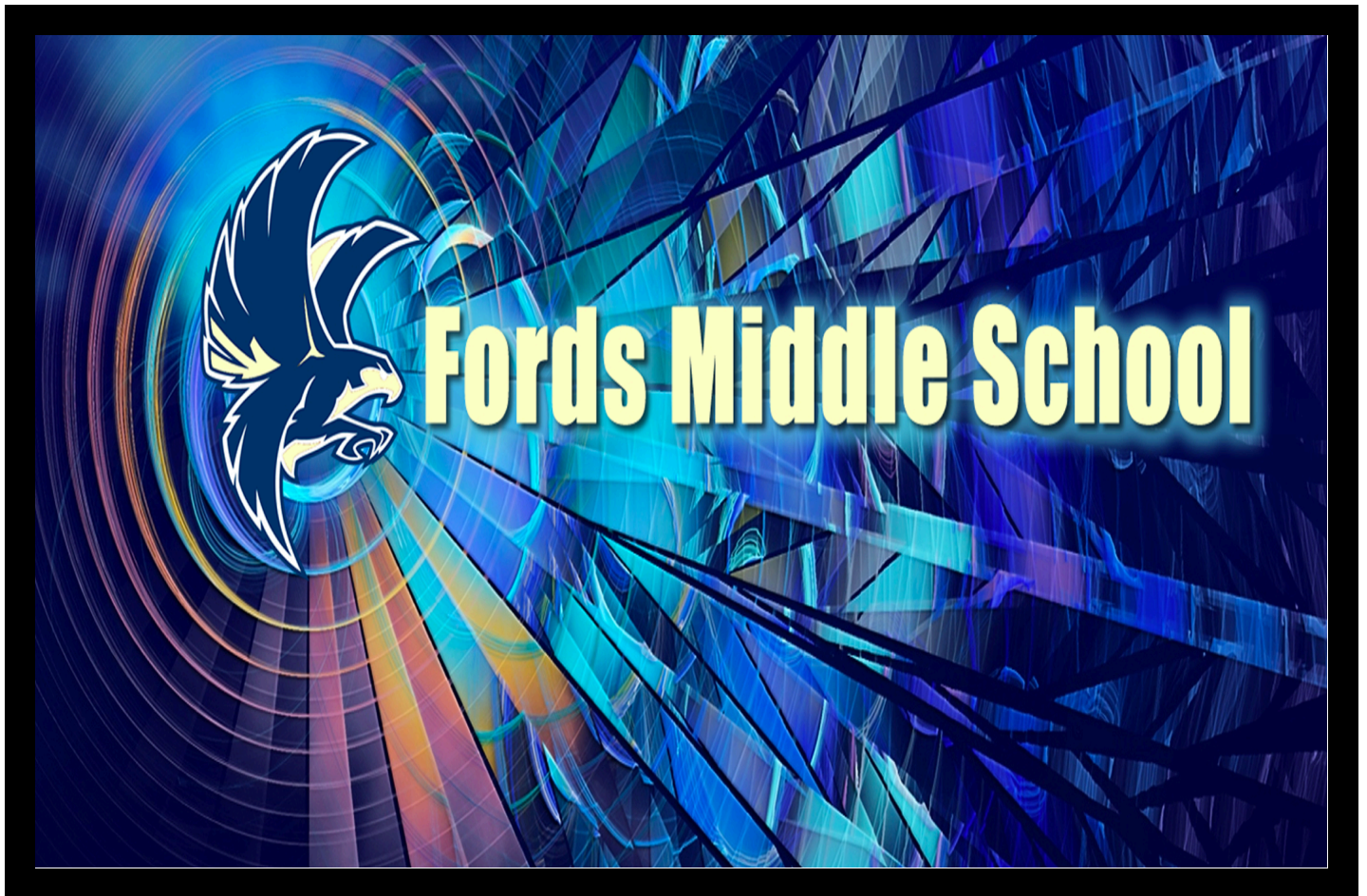


Fords Middle School Parent-Student Handbook

2026-2027



Safe

Valued

Empowered

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Home of the Falcons

(click the image and you will be directed to the FMS Website)

FMS VISION, MISSION, AND CORE VALUES

VISION:

Every student will feel **SAFE, VALUED, and EMPOWERED**, creating a supportive and inspiring learning environment

MISSION:

Fords Middle School is committed to empowering every student to achieve their academic and personal potential within a nurturing, inclusive community. Through a love of learning, the development of 21st-century skills, and a focus on social responsibility, we prepare our students to become capable, confident, and engaged members of society.

