

# The Falcon

Volume 10, Issue 1 • 1st six weeks



# Reporter

The Official Fowler Middle School Newsletter

**2016–2017**

Fowler Parents & Students,

We are so excited to begin our 2016-2017 school year. Much has been planned at Fowler Middle School to ensure a positive and rewarding experience for all students. At FMS, we are committed to providing our students with a learning environment that will ensure success for all students. Our mission and purpose can best be articulated by our campus mission – **Knowing & Advancing Each Child.**

Parents, I would like to encourage you to read all of the information in our six-week newsletters. Our newsletters contain important information about our campus and many programs that we provide at FMS. Because you are an integral part of your child's education, we feel that ongoing communication and collaboration with you is most important. We encourage you to contact teachers, counselors or administrators anytime you have a question. Our receptionist, Mrs. Birckelbaw, will be happy to take a message or connect you with voicemail if we are unavailable. You are also welcome to email us. At Fowler, we utilize our School Messenger phone and email system often to communicate important dates and reminders. Our Fowler website is also an excellent way for you to stay informed throughout the school year. Together, we will make Fowler Middle School the most wonderful and positive experience for your child. We look forward to the wonderful school year ahead.

Sincerely,

*Donnie Wiseman*

Fowler Middle School Principal

**Celebrating  
A Decade  
of Excellence!**



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# Matthew Hedrick

*Assistant Band Director*

I am so excited to be the new assistant band director at Fowler Middle School! Previously, I taught in Richardson, Texas and Norman, Oklahoma where I directed marching band, jazz bands, and concert ensembles. I received a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from the University of Kansas in May of 2012 and am currently a candidate for a Master's Degree in Music Education from the University of Oklahoma. As a trumpet player, I have performed across the United States with various ensembles, as well as performing at the International Trumpet Guild Conference in Sydney, Australia. In my free time, I enjoy attending concerts, cycling, dining out, and playing with my two-year-old niece.



## Welcome to the Fowler Family

**New staff members @ Fowler 2016-2017**

### Jana Kuehler

*6th Grade ILA*

It is wonderful to be a Fowler Falcon! I taught 18 years in Oklahoma and 2 years in Plano. I will start my 12<sup>th</sup> year in Frisco ISD this year, having previously taught at Boals Elementary & Stafford Middle School. I graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University with a BSE in Education. My husband David and I have two sons, two daughters-in-law and two grandkids. We also have two very spoiled cats!! I'm very excited to be working with the amazing students, parents and faculty at Fowler Middle School!



### Kristen Davis

*6th Grade ILA*

Welcome back students and families! My name is Ms. Davis. I am new to Fowler teaching 6<sup>th</sup> grade ILA and coaching volleyball/soccer. I am from Frisco and graduated high school from Centennial! Additionally, I went to OU for college and am excited to be back in Frisco to teach! My family is very important to me as I am one of four kids, and I have a puggle puppy named Owen who is spoiled rotten. I look forward to a great year of growing and learning alongside all of you!



### Tyler Jackson

*6th Grade Social Studies*

I am very excited to be at Fowler Middle School teaching 6<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies. I graduated from Texas Tech University in 2011. I recently moved here from Pampa, TX where I taught history for 3 years. My wife and I are very excited to be a part of this community and raise our 18-month old son, William, here. I'm looking forward to having a wonderful year.



# Jessica Cross

*Educational Diagnostician*



I am humbled and excited to serve the Fowler Middle School community! I have over ten years of experience in general and special education school settings. I graduated from Texas Woman's University with my bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. My master's degree is in Educational Leadership from Stephen F. Austin State University. I believe that every child is capable of learning, and I strive to design data-driven learning environments that incite wonder and provoke discovery in the hearts of students. I look forward to partnering with families.



# JoAnne Vasquez

*6th Grade ILA*

I graduated from UNT. I have been teaching in Frisco ISD for 6 years. I have 2 wonderful boys. My oldest just graduated from Heritage High School and my youngest will be in 5th grade at Borchardt Elementary. I am so excited to be part of the Fowler team. I look forward to an exciting year of learning and growing together!



# Alissia Cortez

*Theatre and 6th Grade Study Skills*

Hello!! I am thrilled to be returning to Fowler this year!! Having taken time off to raise my two children, I am ready and eager to be back in the theatre classroom at the most amazing school ever!



