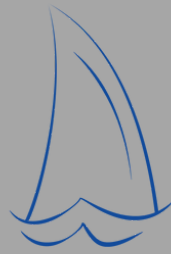


Middle School Newsletter



December '23



Dear Parents, Guardians, and FAMS Families,

It's hard to believe that we are marching through quarter two. As we move out of November, just past Thanksgiving, and into December, I want to say that I am very thankful for our kind/hardworking group of middle school students and staff.

I'm thrilled to share some exciting news that showcases the exceptional efforts of our school community. For the second consecutive year, Fort Atkinson Middle School proudly holds the top position among Badger conference middle schools and similar schools in our region!

But that's not the only highlight—our success extends beyond the conference, placing us in the top 15% of all middle schools in the state. This achievement underscores our dedication to academic excellence and speaks to the hard work, commitment, and collaborative spirit that define our school community.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our FAMS families for your unwavering dedication to your child's education. Your support, encouragement, and partnership significantly contribute to the overall growth and success of our students.

We are truly grateful for the collaborative efforts of our students, parents, and staff. Together, we are making a positive impact on the lives of our students and the success of our school. You should take pride in the accomplishments of our school, as it is a reflection of your support and partnership.

Even in the exciting month of December, which is full of breaks from school, our students and staff are staying diligent on acquiring new skills in their classes as they continue to work hard every day that we are here.

Once again, thank you for your continued support. Please reach out with any questions or concerns.



Matthew Wolf

Middle School Principal
School District of Fort Atkinson



920.563.7833

FortSchools.org

Middle School
310 S 4th Street East, Fort Atkinson WI

"Achieving distinction in all we do"

INCLEMENT WEATHER:

In addition to notification by Blackboard Connect, the following radio/TV stations are also notified of our school closings:

- AM 940 WFAW / WSJY-FM 107.3 / KOOL FM 106.5 WKCH
- WSLD 104.5
- WISC-TV - Channel 3000 (Madison)
- WMTV-NBC 15 (Madison)
- WKOW 27 (Madison)
- 94.5 WTKI Country / 620 WTMJ
- TODAY'S TMJ4 (Milwaukee)
- Weather Watch 12 (Milwaukee)
- Fox 6 (Milwaukee)
- CBS 58 (Milwaukee)



Helpful Links:

- [SDFA Website](#)
- [FAMS website](#)
- [PowerSchool](#)
- [School Menus](#)
- [Technology](#)



One Team, One District, One Community

Fort Atkinson High School | Fort Atkinson Middle School
Barrie Elementary | Luther Elementary | Purdy Elementary | Rockwell Elementary




The School District of Fort Atkinson Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, sex (including transgender status, change of sex or gender identity), or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability ("Protected Classes") in any of its student programs and activities.



Calendar of Events: December

December 3: Holiday Parade 4:30 pm
Downtown Fort Atkinson

December 5:  FAMS Auditions for Frozen Jr.
3:30 pm in Room 6 (Choir Rm)

December 6: Progress Reports Available

December 8: 8th Grade Courage Retreat
FAMS gym

December 18: Holiday Choir Concert
7:00 pm @ FAHS



December 19: Winter Band & Orchestra Concert
6:00 pm & 7:30 pm @ FAHS

December 22: Winter Break Begins - Enjoy!
Classes resume January 2nd.



BOYS BASKETBALL

Cheer on our FAMS Sharks:



- December 5 vs. Watertown @ 4pm
- 7th grade away, 8th grade home
- December 7: vs. Jefferson @ 4pm
- 7th grade home, 8th grade away
- December 12: vs. Lake Mills @ 4pm
- 7th grade away, 8th grade home
- December 14: vs. Milton @ 4pm
- 7th grade away, 8th grade home
- December 19: vs. Johnson Creek @ 4pm
- 7th grade and 8th grade away

FAMS WINTER SPORTS* Practices begin January 2nd.

Girls Basketball for 7th and 8th grade:
See Ms. Meyers for any questions or
meyersl@fortschools.org.

