Middle School Newsletter

FALL '26-27

Hello FAMS Families,

Can you believe we are already four weeks into the school year? The energy and positive momentum across Fort Atkinson Middle School has been incredible. Our students and staff have settled into great routines, making this a truly productive and fantastic start to the year!

October is shaping up to be just as exciting and action-packed. We have a full calendar of events showcasing our school spirit, teamwork, and talent—including our upcoming Activity Night, our high-energy Tug-of-War Competitions, and our talented student musicians at the Fall Concerts.

We're also wrapping up a fantastic season for Girls' Volleyball—a huge thank you and congratulations to all of our players and coaches for their hard work! Looking ahead, Boys' Basketball is right around the corner, with practices kicking off in November.

- Athletic Reminder: If your student plans to hit the court—or participate in any upcoming FAMS sports—please ensure they are registered online at fortathletics.com. Additionally, students must have an updated physical exam on file (completed within the last two years) before joining practices.

Thank you, as always, for your partnership and support. Everything you do at home fuels our students' success and well-being at school. Wishing you all a safe, happy, and vibrant October—I can't wait to see what our FAMS community accomplishes this month!

Matt Wolf, FAMS Principal



Matthew Wolf
Middle School Principal
School District of Fort Atkinson

FORT

920.563.7833
FortSchools.org

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

"Achieving distinction in all we do"

Helpful Links:

- SDFA Website
- FAMS websitee
- PowerSchool
- School Menus
- Technology_



SAVE THE DATE

Fall Teacher Conferences will be held on Tuesday, October 20th and Wednesday, October 28th from 4:30 to 7:30 pm in the FAMS gym. Please plan to attend one of these nights with your student. This is your opportunity to strengthen the partnership between your family and your child's teachers.

fortschools.org

One Team, One District, One Community

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

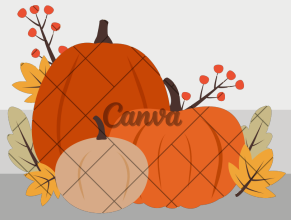
FORT

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.

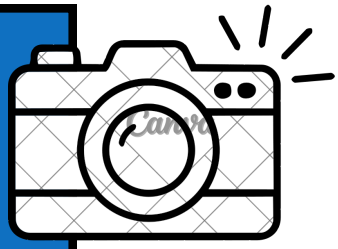
Middle School Newsletter

Fall Calendar

Calendar of Events:

- October 8: Picture Retake Day 
- October 12: Early Release 1:30 pm
- October 13: Courage Retreat - grade 7 (in FAMS gym)
- October 20: Parent/Guardian Teacher Conferences
  4:30-7:30 pm - FAMS gym
- October 22: 7th & 8th Fall Band, Orchestra & Choir Concert: 7:00 pm @ FAHS 
- October 23: FAMS Activity Night: 6:00-8:00 pm
- October 28: Parent/Guardian Teacher Conferences
  4:30-7:30 pm - FAMS gym
- October 29-30: Fall Break - NO SCHOOL
- November 2: Parent Archery Meeting: 5:00-7:00 pm in FAMS Commons
- November 3: Boys Basketball begins: 3:30 pm practice FAMS gym 
- November 7: Band Booster Pancake Breakfast: 7:30-11:00 am in FAMS commons
- November 9: Early Release 1:30 pm
- November 25-27: Thanksgiving Break - NO SCHOOL 

To view your student's school photo, please visit the VIP website. You should have received an email from VIP with your student's information. (Click here for VIP's site.)



Calendar Cont.

Athletic Events: October/November/December

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Be sure to catch our girls' teams in action:

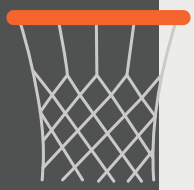
- October 6: vs. Johnson Creek @ 4pm
  7th and 8th grade home
- October 8: vs. Whitewater @ 4pm
  7th grade home, 8th grade away
- October 13: vs. Watertown @ 4pm
  7th grade away, 8th grade home
- October 15: vs. Jefferson @ 4pm
  7th grade home, 8th grade away
- October 19: vs. Milton @ 4pm
  7th grade home, 8th grade away



BOYS BASKETBALL - GAME Night



- November 10: vs. Johnson Creek @ 4pm
  - 7th and 8th grade away
- November 12: vs. Whitewater @ 4pm
  - 7th grade away, 8th grade home
- November 17: vs. Watertown @ 4pm
  - 7th grade home, 8th grade away
- November 19: vs. Jefferson @ 4pm
  - 7th grade away, 8th grade home
- November 24: vs. Lake Mills @ 4pm
  - 7th grade away, 8th grade home
- December 3: vs. Milton @ 4pm
  - 7th grade away, 8th grade home
- December 8: vs. Johnson Creek @ 4pm
  - 7th and 8th grade home
- December 10: vs. Whitewater @ 4pm
  - 7th grade home, 8th grade away
- December 14: vs. Watertown@ 4pm
  - 7th grade away, 8th grade home
- December 17: vs. Jefferson @ 4pm
  - 7th grade home, 8th grade away
- December 22: vs. Milton @ 4pm
  - 7th grade home, 8th grade away



*All participants in FAMS athletics must:
1) Have a completed physical form on file with the Main Office (dated April 1, 2025 to the present)
2) Register online at the fortathletics.com registration link.
3) Pay the sport fees of: $50 for sport 1; $40 for sport 2 and $30 for sport 3.
All of these items must be complete before competition begins.