# Nathan Bidelman

*Special Education Support*

My name is Nathan Bidleman and I am on of the Fundamental Academic Aids for Fowler Middle School. This is my first year working for Frisco ISD, and I am excited to be a part of Fowler Middle School. I am a college graduate and member of the baseball team of Dallas Christian College with a bachelor's degree in Kinesiology and Psychology. This summer, I married my college sweetheart who is a Kindergarten teacher in Frisco ISD. We live in Prosper with our Saint Bernard puppy. In my spare time I love coaching, fishing, and working out. I am very excited to work with the kids this year and do my best to make their day better in any way that I can. Go Falcons!



# Contessa Brady

*6th ILA*

I am extremely grateful to be a part of the Fowler Family! I started teaching in Dallas ISD, and this is my 3<sup>rd</sup> year. I'm originally from Cleveland, Ohio and I've lived in Little Elm for the past 10 years. I have a wonderful husband and 2 adult children. Our daughter is in her senior year at Florida A&M University. Our son is serving his 2<sup>nd</sup> year in the U.S. Navy and is stationed in Virginia Beach. In my spare time, I enjoy shopping, listening to music, and making bath salts. I am very excited about the school year and look forward to a rewarding experience with my new school family and students!



**Best Buddies** at Fowler is starting its second year. Best Buddies lets you be a part of a growing movement of people with and without disabilities, dedicated to ensuring everyone has the opportunity to have a friend. Students with and without disabilities are invited to serve as chapter leaders who plan events and engaging opportunities for members. Group activities are held each year both in school and outside of school. Some examples are pizza parties, bowling outings, kickball games, and ice cream socials. Most importantly, members will be "matched" in a one-to-one friendship with another student from Fowler.

If you are interested, go to [www.bestbuddiesonline.org](http://www.bestbuddiesonline.org) and apply. Also, more information will be given at the Clubs and



Organizations Fair on August 30th and there will be an

**Informational meeting held September 14th both before and after school.**

## BEST BUDDIES®



# Falcon Theatre News

### THEATRE PARENT MEETING

**August 25 at 6pm** in the cafeteria. Parents of students in theatre classes and/or interested in participating in any of the productions are invited to meet Mrs. Cortez and learn about the program.



## AUDITIONS

### The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

**August 31 - September 1, 3:45-5:30PM**

Callbacks (if necessary), **September 2, 3:45-5:30PM**

Audition packets will be available outside **Mrs. Cortez's room (315)** the **first week of school**. The packets will also be posted on the theatre website, <https://sites.google.com/site/fowlertheatre/home>



## August

## FMS Calendar

August 23	Band Parent Orientation Meeting
August 24	Choir Parent Orientation Meeting
August 24	Orchestra Parent Orientation Meeting
August 25	Theatre Parent Orientation Meeting
August 26	Orchestra Ice Cream Social
August 30	Clubs and Organizations Fair
Aug 31-Sep 2	Theatre Auditions
August 31	Choir Karaoke Social

## September

September 2	Beginning Band Ice Cream Social
September 6	PTA Board Meeting 4:30
September 6	PTA General Meeting 5:30
September 6	Meet the Teacher Night
September 7	Show Choir Auditions
September 7	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Football vs. Staley MS
September 8	Back to School Book Swap
September 8	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Volleyball vs. Staley MS
September 9	Back to School Dance
September 10	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> A Team Grade Volleyball Tournament
September 13	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Football vs. Nelson MS
September 13	Band Plays at 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Football Game
September 14	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Football vs. Nelson MS
September 15	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Volleyball vs. Nelson MS
September 17	Orchestra All Region Boot camp
September 19	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Football vs. Scoggins
September 20	Pep Rally
September 20	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Football vs. Scoggins
September 20	Band Plays at 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Football Game
September 21	Choir Sing-a-thon Fundraiser
September 22	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Band Performs with Lebanon Trail HS Band at 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Football Game
September 22	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Volleyball vs. Scoggins
September 24	Orchestra Social @ Main Event
September 26	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Football vs. Maus MS
September 27	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Football vs. Maus MS
September 29	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Volleyball vs. Maus MS
Sept 30- Oct 6	Scholastic Book Fair



**Yearbooks are available for purchase online. Click the order a yearbook button on Fowler's homepage or copy and paste the link below into your internet browser. If you order before 9/16, you will receive free icons with the purchase of one line of personalization.**

[http://jostensyearbooks.com?](http://jostensyearbooks.com?REF=A01098308)  
REF=A01098308

Order Your **Yearbook** 

## Flight Time

**Every Tuesday and Thursday, we will be on a Flight Time Bell Schedule. Please don't forget to refer to this schedule when making appointments and planning for absences.**

# Team News

## 6th

Welcome to Fowler, 6<sup>th</sup> graders!

