

Fort Hill High School

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First Edition Newsletter
October 2017

Welcome New Staff!!

During the 2017-2018 school year, Fort Hill welcomed ten new staff members. We are glad to have them join the Fort Hill community.



Mr. Joseph Brewer takes over as Fort Hill's vice principal in Mrs. Kathryn Buskirk's place. Mrs. Buskirk has become the English and foreign language supervisor for Allegany County. Before he became our school's vice principal, Mr. Brewer taught Spanish for eighteen years,

with fifteen of those years having been spent here at Fort Hill. Before coming here, he taught one year at the Career Center and one year at Westmar Middle School, also as a Spanish teacher. This promotion was a huge jump from regular teaching for Mr. Brewer. He stated that being an administrator was "more about focusing on the school at a macro level because administrators must be aware of everything." He must now focus on Fort Hill's academic performance in general, and not just on Spanish classes' content. Mr. Brewer has always had a passion for teaching others and has never wanted a monotonous job. He believes that every day, every class, and every year is different. He believes that working here at Fort Hill means he makes a difference within the youth population. When he's not busy at school, Mr. Brewer enjoys playing tennis, volleyball, and golf, and he really enjoys playing music! Spending time with his family is also a relaxing activity for him. Mr. Brewer is definitely looking forward to this challenge as he enters into his nineteenth year in education! –Maria Salinas



Mr. Matthew Marlowe is Fort Hill's Exploring Computer Science teacher; this course is new at Fort Hill this year. Mr. Marlowe had worked at Washington Middle School for the last eight years, and prior to that, he worked for the U.S. government. Mr. Marlowe really likes

Fort Hill so far. He thinks the school has a "great atmosphere" and that the staff and students are kind. He had chosen to pursue a career in education because of his love for teaching and learning new things. "It is a rewarding career because of the impact you have on the students as they grow and learn," he mentioned. Other than teaching, he also likes to build things, play the guitar, and expand his knowledge on new things. Mr. Marlowe also enjoys sailing; he even keeps a sailboat on the Chesapeake Bay.

–Mattison Jankey

Upcoming Events

October 17th- Blood Drive
October 19th- Earthquake Drill
October 24th- Make-up Pictures
October 30th- Little Homecoming

October 30th – November 3rd
Homecoming activities:

Monday, October 30th
Team Day

Tuesday, October 31st
Decade Day

Wednesday, November 1st
Hawaiian Day

Thursday, November 2nd
Color wars

Freshmen: Green

Sophomores: Orange

Juniors: Purple

Seniors: Pink

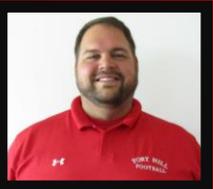
Friday, November 3rd
Spirit Day



Ms. Emily Fielding had worked at both Jefferson School and at Cash Valley Elementary School before coming to Fort Hill. Her first impressions of Fort Hill were that the school was “super friendly and loving.” She herself loves being here. Outside of school, one of Ms. Fielding’s other interests is jewelry design, and she explored career opportunities in that area before coming to Fort Hill. Some of her other hobbies include camping, fishing, kayaking, and gardening. Also, she loves attending different festivals around the area and having dance parties with her children. –Alexa Neef



Ms. Debbie Belfoure has been in education for sixteen years and was previously employed as an activities director at the Cumberland Nursing Center for seventeen years. She said it was nice to be back at Fort Hill because she had graduated from here. She believes that Fort Hill’s students and staff are very friendly and that they show so much compassion in the things they do. The reasons she chose to become an instructional assistant in Special Education are that she likes helping people, she has family members with disabilities, and she also wants to make a difference in her students’ lives. The things she likes to do outside of school are spending time with friends and family, listening to music, traveling, attending sporting events, and attending church services. –Tiffany Carroll



Mr. Shaun Lewis is Fort Hill’s new biology teacher. He started his teaching career at Fort Hill, moved to Washington Middle School for four years, and taught at the Career Center for six years, all before making his way back to the Hill. He loves Fort Hill, says he basically grew up here, and commented that it was “like coming home” when he returned. Most of his family has worked in education, and he decided that he would work in education as well. Along with being a Fort Hill teacher, he coaches football and loves to spend as much time outdoors as possible. –Mattison Jankey



