August 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On behalf of the faculty and staff of Thoreau Middle School, I would like to welcome you to the 2016-2017 school year. All the information you need for the beginning of the school year can be found on our homepage at www.fcps.edu/ThoreauMS. You will have access to download and print all required forms, supply lists, bell schedule, optional forms, and documents enclosed in this packet.

I am excited to announce our new modified block schedule for this year. You will find the new bell schedule in this packet along with a Blue/Gold rotation calendar. Of the numerous reasons for moving toward this schedule, the fundamental rationale is to provide an alignment of experience from the upper elementary years through the high school years. Some highlights to this new schedule are that students will report to a consistent 1st period each day, most Mondays will be “plaid days” or all-period days, and Tuesdays through Fridays will be rotating block periods.

On Thursday, September 1st, we are offering students the opportunity to visit Thoreau for two events:

**New Student Orientation**
I invite all seventh graders and new-to-Thoreau eighth graders to attend our New Student Orientation on Thursday, September 1st from 9-11:30 a.m. This is a great opportunity for students to pick-up their schedules, meet their teachers, make new friends, and practice navigating the building.

**Open House**
I invite all seventh and eighth grade students and parents to attend our Open House on Thursday, September 1st, from 3-6 p.m. Students who attend the Open House will be able to pick-up their schedules and tour the building. In addition, students will be able to receive their locker assignments and combinations as long as the forms required for the opening of school are completed, signed by parent(s), and returned. There is no formal program on this day; however, parents will also have the opportunity to join the PTA, order PE uniforms online at a computer kiosk, pick-up pre-ordered school supplies, purchase school supplies and Thoreau “Spirit Wear” at the school store, add funds to student lunch accounts, and drop-off medication with the school health aide.

The five forms required for a student to be issued a locker are:

1. [Health Information Form](#)
2. [Emergency Care Card](#) (Please verify the information on the pre-populated form, edit if necessary, and sign. This form may be completed electronically through the weCare@School section of FCPS 24-7 Learning Parent View.)
3. [After-School Registration Form](#)
4. [Students Rights and Responsibilities (SR&R) signature page](#)
5. [Identification of Military Connected Students Form](#)
These forms are included in this mailing for your convenience and are also available on the Back to School page of Thoreau’s website. Students who do not return these forms on Thursday, September 1st, should return all forms to the main office to receive their locker assignment the first week of school. If you do not have internet access or are unable to print any of the forms, all information will be available for pick-up in Thoreau’s main office after Friday, August 26th.

I also would like to share the different sites available for parents to view their child’s student information, course curriculum, purchase PE uniforms and add lunch money online.

**SIS Parent Account** – https://sisparent.fcps.edu/
The SIS Parent Account provides access to student information, including attendance, report cards, class schedules, gradebook, course history, discipline, health, and school information.

**FCPS 24-7 Learning Parent View (Blackboard)** – https://fcps.blackboard.com
FCPS 24-7 provides access to view your child’s available courses and content, bus stop information, Family Connection (to view Academic and Career Planning), and to update your child’s Emergency Care Information through weCare@school.

**PE Uniform Orders Online** – http://athleticunion.com/thorea
PE uniforms are now available for purchase online through Athletic Union. It is recommended to purchase more than one uniform so that your child has one to wear at school while the other is being washed at home. The cost of the PE uniform pack (shirt and shorts) is $10. All orders placed before Friday, September 2nd will be delivered to the school. Uniforms will be distributed to students during PE classes during the first few weeks of school. For free shipping, use promo code #Thoreau.

**MySchoolBucks** – http://myschoolbucks.com
This site allows parents to view lunch account balances and meal purchases, setup automatic payments, make payments from the mobile app, and has no convenience fees. Balances and current meal account will automatically transfer over from last school year. Later this fall, this site will be used to collect various student fees such as curricular materials fees, field trip fees, etc.

**Important Upcoming Dates:**

- **Thursday, September 1st** -- 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. -- Orientation for new students to Thoreau
- **Thursday, September 1st** -- 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. -- Open House for all students and parents
- **Tuesday, September 6th** -- 7:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. -- First day of school
- **Thursday, September 15th** -- 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. -- Back-to-School Night

Enjoy the rest of your summer! I look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Yusef Azimi
Principal