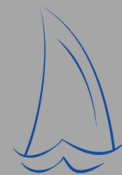
Wrestling for 6th, 7th and 8th grade:
Contact Coach Hiqmet Dauti,
hiqmetdauti38@gmail.com

*FAMS athletes - In addition to completing the
google form from your coaches (check your
homeroom classroom), you must also:

1) register online at this fortathletics.com
[registration link](#).

2) Turn in a completed physical exam form at the
main office. (Physicals are good for two school
years with an alternate year approval on the
registration link.

3) Pay your school sport fee of \$50 for sport 1;
\$40 for sport 2 or \$30 for sport 3.



Southern Lakes Anthology Project:



What is the Southern Lakes Anthology Project?

The Southern Lakes Anthology (SLA) Project is sponsored by the Southern Lakes Advanced Learners Network. The purpose of SLA is to provide an opportunity for **talented writers, artists, and cartoonists** to publish their work. During the months of October and November, English Language Arts teachers will present information on the anthology project to students in 6th through 8th grades.



The theme for this year's anthology is "What If..." For more information, visit [Southern Lakes Anthology 2023-24](#)

Mark your calendars! All submissions are due to the GT office (in the IMC) by January 3, 2024!

FINS - Student Senate:



Join us in spreading warmth and support this season! FINS is thrilled to announce our annual food drive, running from December 4-8, in partnership with Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin. This initiative directly benefits our local Fort Atkinson community, providing essential assistance to those in need ([click here to learn more](#)). Our drive contributes to Second Harvest's "Share Your Holidays" campaign in collaboration with NBC15 out of Madison. FAMS has a proud tradition of making a significant impact, as seen in our recognition on NBC15.com as a top contributor last year ([check out the article here](#)).

So get ready for some friendly competition! The homeroom in each grade that collects the most donations will be rewarded with a light breakfast courtesy of FINS. Let's come together once again to make this food drive a resounding success!

FAMS Choir Families:

We're very excited for you to join us on our FAMS Winter Choir Concert on **Monday December 18th at 7 PM** at Fort Atkinson High School. This concert will include all choir members in **6th, 7th, and 8th grade**.

On the morning of the concert, the **6th grade choir** will have a combined rehearsal starting at 7:45 AM in the FAMS choir room. Please make the proper arrangements to have your child arrive at FAMS as soon as possible.

On the evening of the concert, we ask that all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade choir students arrive at Fort Atkinson High School no later than 6:15 PM for the dress rehearsal. Students should wear their black Fort Atkinson Middle School Music T-shirt, a pair of solid-colored bottoms (jeans are okay), and tennis shoes. Please refer to the choir syllabus for additional information on acceptable concert attire.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email Mr. Al-Ubaidi (alubaidim@fortschools.org).

Band & Orchestra Winter Concerts:

- Student report time is 30 minutes prior to concert start time.
- Attire is black concert t-shirt (distributed already at school).
- All performances are streamed live on the Youtube channel [Fort Atkinson Performing Arts](#).
 - 6th & 7th Grade Band & Orchestra - Tuesday, Dec. 19th, 6:00pm
 - 8th Grade Band & Orchestra - Tuesday, Dec. 19th, 7:30pm





FAHS - High School Course Selection 2022-2023 School Year

In January, parents/guardians of eighth grade students will be mailed information about the High School Course Selection event that will occur on Monday, February 5th from 3:30-5:30 p.m. and again on Thursday, February 8th from 4:00-7:00 p.m. It is essential that students and their parents/guardians complete the Course Selection process on one of these dates. Katie Utphall, high school counselor, will be meeting with the 8th grade students on January 24th and 25th at the middle school to assist them in preparing for Course Selection. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Utphall at the high school at 563-7811 ext. 1145. Students who do not complete the Course Selection process will have courses selected for them by their high school counselors.

All eighth graders and parents of eighth graders are asked to attend a "Freshman Orientation to the Course Selection Process" presentation to be held in the high school auditorium prior to going to the gymnasium for Course Selection. This presentation is about 15 minutes long and will go over key information about the Course Selection process, required courses, planning for future careers/college, and how many credits to schedule in a year.

