



Michael Maio
Acting Vice-Principal

Paul Gorski
Principal

Vincent Aiello
Assistant Principal

Mike Escalante
Director of Athletics

Dr. Steffany Baptiste
Assistant Principal

August 2026

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians of Fair Lawn High School:

First, I would like to wish you well in the remaining days of summer. Hopefully, you are getting a chance to spend time with friends and loved ones and to recharge your batteries for the school year ahead. As summer is winding down, we turn our attention to the opening of the 2026-2027 school year on **Tuesday, September 8**.

All students have selected their courses for this school year, and scheduling is complete. Every effort has been made to give each student the electives they requested. Student schedules will be posted on the main page of the Genesis Parent Portal on Monday, August 24. Please bear in mind, however, that **changes due to staffing and other needs will continue to take place** even after schedules are posted. This school year, there will be an add/drop period from September 8-18. **As stated in the student handbook, no schedule/course changes will be considered except those concerning necessary alterations to a student's academic program.** Regarding laptops... **there will be one more pickup for Grades 10-12 before the start of the school year. It is taking place on Monday, August 31.** Email Mrs. Lubonski, FLHS Instructional Technology coach, jlubonski@fairlawnschools.org with any questions.

OPENING OF SCHOOL:

On **Tuesday, September 8, 2026**, we will begin the new school year. The schedule is found [here](#). The first day of school will be a full day with staggered opening times, an 8-period schedule for all, including lunch, and dismissal at the regular time of 2:35 pm. Ninth graders and all new students will come to school at 7:55 am to attend a special orientation program. **All returning students (10th, 11th, and 12th graders) will start school at 9:55 am. They are asked not to come into school before 9:50 am**, so that 9th graders and new students will have a better opportunity to find their way around the building before it gets crowded. On Wednesday, September 9, all students will report at 7:55 am to their first-period class.

DAILY LOGISTICS:

Students may enter FLHS no earlier than 7:30 am, unless they have a Period 0 class or an appointment with a staff member. There are three entrances, two on the Berdan Avenue side of the school and one in the back parking lot (off Fairclough Avenue).

SCHOOL IDENTIFICATION:

For security reasons, all students must possess their school-issued FLHS student ID card. All returning students are expected to wear their current IDs, and new IDs will be distributed through period 1 classes to all students, including Grade 9. Senior students have already been sitting for their yearbook portraits. For grades 9-11, there will be a photo shoot at FLHS on September 16 and 17. If any Grade 9 or new students have not had a photo taken in the school district before, they will be photographed at that time. If a student loses their ID card, they must order one online for a fee of \$5.00 by [clicking here](#) or must have one reprinted in the school library for a fee of \$8.00.

INTERNET-ENABLED DEVICES

In accordance with NJ state law and FLBOE policy, FLHS has adopted a “bell-to-bell” ban on all student personal use of internet-enabled devices (cell phones, smart watches, smart glasses, tablets, etc.) Students may not use or access these devices while on school property during the school day. All such devices must be turned off and remain secured and out of sight for the entirety of the school day, including passing times and lunch. Violations of the law/policy will result in progressive disciplinary consequences in accordance with FLBOE policy and the FLHS Code of Conduct. We respectfully ask that parents contact the FLHS main office only in emergency situations. Likewise, we expect that students will not come to the main office to use the landline telephone unless absolutely necessary.

ELECTRIC BICYCLES (E-BIKES)

Students who ride e-bikes to school are permitted to secure them in the designated bicycle rack areas on school grounds. E-bikes may not be brought into the school building. Please [click here](#) to review the new e-bike requirements issued by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (NJMVC), effective July 2026. Any student operating an e-bike on school grounds in violation of NJ state law may be subject to law enforcement involvement.

LUNCH PROCEDURES

We are now entering the fourth year of partnership with our food vendor, [Maschio's](#). Our students and staff have been pleased with the improvements in food service, and we are looking forward to new offerings! We want our cafeterias to be inviting areas to gather for our students as they enjoy a break in the middle of the school day. All food should be consumed in designated indoor or outdoor areas. If a student does not have a scheduled lunch period, they should come to the main office to arrange to eat lunch. Once again this school year, ALL students will be permitted to leave school for lunch by exiting via one of the two main greeter-supervised areas. We will have ample space for those who remain to eat in school. In the past, some students have placed orders with local food establishments to have food delivered to the high school. We have consistently discouraged that practice. Again this year **we will not allow food/lunch deliveries to students at the high school.** For health and safety reasons, we limit food deliveries to the building. In addition, the arrival of food delivery employees and vehicles causes the high school administration and the police department great concern in our attempt to maintain a secure environment within and around the building.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

This year we will hold our annual **Back to School Night on Tuesday, September 22, 2026 at 6:30 PM.** Please reserve the date. We look forward to welcoming our parents/guardians to visit us! Please avail yourself of this opportunity to meet staff members and become familiar with the course and academic expectations that will be in place for this year.