Middle School Newsletter

News & Announcements

FINS News - Save the date:





Our FAMS FINS Senators are looking forward to hosting our Fall Activity Night on Friday, October 23rd.

Your middle schooler won't want to miss this night of fun (6:00 - 8:00 pm)! It's a great opportunity for our FAMS Sharks to come back to school and enjoy a fun-filled evening with friends. Dance to a DJ in the commons, watch a movie, shoot hoops in the gym, and more—there's something for everyone!

Agriculture Department / FFA News:

All fundraising efforts go to support student leadship and community service opportunities.



Order your 2026-2027 FAMS Yearbook

Pay online using this QR code or at this link at Walsworth.
OR you also purchase with cash or check in the FAMS Main Office.
Yearbooks are just $20!

Middle School Newsletter

FAMS Music News & Updates

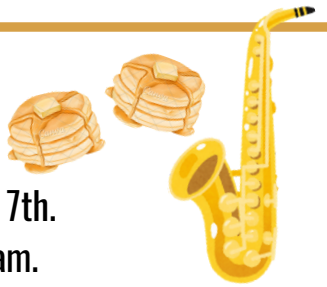
Band/Choir/Orchestra

We are getting excited for our Fall Concert on October 22nd (featuring 6, 7 & 8 grade classes for our choir, and 7th & 8th grade for band and orchestra.) The students are sounding great! We are all especially looking forward to sharing our combined piece - BAND, CHOIR, and ORCHESTRA of ***Dona Nobis Pacem*** (Latin for *Give Us Peace)*, which is a traditional round that Band director, Mr. Fettig has newly arranged for our groups to perform together. The performances will be held at the High School.

Upcoming Winter concerts: (also at FAHS)

- Choir (6th, 7th & 8th) Winter concert, Tuesday, December 15th.
- 6th & 7th Grade Band & Orchestra Winter Concert, Monday, December 21st @ 6:00pm
- 8th Grade Band & Orchestra Winter Concert, Monday, December 21st @ 7:30pm

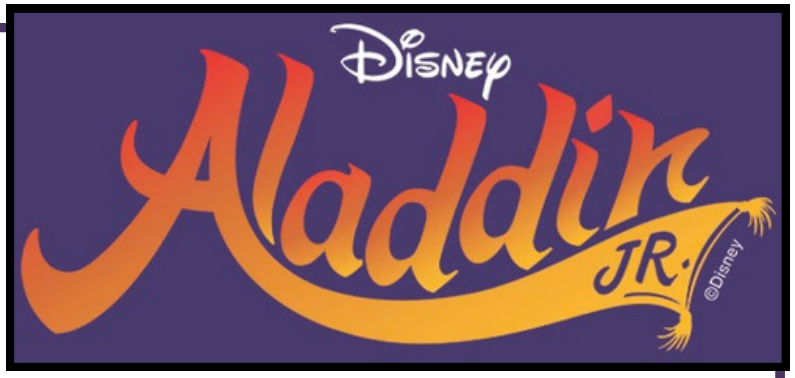
Bandcake Breakfast - pancakes, music and raffle items!



The Jazz Ensemble is getting ready to perform for you at the Band Booster's annual pancake breakfast on Saturday, November 7th. The breakfast takes place in the FAMS commons from 7:30 - 11:00 am.

SPRING MUSICAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

The story you know and love has been given the royal treatment! Aladdin and his three friends, Babkak, Omar, and Kassim, are down on their luck until Aladdin discovers a magic lamp and the Genie who has the power to grant three wishes. Wanting to earn the respect of the princess, Jasmine, Aladdin embarks on an adventure that will test his will and his moral character.



Auditions for Aladdin Jr. will be held in December!
Listen for the announcement to be a part of this year's cast and show!

Middle School Newsletter

Save the Dates: Student Travel Opportunities

Washington DC 2027

Attention 8th grade families:

There's still time for current 8th graders to join the Washington, D.C. trip:

- Four unforgettable days of monuments, museums, and memories
- Students will walk the National Mall, stand where history happened, and experience the nation's capital together in a way no textbook can match
- April 28 to May 1, 2027

Spots are still open: register at www.worldstrides.com/register
or call 800-468-5899 with trip ID 227274
Don't wait — this is one trip they'll be talking about for years.
Please reach out to Mr. Champeny (champenym@fortschools.org) any questions.