CORE VALUES:

- We treat ALL community members with kindness and embrace diversity, creating a welcoming environment
- We take responsibility and do what's right. We own our actions, follow expectations, and always try to make good choices—even when no one is watching.
- We choose kindness and respect everyone. We treat all members of our community with care, celebrate differences, and help others when they need it

CONTACT INFORMATION

Fords Middle School

100 Fanning Street
Fords, NJ 08863

Main Office: 732-596-4200

Ms. Jennifer Murphy – Principal

jennifer.murphy@wtsdnj.com

Mr. Matthew Taber – Vice Principal

matthew.taber@wtsdnj.com

Guidance Department

Mrs. Jennifer Ilaria

Grade 6: 732-596-4094

jennifer.ilaria@wtsdnj.com

Mrs. Charli Molnar

Grade 7: 732-596-4093

charli.molnar@wtsdnj.com

Mrs. Stacey Lueson

Grade 8: 732-596-4095

stacey.leusen@wtsdnj.com

Mrs. Linda Colon - Student Assistance Counselor (SAC)

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Woodbridge Township School District

Dr. Joseph Massimino, Ed.D. · Superintendent of Schools · (732) 602-8472

Dr. Maria Gencarelli, Ed.D. · Asst. Superintendent for Human Resources · (732) 602-8470

Mr. Paul Postorino · Asst. Supt. for Curriculum and Instruction · (732) 602-8487

Ms. Julie Bair - Director of Special Services · (732) 602-8575

Mr. Kendell Ali - Director of Student Access and Engagement · (732) 602-8565

Mr. Mark Cinelli · Supervisor for Food Services and Transportation · (732) 602-2536

2026-2027 STUDENT CALENDAR

WOODBIDGE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENT CALENDAR 2026-2027

July 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Sep-26

1 Staff In-Service

2 **First Day of School**

7 Labor Day

Oct-26

12 Staff In-Service

Nov-26

2-6 Fall Break

11 Veterans Day

25 Early Dismissal ALL

Dec-26

26-27 Thanksgiving Recess

30 Early Dismissal - Elem ONLY

1-4 Early Dismissal - Elem ONLY

23 Early Dismissal - ALL

24-31 Winter Break

Jan-27

1 New Year's Day

18 Dr. M.L. King Jr. Day

27-28 Early Dismissal-HS ONLY

29 Early Dismissal-MS & HS ONLY

Feb-27

15 Presidents' Day

Mar-27

1 No School - Staff In-Service

29-31 Spring Break

Apr-27

1-2 Spring Break

May-27

31 Memorial Day

Jun-27

8 Primary Election Day

16-17 Early Dismissal - Students ONLY

18 Juneteenth Observed

21-22 Early Dismissal - Students ONLY

23 **Last Day - Early Dismissal ALL**

(13)

Schools/Offices Closed

 Early Dismissal - ALL

 Early Dismissal - ES ONLY
(ES Teachers ONLY In-Service)

 Early Dismissal - ES ONLY
(Parent/Teacher Conferences)

(17)

 Early Dismissal - HS ONLY

 Early Dismissal - MS & HS ONLY

 Early Dismissal - Students ONLY

 Staff In-Service Day

 Marking Period Ends

January 2027						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

(19)

February 2027						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

(19)

March 2027						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

(19)

April 2027						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

(20)

May 2027						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

(20)

June 2027						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

(15)

3 Inclement Weather Days Built In. Additional inclement weather days will be made up as follows: 4/2, 4/1, 3/31, 3/30 and 3/29
In the event inclement weather days are unused, schools will be closed on 5/28, 6/1 and 6/7

Revised: July 16, 2026

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Morning Arrival

The school day begins at **8:12 AM**. However, the doors will open at 8:05am for all students to enter the building. Students wanting to purchase breakfast may do so at this time as well. Breakfast is open starting at 7:50am. Once students enter the building, they will report directly to their Block 1 class.

On the **FIRST DAY** of school, students will report to their assigned [homerooms](#) to get their assigned lockers and other pertinent information. Student homerooms are indicated in the parent portal on the student schedule. Grade-level homerooms, like the first day of school, will be scheduled periodically throughout the school year.

Students arriving at school **after** 8:12 AM are considered late. Students will enter the building through door #1 (the Hearthstone St. entrance) and report directly to the main office for attendance before going to their locker and class.

Bus Students: Enter through Door #1

Walker/Drop off students: Enter through Door #19

Bus Students

- Students must **only** board their assigned bus as provided in the Genesis Parent portal.
- All buses will drop students off in the front of the building, using the Hearthstone Street entrance
- Students will remain on their bus until directed to exit the bus
- With a large number of buses arriving at FMS, all car drop-offs are to use Soren Street as mentioned below.

Vehicle Drop-Off

- Many students are driven to school. Please consider this and provide ample time when dropping your child off at school – especially during inclement weather.
- All students being dropped off are to enter the parking area using **Soren St.** and **exit** using **Fanning St.**
- For safety purposes, do not drop your child off in the school's front parking lot.

Afternoon Departure

Students will be dismissed at 3:05pm. If not involved in an after-school activity, students must exit the building and leave school grounds upon dismissal.

