

From Our Administration

Dear Forsyth Academy Parent or Guardian:

"For me, becoming isn't about arriving somewhere or achieving a certain aim. I see it instead as forward motion, a mean of evolving, a way to reach continuously toward a better self. The journey doesn't end." Michelle Obama

I am so excited to be your new principal and start another chapter in my life here at Forsyth Academy. My journey started at FA when I joined the family back in 2009 as a 5th grade teacher. Previously, I have taught preschool, transitional kindergarten, 4th and 5th grade over the past 22 years. I became a dean in 2013. It has been my absolute pleasure to serve you and your families. I am a mom of two, Kyleigh, 19 and Bryce 16. I married my college sweetheart, Matt, in 2001. Our family loves to travel and plan trips around local cuisine. If I am not at school, you can find me in the kitchen.

The 2021-2022 school year was certainly filled with many challenges and obstacles. However, I can say with confidence that the one thing that remained the same was the ongoing tenacity and perseverance of our faculty/staff and students. I am always proud and amazed at how resilient people are despite difficulties. Forsyth Academy is certainly a special place filled with special people!

Over the summer, we are busily preparing for the upcoming school year by placing focus on closing the Covid gap. One new area this summer was scholars bringing home their chrome books to participate in the online summer learning program. We will host an online summer learning auction in the fall. New scholars will earn auction tickets by attending the new family events. I am confident that we will continue to combat Covid learning loss due the phenomenal group of educators placed in our building alongside of each of you and the perseverance of our scholars.

We will be starting the school year strong! However, there are some Leadership changes to announce. Ms. Elonda Watson has stepped down as middle school Dean but will be joining a classroom here at FA. We thank Mrs. Watson for her service over the past four years. I am pleased to announce that Ms. Ashley Brown will be the new middle school Dean starting the 2022-2023 school year. Ms. Brown has been a teacher for National Heritage Academies (NHA) since 2017. Ms. Brown was our Teacher of Year this school year. She is a leader on the middle school wing, served as a mentor, committee leader, and is truly dedicated to the students at Forsyth Academy. We would like to welcome another familiar face Mr. Jay Drab. He will serve as our K-2 Dean. Mr. Drab has been at FA since 2018. He has taught 3rd, 5th and 8th grade at our school. This is his 20th year in education. Mr. Drab has been recognized by North Carolina as a high performing teacher in reading and math. He has coached many of our scholars to the soccer championship. He is also a well-known mentor here in the building for students and teachers. Mrs. McIntyre and Mrs. Overman will complete our dynamic and returning Dean team. As always, we thank you for being a part of the Forsyth Academy family. We are committed to reaching even higher levels of excellence this coming school year with your partnership! See you at open house on Wednesday, August 18th from 4:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.!

Mrs. Christy Harnsberger, Principal

The mobile app for the NHA Parent Portal is available for free!

- Stay up to date on your child's grades and progress
- Fill out forms
- Manage lunch \$ balance
- Check the school calendar
- Email your child's teacher
- Find helpful resources
- Get notifications on updates
.....and more

Download the app today to get started! Available to download in the App Store for Apple & Google Play for Android.

Rising 7th Graders

We wanted to take the opportunity to remind you about immunization requirements that affect all students entering 7th grade. The requirement is for one dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) and one dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine, for all children entering the 7th grade who have not already received it. Please remember to ask your health care provider for a copy of your child's immunization (shot) record once it has been administered. Your child will need to bring a copy of the shot record to the school on the first day of 7th grade. Do not delay! Make sure your child is up-to-date on his/her immunizations prior to the start of the 7th grade school year.

Important Dates...

- 08/08** New Family Orientation @ 5:30pm
- 08/18** Open House @ 4:00-6:30pm
- 08/24** First Day of School
1/2 day for Kindergarten
- 08/25** 1/2 day for Kindergarten
- 09/05** No School (Labor Day)
- 09/16** Jean Day for \$1

Jean Days...

