

Dear Fort Mill Middle School Students and Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Fort Mill Middle School. We are excited to be a part of your middle school experience. Middle school is an interesting time for students and parents. This can also be a difficult time. We are going to make every effort to make this journey through middle school more interesting and less difficult. This is a total team effort: the school, the students, and the parents are equal members of the FMMS team.

In order for any team to be successful, all members of the team need to do their part. Our goal as a school is to have prepared each student for success at the high school level when they leave us after 8<sup>th</sup> grade. That means we are going to follow our mission statement every day that states, "Our mission is to nurture and educate our students while providing a successful transition between their elementary and secondary years." We will put forth maximum effort, encourage our students to be the best they can be, and communicate with our parents. We will do our best every day to accomplish our mission. As equal team members in support of this goal, we ask our parents to encourage our students' success by providing necessary school supplies, along with a quiet place and scheduled time to complete assignments. We ask parents to continually encourage our students and enforce a good night's sleep. Finally, we ask our parents to partner with us in communication efforts, knowing that we share the same goal...Student Success.

The most important people in this equation are the students. We need four things from you every day: Effort, care, respect, and following the rules. **Effort:** I truly believe that good things happen to people who work hard every day. You may experience some down times, some poor grades, and some obstacles that get in your way; however, those things should never stop you from giving your best effort. **Care:** We need for you to care about your academic success, your fellow classmates, the adults in the building, and for the building itself. **Respect:** We need for you to respect yourself, your classmates, all adults at FMMS, and your parents. **Rules:** We have rules in place at FMMS to ensure the safety of all and to promote a fantastic learning environment. It is extremely important that our students make a commitment to following the rules every day. I personally believe that our students will be highly successful at FMMS if they take care of those four areas every day.

In closing, I believe that all three parts of the team (students, parents, and school) have the same goal in mind - for our students to be the very best that they can as students, community members, and people. In order for that to happen, we have to remember that we are all on the same team. I look forward to working with you this year. Please feel free to call on our teachers, guidance counselors, or administrators if you have any questions or concerns.

Go Jackets!

Sincerely,

Tony Caricari  
Principal  
Fort Mill Middle School

*Good Things Happen to people who work hard!*