Parent Pick-up of Students

- For the safety of the students, cars are not permitted in the front parking lot. This area is reserved for **bus students only**.
- Enter the pick-up area through Soren St., pick up your student, and exit using Fanning St.
- Additional required safety measures for traffic at the front of the building and for buses arriving for dismissal preparation: If you plan on picking up your child early, it can be no later than **2:30pm** via door #1

BELL SCHEDULE

REGULAR DAILY BELL SCHEDULE #1

*Please note, Homeroom is a designated time allotment **DURING** Block 1. All students must be in class at 8:12am*

BLOCK	7	8	6
BREAKFAST	8:05 - 8:10	8:05 - 8:10	8:05 - 8:10
1	8:12 - 9:19	8:12 - 9:19	8:12 - 9:19
2	9:22 - 10:22	9:22 - 10:22	9:22 - 10:22
3	10:25 - 11:24	10:25 - 11:24	10:25 - 11:24
4	<u>LUNCH A</u> 11:27 - 11:57 <u>CLASS</u> 12:00 - 1:00	<u>CLASS</u> 11:27 - 11:57 <u>LUNCH B</u> 11:59 - 12:29 <u>CLASS</u> 12:31 - 1:00	<u>CLASS</u> 11:27 - 12:27 <u>LUNCH C</u> 12:30 - 1:00
5	1:03 - 2:02	1:03 - 2:02	1:03 - 2:02
6	2:05 - 3:05	2:05 - 3:05	2:05 - 3:05

DELAYED OPENING SCHEDULE 2

*Please note: Homeroom is a designated time allotment **DURING** Block 1. All students **must** be in class at **10:15 am***

****Doors open to go to lockers and be on time for Block 1 at 10:05 am****

BLOCK	7	8	6
1	10:15 - 10:55	10:15 - 10:55	10:15 - 10:55
2	10:58 - 11:34	10:57 - 11:34	10:57 - 11:34
4	<u>LUNCH A</u> 11:37 - 12:07 <u>CLASS</u> 12:10 - 1:10	<u>CLASS</u> 11:37 - 12:07 <u>LUNCH B</u> 12:09 - 12:39 <u>CLASS</u> 12:41 - 1:10	<u>CLASS</u> 11:37 - 12:37 <u>LUNCH C</u> 12:40 - 1:10
3	1:13 - 1:49	1:13 - 1:49	1:13 - 1:49
5	1:52 - 2:27	1:52 - 2:27	1:52 - 2:27
6	2:30 - 3:05	2:30 - 3:05	2:30 - 3:05

EARLY DISMISSAL SCHEDULE

*Please note: Homeroom is a designated time allotment **DURING** Block 1. All students must be in class at 8:12am*

BLOCK	ALL GRADES
BREAKFAST	8:05 - 8:10
1	8:12 – 9:00
2	9:03 - 9:45
3	9:48 - 10:30
4	10:33 - 11:15
5	11:18 - 12:00
6	12:03 - 12:45

EARLY DISMISSAL / DELAYED OPENINGS

Delayed opening days run from 10:15 AM to 3:05 PM.

Early dismissal days begin at 8:12 AM and conclude at 12:45 PM. Please discuss your expectations for early closing days with your child. Your child should know where they are expected to go and how to get there. All bus students will be transported as usual. Lunch is **not** served, and there are no late buses, after-school clubs, activities, or athletics on early dismissal days.

BUSING INFORMATION

If your child is eligible for busing, you will be notified by our transportation department the week before the start of school. A general rule of thumb is that if you live more than 2 miles from the school, transportation will be provided. [WTSD Transportation Information](#)

STUDENT LOCKERS

Hallway lockers will be assigned to all students on the first day of school. Students are responsible for keeping their lockers clean. There will be several locker cleanouts throughout the school year, with the expectation of maintaining organization, cleanliness, and ease of locating items.

Please Review the following Woodbridge Township School District's Policy and Regulations regarding Lockers: [WTSD Policy 5145.12](#) and [WTSD Regulation #5145.12](#)

STUDENT IDS

All students will be issued a Student ID card. ID cards must be worn at all times when school is in session. Students who do not wear their ID will be reported to the main office. Students will be issued a detention after not wearing their ID for the third time (and for each subsequent 3x). If the ID card is lost, replacement cards can be purchased at the Main Office for a \$5.00 fee.

SCHOOL PHOTO DATES:

GRADE 6: August 25, 2026

ALL GRADES: Friday, September 4th, 2026

MAKE-UP PHOTOS: Friday, October 9th, 2026

VISITORS

All visitors are **required** to present an identification card to the security camera before entering the building and must immediately report to the main office upon entering. Visitors are required to sign in on the Visitor's Sign-In sheet while in the school.

All visitors will be required to have an appointment to enter the building as per the WTSD practice. If you do not have an appointment, you will not be permitted to enter the building. You may call the main office at 732-596-4200 to make an appointment.

If you are dropping off an item for your child, make sure your child's name is on the item, and leave it in the drop box beside the front door. Please ring the bell and inform a member of the office personnel that an item has been left in the drop box.