We use "Jean Days" as a fundraiser for our various grade levels and departments. Students are allowed to wear any color jeans (without any holes or tears) to school on those designated days if they bring in \$1.00. All scholars are still required to wear a uniform shirt, school spirit shirt or a college-themed shirt. Designated Jean Days will be listed on the monthly calendars.

Open House Our open house will be held on Wednesday, August 18th from 4:00-6:30 pm. This is a floating open house, so you are welcome to attend any time during those hours. This is an excellent opportunity for you and your child to locate their classrooms, meet his/her teacher(s), complete any classroom forms, drop off supplies, and complete any other tasks. Also, you will be receiving a packet of important information/guidelines at open house, so it is rather imperative that you attend. We will have our entire faculty on site should you need anything.

School Session Hours School is in session from 8:15-3:15. Students may be dropped off no earlier than 7:45 and must be picked up no later than 3:45. A student is considered tardy if they are not in their classroom seat by 8:15 and/or if they are checked out earlier than the 3:15 dismissal time. In order to protect the integrity of your child's education and to utilize every minute of instructional time possible, it is our request that students remain in school the entire school day. We take the education of our students very seriously at Forsyth Academy, and we strive to accomplish our vision: to better educate more children.

School Security For the continued safety and security of all of our students and faculty, there are several procedures that will be put in place for the 2022-2023 school year. It is important to read through each item and make the necessary arrangements moving forward:

- Our front doors will be locked beginning at 8:15 every morning. We have a video monitor and buzzer system outside. Parents will need to be buzzed into the front door by a member of our office staff. Parents will not be allowed down hallways from 8:15-3:15. Visitors are not allowed to 'drop by' the school in hopes of meeting any faculty/staff member, Dean or Principal. Visitors must make appointments to see any staff There is no exception to this rule. ****Walking your student to class will be allowed before 8:15am, this could change if COVID numbers start to rise again.****
- Students are not allowed to be checked out for early dismissal after 1:30 p.m. on a regular day and 10:30 a.m. for any other early dismissal days. A doctor's note or appointment card will be required for **checkout.**

Dismissal Procedure for 2022-2023

We will continue using our current Driveline procedure for dismissal. New numbers are issued every year for security.

Your child's new number & cards will be mailed to you on the week of August 8th.

School dismisses at 3:15pm. In the interest of students' safety and teachers' preparation time, parents are asked to pick up their children immediately after dismissal and no later than 3:45pm. Any students remaining after 3:45pm will make an attempt to reach a parent for details regarding transportation. A \$20 dismissal fee will be charged to a parent whose child(ren) remains after school past 4:00 p.m. Parents will be required to sign out his/her child upon late dismissal, indicating the time the student left the school building (not when the parent arrived to campus or arrived in the late day line). The time the student leaves the building will indicate if payment should be rendered.

Parents will receive two verbal warnings for late pick-up. The school will contact Child Protective Services and/or the local authorities, without notice to the student's parents. Until any delinquent fee is paid in full, the following may apply:

- Parents will be required to pick up their student's class assignment, including middle school elective schedule
- Progress Reports/Report Cards, including graduation documents, will be held
- A student's participation in graduation or promotion ceremony/event will be denied
- A student's participation in non-required field trips and/or field day will be denied
- A student will be denied the option to purchase a school yearbook
- A student will be denied the option to participate in school athletics
- Only information necessary for grade or course registration will be sent for students who withdraw and enroll in another school

First Day of School Our first day of school for the 2022-2023 school year will be Wednesday, August 24th. Our normal school hours are 8:15-3:15. However, on the first two days of school (Wednesday, August 24th and Thursday, August 25th), our kindergarten classes will attend 1/2 days. On those two days, our kindergarten classes will dismiss at 11:45am. This only applies to the first two days of school and to our kindergarten classes only. We realize that such a transition into a full day school setting may be hard on our younger ones, so we hope that the transition may be made more smoothly with this schedule.