**Presentations will be held at the following times: Monday, February 5th 3:40pm and 4:30pm
Thursday, February 8th 4:15pm and 5:30pm, Spanish Presentation at 5:45pm**

When families arrive at the event, they will receive a folder of all the course selection materials necessary for the event. Students should bring their school-issued Chromebook. Tables will be set up in the Commons for parents and students who need a place to sit to discuss their choices and identify questions for teachers. The high school counselors will also be available in the Commons to answer any questions and assist families with the process. When students are ready to finalize their course selections, they will proceed into the gymnasium where teachers are organized at tables by department. Students can ask questions about courses and get signatures for enrollment in a course at the department tables. Parent/guardian signatures are required to complete the course selection process. If you are not able to attend one of the two events, please call the High School Pupil Services Office (920-563-7811 ext. 1143) to make other arrangements.

The course description booklet, referred to as the Program of Studies, for the 2025-2025 school year will be posted online for families to access beginning in mid-December on the Fort Atkinson High School's website. 8th graders will also be given a copy of the Program of Studies when Ms. Utphall visits them at the middle school in January. If you have any questions, please contact the High School Pupil Services Office at 920-563-7811 ext. 1143.

Washington DC in 2023:

Attention 8th grade families:

Registration for the Washington DC trip is still open!

This experience is open to any and all
current 8th grade students.

This trip was rescheduled and will now travel
from May 1st - May 4th, 2024.

FAMS students have been traveling to Washington DC
for over 50 years and it continues to be a fantastic
opportunity.

They will get a premium tour experience run by World
Strides - a nationally renowned educational tour group.

For more information contact Ms. Bodelson at
bodelsonk@fortschools.org.

You may also view this [link](#) which gives some
information about the trip.



International Travel - 2025



Mr. Daniels, FAHS Teacher, is currently
in the process of planning
an international trip for the
summer of 2025 AND he wants your input.
Please complete this [survey](#) to help him
pick a destination. This survey will give him an
idea of where people are interested
in travelling. He will still make the final
decision on the trip and destination.



Current 8th graders - you would be eligible
for this trip as it would be the summer
between 9th and 10th grade. If you have
any questions please reach out to Mr. Daniels
at danielsn@fortschools.org.



Buy a Yearbook

Yearbook

\$20.00

Yearbook Only

Get your 23-24 yearbook

Order online for \$20 -click the image!

*If you are unable to pay by credit card, please contact the Middle School office.

Create a personal message
for your 8th grader (PDA.)
Complete this form and forward
with 1 or 2 photos to
Mrs. Dach or Mrs. Dwyer
by January 5th, 2024!

**DON'T
MISS OUT!**

Padres de octavo grado

¡Envía un mensaje desde tu corazón y será incluido en el anuario! Ofrecemos la oportunidad de personalizar el anuario de una manera muy especial con un anuncio de muestra personal de afecto (PDA). ¡Hay espacio disponible para felicitar a un graduado de 8° grado y/o decirle lo orgulloso que estás!

PDA será en color. Hay espacios disponibles, pero limitados. Debido al espacio limitado, las PDA se verán diferentes a las del pasado con la esperanza de atraer la mayor cantidad de estudiantes posible.

- \$25 por 2 fotos
- \$15 por 1 foto

Para reservar tu espacio:

- 1.) Complete y envíe el siguiente formulario antes de nuestra fecha límite firme de **5 de enero de 2024**:
 - Mensaje para su estudiante: imprima clara y claramente a continuación o envíe un mensaje de correo electrónico
 - Foto (elijá una foto reciente, una foto de bebé o un evento especial y envíe una foto por correo electrónico con el mensaje que aparece a continuación)
 - Pago basado en el número de fotos.
- 2.) Mensaje de correo electrónico con foto a dwyer@fortschools.org o dache@fortschools.org

Las plazas no se reservarán hasta que se reciba el pago. Si envía su foto por correo electrónico sin pago, no garantiza que su PDA esté en el anuario. Recibirá un correo electrónico de confirmación de Aimee Dwyer o Erin Dach cuando se haya recibido el pago.