We encourage parents to send a note with their child or contact the main office if they know their child will be leaving school early. A parent or legal guardian's signature is required on the Student Sign-Out sheet kept in the main office. If your child is sent home early due to illness, you will need to sign him/her out. **A valid ID must be presented to sign your child out of school.**

CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY / MATERIALS

Students are responsible for their classroom books and other learning materials and will be fined should they be damaged or lost.

GENERAL SUPPLIES

To be prepared for class, students should have the following **general** supplies.

[Sixth through Eighth Grade Recommended Supplies](#)

2 Composition books
Loose-leaf binder paper
Binder pencil case
Spiral notebooks or three-ring binder with dividers
Pencils/pens
Colored pencils
Folders (one for each subject)
Glue sticks
Highlighters
Post-it notes
Wired headphones

Once classes begin, individual teachers may request additional items. Please review the teacher syllabus sent home during the first few days of school. If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's teacher. Contact information can be found on the [Fords Middle School Website](#).

ATTENDANCE

Please report any student absences or lates to our office staff. In order to make this more convenient for you, a telephone answering system is in place for you to report your child's absence.

When reporting an absence, please call 732-596-4200 and press 3 in the main menu. Please speak clearly and slowly while providing the following information:

- Student's name (spell last name)
- Your name and relationship to the student
- Reason your child will not be in school and the duration of absence

When your child returns from an absence, please send him/her in with a note explaining the absence, along with any documentation, such as doctor's notes.

According to the NJ State guidelines, **excused** absences will **only** be granted for:

1. Religious observance (N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3(h)): Here is a list of [Religious Holidays permitting pupil absence from school](#)
2. A college visit (up to 3 days per school year, only for students in grades 11 and 12);
3. "Take Our Children to Work Day" (pursuant to memo issued by the Commissioner to all districts on April 25, 2017) or other rule issued by the Commissioner;
4. Participation in observance of Veterans Day (N.J.S.A. 8A: 36-13.2) or district board of election membership activities (N.J.S.A. 18A: 36-33);
5. The closure of a busing district that prevents a student from having transportation to the receiving school.

In order to be considered for promotion, a student must have completed the instructional requirements of the grade and must be in attendance for 162 days. Students who have not met the attendance requirement **must** attend summer school to be promoted to the next grade.

It is expected that all students arrive at school and class on time. Students who arrive late to school and/or class will be reported to a member of the administrative team for disciplinary action. Students accumulating three (3) lates (and subsequent groups of three lates) will be issued after-school detention.

For further information, please refer to [Policy #5113, Attendance, Absences and Excuses](#) and [Regulation #5113a, Administrative Attendance Regulations for Elementary and Middle School Students](#).

HEALTH OFFICE - Ms. Valentin, RN

Please visit our school nurse's information on the [Fords Middle School website](#) for a variety of pertinent health information.

[Middle School Sports List and General Information](#)

[Middle School Athletic Physicals](#)

[Asthma Treatment Plan](#)

[Immunization Information](#)

[New Jersey Vaccination Requirements](#)

[Nurse's Forms](#)

[Seizure Action Plan](#)

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

At this time, breakfast and lunch are available to all students. The cost for breakfast is \$2.65. The cost for lunch is \$4.40. <https://www.payschoolscentral.com/> is the easiest, most efficient, and safest way to add funds to your student's account. It also allows you to check balances, set low balance alerts, and monitor your child's meal activity. [WTSD Food Services website](#), [School Lunch Information](#), [School Lunch Application](#), [Contact information](#)

Students may get a school lunch or bring lunch from home. Students have 30 minutes to eat lunch and are required to sit in their designated area. Lunch is not served on early dismissal days. To maintain safety and security, meals delivered by a delivery service, such as Uber Eats, GrubHub, DoorDash, etc., are **NOT** permitted.

FIELD TRIPS

Field Trips are a way to enhance learning and to provide students with a way to connect real-world experiences with the curriculum. If students are absent due to a field trip and miss any assessment, it is **their responsibility** to be in good academic standing and to make up all missed assignments as directed by their teacher(s).

An absence due to a field trip will not negatively affect a student's attendance.

PARENT PORTAL ACCESS

The Parent Portal provides parents with access to student grades, documents, assessments, interim reports, and report cards.

Parents may access the portal by clicking on the Parent Access Link on the [FMS website](#) or by using the following link: <https://parent.woodbridge.k12.nj.us/woodbridge/parents>. Your current email address must be provided to obtain access to your account. Please contact the Main Office at 732-596-4200 or your child's guidance counselor if you have questions regarding your access to the Parent Portal.

Much of our communication with parents is through the phone number and email address you have on file with the Parent Portal. Please make sure your email and phone number are up to date to receive notifications and up-to-date information about school events.

HOMEWORK

Homework is each student's responsibility. At Fords Middle School, completing homework is a priority. It is understood that completing homework teaches content and skills, as well as accountability and responsibility.

The purpose of homework is to:

1. Preview (Preparation): Providing an opportunity to gain background information to be better prepared for future lessons.
2. Review (Practice): Help students master the specific knowledge and skills presented in class.
3. Creative (Extension): Students use their unique talents and ideas to express themselves.

