

Fort Hill High School

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Fourth Edition
January/February Newsletter

Scheduling Changes

- Dual Enrollment/College courses are one credit instead of a half credit. They are also now weighted the same as AP courses.
- Students who take a college course through ACM and who have a 3.0 GPA or higher do not need to take the ACCUPLACER placement test.
- New courses next year will include AP Computer Science and Honors Physics I and II.
- MISA is a new test being implemented in place of the Biology HSA. To take this test, students will need to have taken the following courses: Earth/Space Science or AP Environmental Science, Biology, and Chemistry.
- The school is looking at a possible block schedule for next year with A/B days giving students the chance to earn 8 credits per year.

Career Center

Have you ever felt like high school was just not what you had been led to believe it was to be? Have you ever felt like you are not learning what you need to learn to accomplish your goals? If these sound familiar to you, you should definitely look into attending the Career Center next year. Before you can attend the Career Center, however, you must first complete all of your ninth and tenth grade classes with a passing GPA of 2.0 and must have earned 12+ credits, along with all the other graduation requirements. The Career Center offers an array of different career clusters: Arts, Media, and Communication; Construction and Development; Consumer Services, Hospitality, and Tourism; Health and Biosciences; Human Resource Services; Information Technology; Manufacturing, Engineering, and Technology; and Transportation Technologies. If you are interested or just not sure about your future plans, speak to your guidance counselor. – Gina Franciosi

Upcoming Events

March 1st – First Day of Spring Sports

March 7th – Computer Lab 221 reserved for students to make course requests

March 9th – Aspen closes for course requests

March 28th – Close of the 3rd Marking Period

March 29th – 3-hour early dismissal – Easter Vacation begins

March 30th – Schools and Offices closed

April 10th – Blood Drive

April 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th – Spring Play (*Aida*)

April 28th – Prom

Alumni Teachers and Staff



Joe Thompson, Band Director at Fort Hill High School for 13 years, is a former Fort Hill graduate. He says that he would return to Fort Hill as a student if he had the chance. Mr. Thompson feels that the programs seem to be thriving more than when he attended the school. He stated that he feels the teachers are more “student-centered” than when he was here. The student body seems to support each other in their endeavors, more so than when Mr. Thompson was a high school student. He is uncertain whether it’s a generational thing, is specific to Fort Hill, or is a bit of both, but he says it’s definitely nice to see. Mr. Thompson feels great being a teacher at Fort Hill where he was once a student. Lastly, he states, “I feel beyond great that I get the unique opportunity of working alongside my father who was also my teacher when I was a student at Fort Hill.” – Abby Datri



A proud graduate of the Fort Hill Class of 1987, Coach Todd Appel thinks it is a great opportunity and a special privilege to teach at Fort Hill and to keep the spirit and traditions alive. He says that he doesn’t know if he would want to come back to Fort Hill right now as a student because Fort Hill is not the same school that it used to be and that some spirit has been lost over the years. He thinks there are good students at Fort Hill currently and wouldn’t mind being a student here with them. – Tiffany Carroll



Mr. Zach Alkire, a proud graduate of the Class of 2002, wouldn’t want the opportunity of returning to Fort Hill as a student. Although he said he enjoyed his high school experience and wouldn’t trade it for anything, he also “wouldn’t want to repeat it.” Being a graduate of Fort Hill and now teaching in the school as an alumnus provides a great experience for Mr. Alkire. He said, “It is nice to see that the same traditions still exist.” He sometimes feels as if he bears some responsibility, however, in helping to carry on Fort Hill traditions because he is a graduate of the school.
– Alexa Neef



Mrs. Julie Hott, a graduate of the Class of 1990, says she would not return to Fort Hill as a student. She says, “Every choice I made when I was younger, good or bad, molded me into the person I am today. I am thankful to have had the opportunity to receive my high school education and participate in extracurricular activities here, but I would not want to go back. I am happy with the life I have now.” When Mrs. Hott got her job at Fort Hill, she felt as though she were “coming home.” Her children, she said, are the reason for her interest in the school system, and she felt it was important to spend time with her children when they were younger. Her son is a graduate of Fort Hill, and her daughter will graduate next year in 2019. She is thankful for the staff of Fort Hill for helping to mold her children into who they are today and who they will become in the future. – Olivia Beeman

Prom

This year's prom will be held at Windsor Castle. The dates for prom are set by the school's superintendent. The date and time for prom this year is April 28th, from 8 P.M.-11 P.M. The theme for prom is chosen by the senior class from the five themes that were proposed. Students vote, and the theme with the most votes is the one that is chosen. This year's theme is "Crystal Forest," and the colors will be white and red with green on the tables to keep with the forest theme. The price for tickets is to be determined. They are affected by costs and the number of people attending. - Nikia Schriener

An example of acceptable décor is shown here:



Maryland Business Roundtable for Education

The Maryland Business Roundtable for Education program welcomes speakers from various sectors of the community who are willing to make a presentation to 8th and 9th graders about attending college, budgeting money, and planning for and focusing on their future. The program ties into the 9th grade career research paper. Students participating in the program are provided with extra counseling and are offered the opportunity to attend more field trips. They are also given opportunities for scholarships to Maryland schools, along with advice and tips about how to get the scholarships, and what classes to take in their planning for the future. The students participate in presentations, they receive a booklet with activities based on the information, and they can follow up with their guidance counselors if they have further questions. If any student is interested in taking their part in the program further, they can join Maryland's next generation scholars. – Mattison Jankey & Carson Driver

Spring Play

Bob Thompson, who has been Fort Hill's choir and play director for many years, is now in the process of directing *Aida*. A pop, rock, and ballad style musical composed by Elton John with the lyrics by Tim Rice for the Disney Production Company, the play *Aida* is a story of love and betrayal, based upon the Verdi Opera of the same name with this new, updated version being used for the school's play. "Accessibility, storyline, and music are why I chose to select this play," said Thompson. The play will be available on April 12th, 13th, and 14th at 8:00 P.M. and April 15th at 2:00 P.M. Mr. Thompson thinks the production will leave people pondering what they would do in this type of situation: would they "follow society's expectations or follow their heart?" They also may come to the realization that "love never dies." –Abby Datri

NHS (National Honor Society)

This year at Fort Hill High School, the National Honor Society induction was held on January 16, 2018. A total of 51 members were inducted. This is the highest number of inductees Fort Hill has ever had in one induction. To be eligible for induction into NHS, students must maintain a 3.7 GPA. Emily King, this year's NHS school president, officiated the induction, and Megan Lewis played the piano. Mr. Joseph Carter, Principal, and Mr. Joseph Brewer, Assistant Principal, spoke at the ceremony to congratulate the new inductees. Mr. Brewer also pointed out to the members and inductees that when he was a student at Fort Hill, he was president of the National Honor Society and spoke at that time to new inductees, so this was somewhat of a déjà vu experience for him. Officers of the NHS for 2017-2018 school year include Ashley Armbruster, Eliza Jackowski, Emily King, and Jake LePlatt. -Maria Salinas

Sentinel Newsletter

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