Mail or drop off in the FAMS Main Office
Phone: (920) 563-7833

Attn: Aimee Dwyer and Erin Dach
Yearbook Advisors
310 S. 4th St. East
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

El nombre del estudiante: _____
Nombre del padre/comprador: _____
DIRECCIÓN: _____
Código postal: _____
Teléfono: _____
Su firma: _____

Tamaño de foto/mensaje: _____ \$15 por 1 foto _____ \$25 por 2 fotos

Imprima cuidadosamente su mensaje a continuación: (o incluir el mensaje en el correo electrónico con foto)

Foto enviada por correo electrónico: sí o no _____
Uso de oficina: Monto pagado: _____ N.º de cheque: _____ Efectivo: _____

8th Grade Parents

Send a message from your heart, and it will be delivered into the yearbook! We're offering an opportunity to personalize the yearbook in a very special way with a Personal Display of Affection (PDA) ad. Space is available to congratulate an 8th grade graduate and/or tell them how proud you are!

PDA's will be in color. Spaces are available, but limited. Because of the limited space, PDA's will look different than the past in hopes to get in as many students as possible.

- \$25 for 2 photos
- \$15 for 1 photo

To reserve your space:

- 1.) Please complete and submit the form below by our firm deadline of **January 5th, 2024**:
 - Message to your student - print clearly and neatly below or email message
 - Photo (choose a recent photo, baby picture, or a special event and email photo with the message from below)
 - Payment based on number of photos
- 2.) Email message with photo to dwyer@fortschools.org or dache@fortschools.org

Spots will not be held until payment is received. If you email your photo with no payment, it is not guaranteed your PDA will be in the yearbook. You will receive a confirmation email from Aimee Dwyer or Erin Dach when payment has been received.

Mail or drop off in the FAMS Main Office
Phone: (920) 563-7833

Attn: Aimee Dwyer and Erin Dach
Yearbook Advisors
310 S. 4th St. East
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

Student's name: _____
Parent/Purchaser's name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Your signature: _____

Photo/Message Size: _____ \$15 for 1 photo OR _____ \$25 for 2 photos

Neatly print your message below: (or include the message in the email with photo)

Emailed photo: Yes or No _____

Office Use: Amount Paid: _____ Check #: _____ Cash: _____

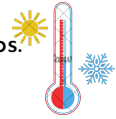
To print a full-size sheet of the PDA
form to complete and return,
please print from the FAMS website:
2023-2024 PDA Form



Grade 6

Math Keep an open mind this month and practice growth mindset! Ask your students to explain what it means to divide and visually show you how to divide fractions with a tape diagram. Make sure you check out the [Illustrative Math website](#), you can find helpful math hints and videos for homework help.

Science We are continuing to learn about thermal energy through investigating our regular and fancy cups. Ask your student about the differences between warmer and colder particles.



This month the **Social Studies** students will be learning about the Ancient Greeks. This unit will cover how geography, representative government & democracy, literature, arts, philosophy, science, math, medicine and engineering created a unique culture in ancient Greece. A conversation starter could include comparing culture and government between ancient Greece and the United States.

English/Language Arts What is your student reading for their LDG? Students will discuss their books in groups the rest of December! We will also be working on our revising and editing skills in our argumentative essays and have our classroom spelling bees prior to winter break!



Grade 7

In **Language Arts**, we will wrap up our poetry unit with ode presentations.

Students will then view and create Public Service Announcements about causes and issues to which they are loyal. Students will also be reading LDG novels; ask your child about the LDG novel they are reading and expect to see them reading this novel at home. (Due dates and assigned chapters will be on google classroom.)

7th grade **Math** students will be studying from Unit 4: Proportional Relationships and Percentages. In this unit, students use ratios, scale factors, unit rates (also called constants of proportionality), and proportional relationships to solve multi-step, real-world problems that involve fractions and percentages.

In **Science**, students will be exploring the Periodic Table of Elements! They will learn about atomic structure and even practice drawing atomic models.



Social Studies 7th Grade Social Studies students will be looking at the Western Expansion of the USA. With that, looking into the inventions and innovations that made life easier.



Grade 8

In **ELA** students are continuing their photo essays on a national or local alliance of their choice. They are also learning all about verbs, specifically the different types of voice and mood of a verb. Ask your student if they can tell you the five different types of verb moods.

