

Forest Oak Middle School

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Where Cougar Pride Reigns

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

August 23, 2022

Dear Forest Oak Families,

We are looking forward to having all of our students back in a week. We hope everyone has had a great summer and are ready for a fantastic school year. We wanted to let you know some changes to this coming school year in order to prepare for the first day of school.

First of all, our bell schedule has changed to include an Advisory (Homeroom) period. This year, we will be implementing the Leader in Me curriculum during Advisory. This is a curriculum based off of Steven Covey's *7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. You will be receiving many updates throughout the year about what we are covering and how you can continue this learning at home. Attached is the new bell schedule.

Secondly, MCPS has updated their policy for Personal Mobile Devices (phones, smart watches, headphones, etc...). This was signed by the Superintendent in May of 2022. With this new policy, **students will not be allowed to use their personal mobile devices except for before school, during lunch, and after school.** This means that students will not be able to use them during class (as voted by our instructional leadership team) or in the hallways during transitions. They must remain away. If a student receives repeated warnings to put their device away, an administrator will take the device for the remainder of the day and will potentially require a parent/guardian to come pick it up from the school. This will be a huge adjustment for our students, so we ask that this be discussed as a family before school starts so there are no surprises. Here is a summary of the new regulation: [Personal Mobile Devices At A Glance](#).

Additionally, all students will be using lockers this year so phones/devices can be kept in there and locked as long as students do not share their locker combinations with each other. We will also have Chromebook carts in every academic classroom so students will have access to technology when needed. Therefore, they do not need to bring devices to school.

Finally, if a student does not have access to technology and wants to have a Chromebook to keep at home, parents/guardians can [fill out the attached form](#) and, when it is ready, we will give it to the student to bring home. Please note, there are certain financial obligations if the Chromebook breaks.

Staff is spending this week getting ready to welcome back your students. We will have a New Student Orientation on Thursday, August 25th where new students to Forest Oak Middle School can walk through their schedule and meet their teachers. Busses will be running on this day with a normal start time. The orientation will end at 12:00 pm and busses will be running then to take students home (3 hours earlier than the normal end time).

If you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to call the school at 240-740-7570.

Sincerely,
Forest Oak Middle School



Rooted in Character... Committed to Excellence