Absent on the First Day of School If your student cannot be in attendance on the first day of school, a call **MUST** be placed to the school office detailing the reason for the absence no later than 8:30 am on Wednesday, August 24th. If a call is not received and your student is not in attendance, then you will forfeit your student's seat at Forsyth Academy, and the seat will be given to the next person on the Waiting List. It is imperative that you make the school office aware if your child will not be present, for any reason, on the first day of school.

Free/Reduced Application and Breakfast/Lunch Information

- * Forsyth Academy participates in the National Federal Lunch program yearly. This program has strict guidelines regarding required nutrition for each student. Due to this, Forsyth Academy can no longer allow fast food to be delivered and/or dropped off for students to consume, and reserves the right to deny these items (or any items that look like fast food) into the building.
- * The online portal to complete Free and Reduced lunch applications are now available for 2022-2023. To submit a Free or Reduced Lunch application, please go to <http://mealapps.nhaschools.com>. Please make sure that you apply for this program prior to the first day of school. A new form MUST be completed each new school year; these forms do NOT carry over from year to year and do not transfer from other schools. Each completed meal form helps YOUR school receive vital funding!!
- * Lunch money must be received in the office no later than 9:00 a.m. in order for lunch money to be applied to that day. Money received after 9:00 a.m. will be applied on the next school day. Payments can be made to your child's lunch account by going to <https://family.titank12.com>. However, please note, the online system takes 24 hours for the lunch money to process into the child's account. You will not be able to pay online and have the money applied on the same day.
- * Monthly breakfast & lunch menus can be found on our website, www.forsythacademy.org.
- * The full price for lunch for the 2022-2023 school year is \$2.95, and the reduced price for lunch will remain at \$0.40. The price for milk only will be \$0.50. The full price for breakfast for the 2022-2023 school year will remain \$1.60, and reduced price for breakfast will remain free.
- * Breakfast will be served daily from 7:45 - 8:00 am.
- * Students must be in school by 10:30 am in order to sign up for a school lunch. Students arriving after 10:30 am must have a home lunch with them.

The TITAN Family portal is a secure, online system that allows parents to:

- Make an online payment to their children's cafeteria meal accounts
- Remotely monitor their children's accounts
- Set up automatic recurring payments
- Set up low balance e-mail message alerts

Make sure to register today!

Information Tools

We send home monthly newsletters from the office, post information on our website (www.forsythacademy.org), post updates on our facebook page (make sure you "like" Forsyth Academy), and SchoolMessenger messages.

The "SchoolMessenger" messaging system makes phone calls and sends text messages to make parents aware of upcoming activities, schedule changes, school closings, etc. One of our administrative team members will place a "Sunday Night SchoolMessenger" phone call and/or text to your phone number every Sunday night detailing the announcements for the upcoming week.

Please make sure that your correct phone number is on file in the school office. It is our goal to help parents stay informed!

Medication Forms

A 2022-2023 medication form must be completed by a physician in order for any type of medication to be administered at school. *Students are not permitted to have any type of medication on their person unless the appropriate documentation is on file in the office. This includes, but is not limited to, pain relievers, cough drops, inhalers.* Please see one of our office team members for a 2022-2023 medication form.

Teacher Assignments

All existing & new enrolled students in grades K-8 will receive their teacher assignments during Open House. We ask that you not call the office asking about teacher assignments prior to receiving your mailing. Our office staff will not have that information to share.

Walk Home Release Form

We have several students who walk home from school each afternoon. A 2022-2023 Walk Home Release Form must be completed by a parent/guardian BEFORE a student will be allowed to walk home. Student has to walk off campus otherwise he or she must follow the driveline procedures.

Contact Information

Forsyth Academy
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Phone: 336-922-1121
Fax: 336-922-1033
www.forsythacademy.org

Principal: Mrs. Harnsberger
Dean of Grades K-2: Mr. Drab
Dean of Grades 3-5: Mrs. McIntyre
Dean of Grades 6-8: Ms. Brown
Dean of Intervention & EC: Mrs. Overman
Registrar: Ms. Rivera
Office Administrator: Mrs. Yambó