Look out USA, the students of Fort are on their way! 8th grade **Social Studies** students will learn about the economy, political structure and cultural aspects of the United States. Up next is our friendly neighbor to the North...Canada!

Students in **Math 8** will be finishing their studies of graphing and writing linear equations and before winter break, will become experts in algebraically finding solutions to one variable equations.

In **Algebra** December begins with students analyzing categorical data and deciding how well linear models represent given data. By mid December we will begin our study of functions. On about December 15th, be sure to ask your student what a function is and how it's like a soda machine.

This school year has been in session for 62 days from Aug. 28th-Nov.30th.
How many of them have you attended?

School attendance is correlated with higher achievement and attendance is important in building strong academic skills, learning to manage emotions, and building friendships. The stoplight graphic shows the number of days that indicate positive attendance and attendance numbers that are a concern. Take a minute to check powerschool to see how your child's attendance has been.



If you have been at school 48 days or fewer-you have attended 79% or less of the school year.

You may find it difficult to learn, your grades may be lower than you would like and you may have more challenges with the work.

If you have been at school 49.5 days you have been at school 80% of the time or more

Missing this many days--you may find yourself falling behind your peers.

If you have been at school 55 days or more-you have 90% or higher attendance.

Attending school this much can help keep you on pace.

If you find your attendance at a red or yellow light--see what changes you can try in order to improve your attendance. If you have to be out for a health reason, be sure to communicate that so we can work on helping you still get the material--and work with your teachers.

We know that COVID, colds, influenza and other factors affect attendance--practicing general health and safety measures (washing your hands, covering your mouth when you cough, covering your nose when you sneeze, monitoring other symptoms and staying home when warranted) can help. Please take care of your health to keep others healthy. Remember that when students are healthy we believe it is important for them to be at school.

Este año escolar ha estado en sesión durante 62 días del 28 de agosto al 30 de noviembre. ¿A cuántos de ellos has asistido?

La asistencia a la escuela se correlaciona con un mayor rendimiento y la asistencia es importante para desarrollar habilidades académicas sólidas, aprender a manejar las emociones y entablar amistades. El gráfico del semáforo muestra la cantidad de días que indican asistencia positiva y las cifras de asistencia que son motivo de preocupación. Tómese un minuto para consultar powerschool y ver cómo ha sido la asistencia de su hijo.

Si ha estado en la escuela 48 días o menos, ha asistido el 79% o menos del año escolar.

Puede que le resulte difícil aprender, sus calificaciones pueden ser más bajas de lo que le gustaría y es posible que tenga más desafíos con el trabajo.

Si has estado en la escuela 49,5 días has estado en la escuela el 80% del tiempo o más

Si te pierdes esto muchos días, es posible que te quedes atrás de tus compañeros.

Si ha estado en la escuela 55 días o más, tiene una asistencia del 90% o más.

Asistir tanto a la escuela puede ayudarte a mantener el ritmo.

Si encuentra su asistencia en un semáforo en rojo o amarillo, vea qué cambios puede intentar para mejorar su asistencia. Si tiene que estar ausente por motivos de salud, asegúrese de comunicarlo para que podamos trabajar para ayudarlo a obtener el material y trabajar con sus maestros.

Sabemos que el COVID, los resfriados, la influenza y otros factores afectan la asistencia: practicar medidas generales de salud y seguridad (lavarse las manos, cubrirse la boca al toser, cubrirse la nariz al estornudar, monitorear otros síntomas y quedarse en casa cuando sea necesario) puede ayuda.

Free/Reduced Lunch Program

Free/Reduced Meal Program is available to assist families financially and allows students to enjoy school lunch and breakfast items at reduced cost or free. If you feel this would be beneficial to your family, please use [this link](#) to apply online or request a paper application from your school office.

As a reminder, there are additional benefits for qualifying for free/reduced lunch such as:



Semester Milk

May receive free semester snack milk*



School Meals

May provide discounted or free meals when the USDA waiver expires.



Grocery Benefits

May help provide your family with money for groceries through P-EB



ACT & AP Test Discounts

May receive discounts for academic testing.



College Application Discounts

May receive discounts for college application fees.



Technology Funding

SDFA receives additional funding for internet access and computers.

