separated by age and gender, which are provided to them prior to testing. With class and outside practice, I am certain the students will improve in every category before the next

round of testing! Please feel free to contact the physical education department with questions and concerns or if you may be curious to know the levels achieved by your child.

Until October 10th, you can email Ms. Neal at eneal@frontierschool.org. After October 10th, Ms. Miles will return and be available for contact at smiles@frontierschools.org.

"...I am certain the students will improve in every category..."

Mr. Elyar Isgandarli

Hi everyone, this is Mr. Elyar, the college counselor at FSE.

We have two events coming up in the month of October.

The first one is National College Fair on October 6 from 8:30 am – 11:30am for all high school students who registered for the event.

It is a great opportunity for students to talk to admission representatives from

over one hundred colleges and increase their college awareness.

Also, the 11th graders will take PSAT/NMSQT test on October 15, 2014.

Over 3.6 million students take the PSAT/NMSQT each year in order to qualify for scholarships and recognition.

To study for the test, students can use "PrepMe for the PSAT" under the Naviance tab on school website.

Test dates:
11th grade
PSAT/NMSQT
Oct 15
12th grade
ACT Oct 25