Parental Involvement:

To improve communication between school and home, parents should encourage their child to track assignments using their Google account and calendar. You can help by checking your child's Google Classroom for daily assignments and notes from the teachers. In addition, parents can check each teacher's page on our [school's website](#) for important announcements, class notes, assignments, and other resources to help their child succeed. Every teacher is required to post their homework assignment by 4:00 PM. Links for every teacher can be found on our school website under the "Staff" tab.

General Homework Guidelines:

In general, we maintain the following guidelines:

- Homework will not be assigned during standardized testing.
- Teachers will not allow students to work on homework assigned by other teachers during class.

Absences and Make-Up Work:

We recognize that a child may be absent from school. Absent students are responsible for making up all classwork and homework assignments. Students are permitted two days for each day absent to make up any

missed work. If an absence exceeds three days, parents may contact their child's guidance counselor and request work. Families are also encouraged to contact the school for any and all absences. Teachers will set up due dates for multiple missed classwork and homework assignments. This allows for timely completion and teacher discretion, which may include factors such as the assignment's importance and its relevance to current work. Please review the [WTSD Policy #5113 Attendance, Absences, and Excuses](#)

Late and Missing Assignments:

Parents are encouraged to regularly check their child's assignments and grades through the [Genesis Parent Portal](#).

- If an assignment is turned in one day late, the grade will be lowered by 5 points.
- If an assignment is turned in two days late, the grade will be lowered by 10 points.
- If an assignment is turned in three days late, the grade will be lowered by 15 points.
- If a student does not turn in the assignment **after** the third day, a zero (0) is posted in the grade book.
- A student will receive a grade no lower than a 50 for a **serious** attempt at the assignment, even though the actual grade may be less than that. This is to encourage the student to do the homework.

Parents will be contacted after a child has missed three assignments. After a child has accumulated three zeros in a class, a teacher and/or guidance counselor will arrange an intervention.

For further information, please refer to [Policy #6154, Homework and Make-Up Work](#).

GRADING AND HONOR ROLL

Students who achieve a marking period average of only As and Bs in every subject area will be recognized on our school's Honor Roll.

Please refer to Regulation 6147.1d [SECONDARY SCHOOL MARKING REGULATIONS](#) for more information on the grading procedure.

REPORT CARD AND INTERIM REPORT SCHEDULE

Classroom teachers will communicate regularly with parents to ensure student success. However, you can also track your child's progress throughout the year by accessing quarterly report cards and interim reports in the [Genesis Parent Portal](#). If there are any academic questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher and/or counselor.

[Middle School Marking Periods and Report Card Dates](#)

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Ongoing communication between home and school is **critical** to your child's success. There are no set dates for middle school conferences; however, our Guidance Team is available to arrange a conference with your child's teacher as needed.

Please contact your child's teacher with any concerns before contacting the Guidance Team to schedule an appointment. All appointments will be made through the Counseling Department and will occur between 8:05am and 3:05pm.

Grade 6: Ms. Ilaria jennifer.ilaria@wtsdnj.com (732)-596-4094

Grade 7: Ms. Molnar charli.molnar@wtsdnj.com (732)-596-4093

Grade 8: Ms. Leusen stacey.leusen@wtsdnj.com (732)-596-4095

FORDS MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR SOCIETY

All 7th grade students who have maintained honor roll status for the last marking period of the previous year and the first two marking periods of the current school year and all 8th-grade students who have maintained honor roll status from the second semester of their 6h grade year, through the time of applying for the honor society, will be invited to apply for induction into the Fords Middle School Honor Society.

In addition to maintaining honor roll status, students are required to be active in their community by volunteering for a minimum of 5 hours to a non-profit organization. Regular participation and attendance in an extracurricular activity, club, or sport is also required for admission. We strongly encourage all students who wish to become members to enroll in a club or sport as soon as it becomes available to show a history of participation. Students who are not active in a club, sport, or extracurricular activity before receiving their application will not be considered for admission.

Students who have disciplinary infractions will not be eligible for candidacy.

Here is the FMSHS website: <https://sites.google.com/wtsdnj.com/ms-sarris/fmshs>

SUMMER SCHOOL

Students who have had difficulty throughout the year despite interventions by teachers and administration may be required to attend the district summer school program. Students who **failed** a major subject for the year or did not meet the state-mandated attendance of 162 days **will be required** to attend the summer school program in July of 2027. Parents of students who fall into this category will be notified regularly throughout the year of the possibility of the mandated program in order to be promoted to the next grade.

STANDARDIZED TESTING

Students in all grades will participate in New Jersey state assessment exams in the 2026-2027 school year. The state assessments will be in ELA and Math for all grades, and 8th graders will also participate in the New Jersey Science Assessment. Please refer to the district website for further information regarding Standardized Testing: [WTSD Testing Schedule](#). The **NJSLA** testing window is **April 19th, 2027 - May 21st, 2027**.