We always want our students to have access to the best benefits possible. Should your circumstance change, please know this support is available at any time.

For the entire Winter Events Guide visit [Fortlibrary.org](https://fortlibrary.org)

DWIGHT FOSTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Events Guide: Winter 2023-2024

WINTER READING

Winter Reading Challenge for All Ages

December 11-January 31

Read books, complete activities, and log your progress on our Beanstack site at fortlibrary.beanstack.org. Participants will be entered in weekly prize drawings and earn a chance to win the grand prize drawing of a \$25 Fort Atkinson Chamber of Commerce gift certificate at the end of January. Happy reading, Fort Atkinson!



Backpack News is a monthly publication that contains health information that is distributed to families in Jefferson County that utilize Fort HealthCare's School Nurse Program.

Backpack News is written for two age groups—Kids and Teens, and all publications are available in English and Spanish.



- Backpack News - helpful tips from Fort HealthCare on physical & emotional health of teens

Community Connections:

Parks & Recreation

Fort Atkinson Chamber of Commerce

City of Fort Atkinson - News & City Council

Fort Atkinson Community Foundation - Projects

COMMUNITY EVENTS & NEWS

click on graphics for more information



BASE

Keeping kids safe
and having fun during
the critical hours
school is out.

AFTER SCHOOL REGISTRATION

OPEN FOR 2023-2024

ABOUT OUR PROGRAM :

- Open to children 7 & Older
- Open at all 4 Public Elementary Schools 3-6pm
- Snack, Recreation and Enrichment Activities
- Open Early Release Days and Select No School Days
- Affordable Rates and Scholarships Available



SIGN UP TODAY
brightwheel



SAVE THE DATE!!



THE CORNERSTONE OF HOPE
SPRING DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE
WILL BE FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2024
AT THE HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS
IN JANESVILLE

JOIN US FOR A MEMORABLE NIGHT OF DANCING,
AMAZING RAFFLE PRIZES AND A KEEPSAKE PHOTO!

TICKETS WILL GO ON SALE JANUARY 15TH AT
<https://csdhw.com/event/springdance/>

QUESTIONS: CONTACT CORNERSTONE OF HOPE
608-563-4673 OR info@csdhw.com

Do you have an event you'd like to share?

<https://forms.gle/gPiKA8QSWFoqFqsG9>

Fort Atkinson Holiday Weekend

Santa's Bag Red Box Giveaway

November 25th-December 2nd

Scan the QR code @ each location OR drop your information in their Red Box! Each time you place a completed entry form into one of the red boxes you'll be entering to win Santa's Bag.

Magic on the Polar Path

Friday, December 1st

Free community event! Christmas carolers, holiday music, animated light display, live farm animals, free candy canes & coloring books, cookies & hot cocoa, local mascots, & MORE!

4:00PM-6:30PM

Holiday Market

Saturday, December 2nd

Enjoy 5 wonderful locations full of local vendors via our complimentary trolley running through downtown Fort Atkinson. • Feather Your Nest with additional vendors!

9:00AM-3:00PM

Santa Bike Ride

Saturday, December 2nd

Free community event! Christmas carolers, holiday music, animated light display, live farm animals, free candy canes & coloring books, cookies & hot cocoa, local mascots, & MORE!

11:00AM

Jazz Swing Dance

Saturday, December 2nd

Fort Atkinson high school jazz band presents swing dancing. Lessons start at 7:00pm. Wear your black clothing with red accents and good dancing shoes!

7:00PM

Chili Cook-Off

Sunday, December 3rd

at First United Methodist Church, join an afternoon of delicious chili, bingo, sweets, and Santa!

12:00PM

Lighted Parade

Sunday, December 3rd

Watch the lit-up holiday floats drive down Main St. The parade will be a truly special way to end the weekend of Holiday Festivities.

4:00PM

HOARD HISTORICAL MUSEUM'S HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

HOLIDAY MUSIC, CRAFTS, AND
HOLIDAY TREATS
FREE FOR ALL

**1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 9**

HOARD HISTORICAL MUSEUM
401 WHITEWATER AVE.
FORT ATKINSON, WI
920-397-9914 WWW.HOARDMUSEUM.ORG