EMERGENCY HEALTH INFORMATION

When **emergency health situations** arise during the school year, we must have the correct telephone numbers to contact a parent/guardian and at least one other person who will assume responsibility for a student. **It is imperative that parents/guardians carefully review all the information that is located in the Documents Section and labeled “Emergency Health Information” in the Genesis Parent Portal. Then, ONLY if changes are necessary, you should print out the form, make the changes or additions, and return it to the attention of Ms. Christina Calabrese, school nurse, in the health office.**

STUDENT CONTACT INFORMATION

The **Apptegy** platform is used for automated communication services. Notification for school closings, delayed openings, emergency dismissals, and other important announcements will be done by email and/or telephone using the information that you provided and listed on the Contacts Tab on the Genesis Portal.

Parents are responsible for maintaining accurate contact information on the Genesis Portal (Contacts tab). Parents are also requested to update their preferred mode of contact in Thrillshare (directions are posted in the Documents tab on the Genesis Portal).

PARENTAL OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF STUDENT INFORMATION

Under the federal “No Child Left Behind” Act, continuing through the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015, public high schools must give the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of students to military recruiters, college/university recruiters and prospective employers if the recruiters request the information (P.L. 114-95, Section 8528; 10 USC 503). However, students or their parents have the right to instruct the school in writing that this information will not be released. Included in the posting is a form titled “Parental Objection to Release of Student Information.” This is an opt-out form. We will release the information to these organizations if you do nothing. If you do not want the information released, then you must complete this form, which can be found in the **Forms** tab of the Genesis Parent portal.

BOLLINGER OPTIONAL SCHOOL INSURANCE

Bollinger Optional School Insurance information and enrollment forms are available in the Genesis Parent Portal. The form can also be completed online; [click here](#). Please understand that this is optional coverage purchased directly through Bollinger, not Fair Lawn High School.

FLHS HANDBOOK AND CODE OF CONDUCT PARENT/STUDENT SIGN OFF

The Fair Lawn High School Student Handbook is located on the FLHS website, you can [click here](#). Hard copies will no longer be made. Parents/guardians must review the handbook online and must complete the SIGN OFF form, which can be found in the **Forms** tab of the Genesis Parent Portal. Students are expected to review the handbook regularly on our school website, as changes are made throughout the school year.

As a reminder, we are citizens of our community first and foremost. Our students are asked to remember our nearby neighbors and treat them and their property with the respect they deserve. All members of our school community should make every effort to show their appreciation by not littering or loitering on private property.

We can't wait to open the doors of FLHS to our students on Tuesday, September 8! Thank you again for your continued support of FLHS! As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out. See you soon!

Paul Gorski

Principal

***Please see below for a checklist of important items.**

To be Reviewed on the Genesis Parent Portal-“DOCUMENTS” tab:

- ☐ Principal's Letter
- ☐ PTA President's Letter, Meeting dates, Membership form
- ☐ Parents' Committee for Athletics Letter
- ☐ Friends of Music Letter, Membership Form
- ☐ SGA Letter

To be Completed on the Genesis Parent Portal-“FORMS” tab:

- ☐ Emergency Information Acknowledgement
- ☐ Phone Contact Information
- ☐ Medical Information
- ☐ Medical Insurance
- ☐ Student Code of Conduct and Handbooks
- ☐ Technology

- ☐ Curriculum: Science & Innovation Safety Agreement /Young Adult Reader's Permission / Health Education
- ☐ Permission to Share Contact Information with PTO/PTA
- ☐ Permission to Share Contact Info w/ Photo Company
- ☐ Military Affiliation
- ☐ Permission to Share Contact Information with PTO/PTA
- ☐ FERPA - opt out
- ☐ Athletic Forms (for those participating in a sport)

To Review on the [Website](#)

- ☐ Daily Bell Schedule
- ☐ District School Calendar
- ☐ FLHS Testing Schedule