Throughout the school year, students will also complete **LinkIt Benchmark ELA and Math assessments** to check their grade-level academic progress. Those assessments will be taken four times throughout the school year as follows, providing two class periods for each subject area within a three-week testing window:

LinkIt Form A - 9/8/2026 - 9/25/2026

LinkIt Form B - 1/4/2027 - 9/22/2027

LinkIt Form C - 3/22/2027 - 4/16/2027

LinkIt Form A ReTake - 5/17/2027 - 6/4/2027

DRESS CODE

Students are expected to dress appropriately when attending Fords Middle School.

- No tank tops, racerback, off-the-shoulder, or shirts showing the midriff
- No pajama pants or slippers
- No ripped or torn clothing, including jeans
- Pants and shorts must be level with the waist
- No flip-flops, Ugg Mules, Crocs, or slides. All shoes **must** have a back.

Students not complying with the rules will be required to change, call home to arrange appropriate clothing or footwear, or be placed in ACS for the day.

For further information, please refer to [Policy #5132, Student Dress and Grooming](#).

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students will be assigned a locker for gym. Please ensure that your child is prepared to participate in their gym class on their assigned days by wearing clothes conducive to physical education. Sneakers are **required** to participate. Not being prepared for Physical Education can hinder their academic progress in class.

PBSIS – Positive Behavior Support and Intervention in School

The purpose of PBSIS is to help create a positive learning environment to ensure the maximum success of each student. We believe that all students must demonstrate respect, preparedness, success, and safety daily. Students are recognized and rewarded by receiving Falcon Feathers for demonstrating positive behavior throughout the school day.

Falcon Feathers can be redeemed for a variety of items in the FMS School Store or to buy chances to spin the wheel to win prizes. Students are responsible for knowing how many points they have earned. Students and parents can download the PBIS Rewards app for their convenience. Falcon Feathers may not be used from a previous year or given to other students.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT/DISCIPLINE

Students are expected to follow and meet all school expectations. Students who do not meet expectations will be issued disciplinary consequences. *For further information, please refer to [Policy #5131, Conduct and Discipline](#), and [Regulation #5131a, Student Conduct and Discipline](#). This information can also be found on the district website.*

Fords Middle School follows a discipline point system program (PBIS-Positive Behavior Intervention and Support). The purpose of this program is to develop a sense of responsibility and accountability. Academic success is achieved through cooperation, respect, and hard work. Students who are chronically late, disruptive, or disrespectful limit the chances for academic success for themselves and their classmates. The teachers and administrative team will not tolerate behavior that jeopardizes or interrupts the learning process. It is imperative that we work together as a community to ensure that our students continue to grow and flourish academically, socially, and behaviorally.

Students will accumulate points based on the following guidelines:

Any detention, including non-behavioral infractions such as being late to school or class, will count as 1 point.

Detentions are held after school from 3:05 PM – 4:00 PM

Any in-school suspension/alternate class setting (ACS) will equal 3 points.

ACS takes place during the school day. Students are required to report to school and will complete assignments in an alternate class setting supervised by staff members. Students are expected to complete all assignments and demonstrate appropriate behavior. Students who do not follow these expectations will be subject to additional disciplinary action.

Any out-of-school suspension (OSS) will equal 5 points.

OSS (Out of School Suspension) may occur if a student has a gross infraction of school policy and expectations. Students are not permitted on school grounds or at school events during any suspension.

Parents will be notified of their child's accumulated points after each disciplinary action. The points will be indicated on all detention and suspension notifications.

Students who accumulate 10 or more points will **not** be permitted to participate in **any** school activities for the remainder of the year. This list includes, but is **not** limited to: class trips, school functions, such as dances and assemblies, the Eighth Grade Dance, Field Day activities such as Fall and Spring Fest, and extracurricular activities, such as clubs and sports teams. Students who reach the 10-point mark **can make an appointment** with a member of the administrative team to devise a plan to have points removed from their record.

Any 8th grader who accumulates 30 or more points may also be excluded from promotional exercises.

FMS maintains zero tolerance for Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying. If you feel your child needs assistance, please contact your child's counselor and our Anti-Bullying Specialist, Ms. Molnar, at charli.molnar@wtsdnj.com

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Please be aware that students are prohibited from using electronic devices from home during school hours. If necessary, students may bring a cell phone to school. However, the phone **MUST** be turned off and placed **securely** in his/her locker during the school day. We are not responsible for theft or loss of such a device.

If a student is in possession of a cell phone not meeting the expectations of [WTSD Regulation # 5131f Student Internet Enabled Device Usage During the School Day](#), the following consequences will be issued:

Level 1 Consequence

A Level 1 consequence to student cell phone usage during the school day (bell to bell) would require teacher/staff member intervention. This level of interaction would be documented in Genesis notes.

1st Incident

- Teacher or staff member provides student with a warning to put their phone away.