“Parentheses are the duct tape of mathematics!” This is a favorite quote from new mathematics teacher Keith Mikula, who has found himself teaching here at Fort Hill High School. It wasn’t always this way, though, for in his beginning years of teaching, Mr. Mikula worked in North Carolina and West Virginia as a lower level math teacher. He liked the work he was doing, but it wasn’t challenging, and eventually, he packed up his home and moved to Maryland, earning a teaching job at Allegany High School. He remained and taught there for the next fifteen years. A Board of Education transfer made him conflicted. “There are misconceptions about Fort Hill within the community,” but so far Mr. Mikula hasn’t seen any evidence of some of these misconceptions. How does he feel about Fort Hill now that he’s here? “I haven’t been here long enough to form an opinion about it, but the kids are pretty good.” When Mr. Mikula isn’t doing his normal schoolwork, he prefers to be outside. He loves bike riding, hiking, and camping. –Gina Franciosi



Ms. Emily Courtney, Spanish teacher, comes to Fort Hill with experience in educating both children and adults, having worked for six years at Kids Korner Child Care and for two years at Garrett College. When Ms. Courtney was a little girl, she played teacher in her room, and ever since that time, she has wanted to help people learn and help make a difference in their lives. She was very excited to be able to join Fort Hill’s staff and community, and now that she is here, she has noticed that Fort Hill has so much school spirit; this is “very exciting to see,” she says. Ms. Courtney is not all about teaching, though, because she also enjoys golfing and spending time with her family and friends. –Olivia Beeman



Senorita Grieves is one of Fort Hill's new Spanish teachers this year and has been located in Mr. Brewer's old room in the third floor tower. Before Senorita Grieves came here, she was a reading tutor at Westport Academy in Baltimore for two years, did her student teaching at Digital Harbor High School, and was a teacher at Westmar Middle School for three years. Her first impressions of Fort Hill (as an Allegany graduate) were very positive. Senorita Grieves thinks Fort Hill offers a nice environment for its students and faculty and that the faculty and students are very welcoming. She is excited to be part of a school with so much pride! Senorita Grieves chose a career in education because she enjoys helping people accomplish feats they may have believed were once impossible. Her enjoyable activities outside of school include relaxing at home, spending time with family and her dogs, bike riding, and cooking. Traveling is also one of her hobbies when there is an opportunity to do so. She loves road trips and exploring new places! -Maria Salinas



Ms. Annie Whetzel is the new Fort Hill Guidance Office secretary. Before coming to Fort Hill, she had worked at the central office for the Board of Education for thirteen and a half years. Before that, she worked at an accounting firm for two years after working at the Kelly Springfield Tire Company. Ms. Whetzel decided to seek employment with the Board of Education because there were not many employment opportunities in the business sector. Ms. Whetzel's first impressions of Fort Hill were very positive; she said the school is very "pleasant, friendly, and accommodating." Her hobbies outside of school include gardening and practicing yoga with Mrs. Cohen. She also likes to walk and enjoys spending time with her cats. "I'm a cat person more than I'm a dog person," she commented.
-Carson Driver



Mrs. Moriah Cohen is Fort Hill's new guidance counselor. She has taken over for Mrs. Ternent for students with the last name beginning with A-L. Mrs. Ternent has assumed her guidance counselor duties at Mountain Ridge. Mrs. Cohen has been in education for almost ten years. She worked as a guidance counselor at the Eckhart Alternative School and at Parkside Elementary for the last six years. Before that, she had worked as an addictions counselor at the health department. She chose a career in education because she loved being a student herself, she loves to learn, and she feels that working in a learning environment is the perfect job for her. "I love watching students grow as people," she commented. Her first impression of Fort Hill was enthusiastically positive: "I love it!" She is blown away by our school's spirit and loves how kind and accepting of others the students are. "The staff is wonderful too... so caring!" Her hobbies outside of school include exercising, running and walking, and spending time with her husband and two sons. She also teaches cycling and yoga at the YMCA. She enjoys watching soccer too.
-Carson Driver

New Tech In The Science Department



This year Fort Hill has received new additions to its science department. Each science classroom has received an “Active Learning Lab.” These labs encourage students to be more engaged with their classwork. The labs are extremely useful to the students in their note taking, in completing lab based interactive activities, in using Google drive to conserve paper, and in allowing students more computer access. Because the students are organized in groups, the labs allow for increased peer-based feedback for the students and make classroom life easier for both students and teachers compared to previous years. The touchscreen computers have much better connectivity than laptops, and the labs allow for more teacher-student classwork and interaction because the teacher is able to see students’ difficulties with their course work.

– Mattison Jankey

Sentinal Newsletter

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