International Travel Awaits - Three Future Trips Options!

Fort Atkinson Families! The world is calling!

Travelers can look forward to three exciting educational travel opportunities:
Costa Rica 2027(open to all current high school students only),
Japan 2028(open to current 8th graders on up), and
Europe World War 2 2029(open to current 7th graders on up).

Attend our upcoming Travel Night on October 21st at 6pm in the High School IMC to explore each itinerary, learn about costs and enrollment, and find out how to help your student take part in a life-changing experience. We hope to see you there—don't wait to start planning! RSVPing for the meeting provides a $200 discount on all trips, please use this link - https://bit.ly/4zvqxKB If you can't make the meeting but want more information go to the RSVP page and choose "No, but send info" and you will get info emailed the day after the meeting (all travelers still qualify for the $200 discount). These trips are open to students, family, and friends!
If you have any questions email Mr. Daniels at danielsn@fortschools.org.
Check out our article from the Daily Union on our past summer trip.
So excited to travel with you all!



Middle School Newsletter

District Reminders & Information



Attendance & Illness Reminders

- Healthy & Ready: As long as your child is feeling well, we believe it's incredibly important for them to be at school learning with us!
- When to Stay Home: If your child is sick or showing symptoms of illness, please keep them home to rest and recover.
- Reporting Absences: If your child will be staying home, please call our attendance office at 920-563-7833 to let us know.

Free/Reduced Lunch Program

Want your students to enjoy school lunch and breakfast meals, but having trouble affording it? Consider applying for our Free & Reduced meal program. Online application can be found here.



This program is provided through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and allows families to enjoy breakfast and lunch meals, at a reduced or no cost to the families, among other benefits. If you feel this would be beneficial to your family, please use the link below to apply online, or fill out a paper application and submit it to:

ATTN: Anne Wellnitz Filer
201 Park St.
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538



Click for helpful tips from Fort HealthCare on physical & emotional health of teens

Backpack News is a monthly publication that contains health information that is distributed to families in the Jefferson County local communities 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.

Community Connections:

Parks & Recreation

City of Fort Atkinson - News & City Council

Fort Atkinson Chamber of Commerce

Fort Atkinson Community Foundation - Projects

COMMUNITY EVENTS & NEWS

School District 1FORT of Fort Atkinson

SHARE *YOUR* NEWS!

FILL OUT OUR SHORT FORM

www.bit.ly/1fortevents

ACHIEVING DISTINCTION

in all that we do.



CARSON'S CAUSE TRUNK OR TREAT

Friday, October 9, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

at Rock River Lanes (back parking lot)

Questions? Contact carsoncauewi@gmail.com

To help make the event accessible for everyone, **the first 30 minutes will be designated as sensory-friendly time,** with reduced lights and noise levels.



POSTER CONTEST

Jefferson County Youth Conservation

Posters are due to the Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department by **4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 15, 2027, at the Jefferson County Courthouse** (311 S Center Ave., Room C1050, Jefferson). They are happy to collect posters from your school if requested. Please contact them no later than January 5, 2027, to schedule poster pickup if possible.

Contest Instructions

Contest Guidelines

COMMUNITY EVENTS & NEWS

School District 1FORT of Fort Atkinson

SHARE *YOUR* NEWS!

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ACHIEVING DISTINCTION
in all that we do.

MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT

GROWING UP ONLINE - HELPING OUR CHILDREN FIND CONNECTION IN A DISCONNECTED WORLD

Hosted by Jefferson County Human Services' Prevention Services Unit

Wednesday November 4th, 2026

Fort Atkinson Club Community Center
211 S Water St E
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

No Cost To Attend! Lunch & Light Breakfast Included

8:15 AM- 3:30 PM
Registration and Light Breakfast
8:15 AM- 9:00 AM

15 Breakout Sessions to Choose From!

Topics include internet safety, social media, substance abuse, bullying , suicide prevention and much more!

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
DR. ROXY ETTA



REGISTRATION REQUIRED
SCAN HERE >>> TO REGISTER

GROWING UP ONLINE-HELPING OUR CHILDREN FIND CONNECTION IN A

NOVEMBER 2026 OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM

Continuing what our community already supports.

For years this community has invested in its schools, and that investment is what has kept programs, services, and staffing steady.

On **November 3, 2026**, residents will **vote on a $7.1 million recurring operational referendum that would replace the expiring $6.5 million**, which expires at the end of the current school year. The approximately $600,000 difference reflects an inflationary adjustment.

Learn More About the November 3 Referendum



1Fort Report Episode 28
-
Why a Referendum —Again?

An open conversation about what's expiring, what's changing, and what comes next

Referendum Website
fortschools.org/vote

MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT

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Register for the Summit