2nd Incident

- Teacher or staff member makes parent/guardian contact.
- Student's cell phone gets turned into a secure location (i.e. Principal, VP, main office, etc.)
 - The building principal will communicate the secure location for their building.

Level 2 Consequence

A Level 2 consequence to student cell phone usage during the school day (bell to bell) would require building level administrative intervention. This level of interaction would be documented in Genesis notes, as well as, the student discipline record.

3rd Incident

- Building level administrator (i.e. Principal, VP) makes parent/guardian contact.
- Student required to use a cell phone pouch for 5 days.

4th Incident

- Building level administrator (i.e. Principal, VP) makes parent/guardian contact.
- Student receives 1 day in an alternate class setting.
- Student required to use a cell phone pouch for 10 days.

5th+ Incident

- Building level administrator (i.e. Principal, VP) makes parent/guardian contact.
- Student receives 1-2 days in an alternate class setting.
- A mandatory conference to be held with the administrator and the parent/guardian.
- Student to be required to use a cell phone pouch for 20 or more days.

Should your child need to contact you during the school day, they may come to the main office or the counseling department to call you. Conversely, if you need to speak to your child, please call the main office/counseling department, and they will be called to receive your call.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEVICES

Financial Responsibility - Chromebook - Please review the following document for more detailed information about the [Chromebook Device Care and Fine Policy](#)

Parents/guardians will be responsible for the repair costs when the Chromebook is damaged.

- 1st repair incident in a school year: \$50.00
- 2nd incident in a school year: \$100.00
- 3rd incident in a school year: \$350.00

The loss of a Chromebook and/or power cords is the responsibility of the parent, as these are not covered in our insurance policy. Stolen devices must be reported to the local police/sheriff within 24 hours. A copy of the police report is required to avoid replacement costs.

Description	Cost to Repair
Chromebook	\$ 350.00
Power Cord	\$ 35.00

Until such payment is received, students will be unable to bring the replacement Chromebook home, the device will stay in the school building, and alternative methods will be provided for students to complete their work at home. If payment is not received within 30 days of receipt of the invoice, the District may take actions such as the ones below until the invoiced amount is paid in full:

Suspension of discretionary activities for the student, such as school dances, yearbook-signing parties, etc.

Referral to the District Business Office for collections

In the event a device is lost, stolen, or damaged, an Incident Report must be completed and submitted to the school. Any repair or maintenance needed on a student device must be completed through the District. In no case should a parent/guardian arrange for repair on his/her own.

If you do not want the Chromebook sent home with your child, please contact your building Principal to make alternative arrangements.

INTERNET USE POLICY

Students and parents are required to complete the Chromebook User Agreement on the [Genesis Parent Portal](#). Failure to complete the user agreement form will restrict the student's use of the district's Internet system and/or district-issued electronic devices.

All students will be assigned a school-issued Chromebook.

Students are expected to bring their devices to school each day fully charged in preparation for a full day of learning.

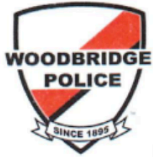
In addition, all students are assigned a WTSD Google account. All accounts are monitored by the GoGuardian platform. Students who are logged into any device, whether school-issued or personal, with their WTSD Google accounts are monitored for visits to websites containing inappropriate or explicit content. The school administration is notified of any violation of our district policy, and parents are alerted.

Any student in violation of the expectations as outlined in the User Agreement will incur the following consequences:

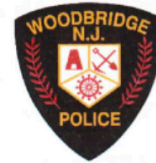
- 1st offense - warning and parent notification
- 2nd offense – parent notification and loss of device for 2 weeks
- 3rd offense – parent notification and loss of device for 1 month
- 4th offense – parent notification and loss of device for the remainder of the year.

For further information, please refer to [Policy #6142.10, Internet Safety and Technology](#), and [Regulation #6142.10, Acceptable Internet Use](#).

STUDENT SAFETY - E-BIKES, E-SCOOTERS



Woodbridge Police Department



STUDENT SAFETY NOTICE

New Jersey E-Bike & E-Scooter Laws

New Jersey has enacted new laws regulating electric bicycles (e-bikes) and electric scooters (e-scooters). These laws are designed to protect riders, pedestrians, and motorists by improving safety throughout our community.

If a device has a motor and can move on its own, it is now considered a motorized bicycle under New Jersey law.

LICENSING, REGISTRATION & INSURANCE REQUIRED

- Valid New Jersey driver's license (age 17+) OR Motorized bicycle license (ages 15–16)
- State registration for the e-bike or e-scooter
- Insurance coverage



SIX-MONTH COMPLIANCE PERIOD

Riders have six months to become compliant before fines are issued. Deadline: July 19, 2026. License and registration fees are waived for the first year.

The grace period does NOT apply to:

- Underage riders
- Reckless or unsafe riding
- Violations of local sidewalk or park rules

AGE REQUIREMENTS

- Under 15 years old: Not permitted to operate e-bikes or e-scooters
- Ages 15–16: Motorized bicycle license required
- Age 17 and older: Valid NJ driver's license required

E-BIKE TYPES

- Low-Speed Electric Bicycles: Pedal-assist only, motor stops at 20 mph
- Motorized Bicycles: Throttle-controlled, maximum speed 28 mph
- Electric Motorized Bicycles: Can exceed 28 mph and regulated similar to mopeds



IMPORTANT RULES

- Online e-bike sales are prohibited statewide for one year
- Speed-increasing modification kits are illegal

SAFETY REMINDER

The Woodbridge Township Police Department strongly encourages all riders to wear a properly fitted helmet to reduce the risk of serious injury.



Be Safe. Be Smart. Know the Law

NEW JERSEY E-BIKE LAW

★ EFFECTIVE JULY 19, 2026 ★

E-BIKE REQUIREMENTS

15+

**MUST BE AT LEAST
15 YEARS OLD**

**MUST POSSESS A VALID
DRIVER LICENSE,
E-BIKE LICENSE,
or E-BIKE PERMIT**

**REGISTRATION
REQUIRED**

**HELMET
REQUIRED
FOR ALL RIDERS**

LOW-SPEED E-BIKE

- ✓ Equipped with pedals
- ✓ Motor assists only while pedaling
- ✓ Maximum assisted speed of 20 MPH

20

MPH

MOTORIZED BICYCLE (MOPED)

- ✓ Pedal bicycle with throttle capability
- ✓ Maximum assisted speed of 28 MPH
- ✓ INSURANCE REQUIRED

28

MPH

ELECTRIC SCOOTERS

- ✓ Legal for riders of all ages
- ✓ Maximum speed of 19 MPH
- ✓ LICENSE, REGISTRATION, OR INSURANCE IS NOT REQUIRED

⚠ 20 MPH OR MORE ARE ILLEGAL FOR EVERYONE

⛔ ALL E-BIKES AND E-SCOOTERS ARE PROHIBITED BY ORDINANCE ON SIDEWALKS WITHIN WOODBRIDGE TOWNSHIP

PENALTIES – FOLLOW THE LAW OR PAY THE PRICE

SUMMONSES

You may be issued a summons for violating e-bike or scooter laws.

FINES

Violations can result in significant fines.

RIDE RESPONSIBLY

Obey traffic laws

Wear your helmet

Be visible

Respect others

IMPOUNDMENTS

E-bikes and e-scooters may be impounded for violations.

★ ★ ★ WOODBRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT | LEADING THE WAY TO A SAFER COMMUNITY ★

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

Students are encouraged to join an after-school club. Most clubs begin in October of each school year and continue through May. Clubs run until 4:00pm on the scheduled days. Students who are eligible for bus transportation will be provided a late bus starting in October and ending in May. Permission slips can be obtained from the club advisor or the counseling office and must be signed by a parent or guardian and returned to the school by the deadline to participate.

Clubs that will be available in the 2026-2027 school year include, but are not limited to:

Art Club	Landscape Club
Band	Media Club
Chorus	Morning Sports Club
Dance	Student Advisory
H.I.S.P.A	Student Council
Heroes & Cool Kids	World Cultures Club
Journalism & Production	Video Game Club

Please understand that not all clubs are open to all grade levels. This information will be available once the school year begins. Students who have an idea for a club, bring your idea to the administrative team to work towards adding more clubs of interest.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS

7th and 8th grade students have the option to try out and participate in the following sports teams (In the event that there are not enough students to field a team, sixth grade students are eligible to try out): baseball, softball, basketball, cheer, volleyball, cross country/track (all grades are eligible), and bowling.

Students wishing to try out for a middle school sports team must have all of the necessary sports physical forms completed by a physician prior to tryouts. We encourage **ALL** students in Grades 6–8 to get this done to avoid any delay in the season. We may find that only a small number of students in Grades 7 & 8 are trying out for a team, which in turn will allow Grades 6 to try out. Having the physical completed and submitted over the summer will speed up this process for everyone!

All necessary forms can be picked up in the Nurse's office. Sports physicals are good for one year from the date of the physical. Parents and students can refer to the Fords Middle School website's [Middle School Sports Lists and General Information](#) for additional information on obtaining a sports physical.

All FMS athletes are expected to be role models and maintain a minimum of a C average or better in all classes. Students who do not meet these expectations will be removed from the team until grades and/or behavior improve. In addition, students with multiple disciplinary infractions will not be eligible to try out for sports teams.

PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

Fords Middle School has a very active Parent Teacher Organization. The PTO supports our school in many ways. In addition to fundraising, the organization plans several events for our school community. All parents are encouraged to join the PTO. Please refer to the Fords Middle School website, under the [PTO tab](#), for information on membership forms, meeting dates, the Executive Board, and fundraising.

COMMUNICATION

The success of all students relies heavily on constant communication between school and home. We encourage our families to keep all communication details in the [Genesis Parent Portal as up to date as possible](#), such as email addresses and telephone numbers. School information will also be posted on the [Fords Middle School](#) website.