In social studies, we will be learning about the themes of physical and human geography and exploring the elements that make up all of our diverse cultures. We will then use these themes of geography and cultural elements to begin our journey of world cultures.

The sixth grade ILA students will start the year by studying personal narratives using the novel My Life in Dog Years by Gary Paulsen. The students will apply their understanding of summarization, sequencing, and the writing process to complete a major project. These skills will aid in the development of writing a personal narrative about an event that greatly affected and changed their lives. Sixth grade Fowler science students will start with safety in the lab. We will learn to use both preventative and emergency safety equipment. Once students have demonstrated their mastery of safety, we will begin studying process skills. We will plan and implement lab investigations, analyze data, and form conclusions. It's going to be a busy start!

Welcome to sixth grade math! We will begin by setting a strong foundation by diving into factors, multiples and prime factorization. After that, we will be reviewing adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions and decimals. In addition to this, the students will be required to complete Think Through Math on a weekly basis starting September 6.

To begin the year, 7<sup>th</sup> grade science classes will introduce lab safety and graphing, while PreAP science students will begin working on ISEF/Independent Research projects. Texas history classes will be starting the year by studying the four natural regions of Texas and the Native American Indian tribes of Texas. ILA classes will be working on writing a personal narrative and learning the techniques of revising a narrative. PreAP ILA students will engage in activities related to their summer reading novel, Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie by Jordan Sonnenblick. 7th grade GT ILA students will be analyzing the craft of a writer in the Lone Star Books. Then, students will create book trailers about one of the Lone Star books. Our 7<sup>th</sup> grade mathematicians will review some operations with rational numbers and solve problems involving proportionality.

## 7th

## 8th

Welcome back Fowler students! We hope you had a great summer break and are as excited as we

are to begin your 2016-17 journey through 8<sup>th</sup> grade science. Science! This year we will study scientific concepts in laboratory tools and procedures, with our major emphasis on earth sciences. Our topics this year will include the scientific method, the solar system and the universe, and then we come back to Earth to study how our oceans drive atmospheric events

including the weather. We, then, take 7<sup>th</sup> grade concepts a bit deeper as we investigate ecological processes, as well as weathering, erosion and deposition and how these processes affect the Earth's topography. We will also highlight the foundations of physics and chemistry. The 8th grade U.S. History teachers are excited to start a new year. We will be exploring and colonizing America for the first 6 weeks. Students will be encouraged to complete flipped assignments located on our Moodle site on the Student Learning Hub. Our classes will also be conducting special activities during Celebrate Freedom Week (September 12-17th). We will kick off the school year in math by studying real numbers and their properties; this includes classifying and ordering real numbers, as well as converting between fractions, decimals, and percentages. Shortly after, we will discover the Pythagorean Theorem and its application in the real world. Please check the Learning Hub to stay current. Finally, our ILA teachers are looking forward to a fun-filled year where we will implement various strategies and activities to strengthen your child's reading and writing skills. Pre-AP ILA will begin with analyzing the summer reading novel, The Messenger, by Lois Lowry, in which Pre-AP students will further explore the themes found within the novel. ILA will focus on a variety of literature selections in preparation for the upcoming unit over heroism and its many forms. We can't wait to get the year started!

## Mrs. Silver's Technology Class Info

All the students will have a great time and learn a lot in the computer classes at Fowler. The following is a summary of what we will be doing throughout the school year. Please note – copyright issues are discussed in all these classes.

### Multimedia I:

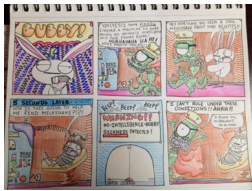
The students will review their file management skills, and they will also learn how to create a Google calendar and other Google apps and functions. They will create a Fairy Tale PowerPoint presentation using the 4 different types of animation they will learn in class. The students will learn how to use PhotoShop Elements. They will love this software. They will learn how to edit photos, create and enhance text, as well as lots of other fun effects that they will create with this software. If you have any old or damaged photos at home; they will be able to make them look like new! The students will learn about using audio and inputting it into their projects. The students will also create an original E-Book by creating the story, title, and illustrating it themselves. They will use their audio knowledge to record their story and create a voice over to include in their E-Book; they will be able to see their digital book in an epub software – pretty exciting!

### Multimedia II- Video Production II:

The students will review file management and update their Google calendars. They will create CD covers using PhotoShop Elements, using the digital cameras to take pictures of themselves or their phones, then edit them and combine images on the canvas to create realistic photos. Then, they will use Powtoons software to create a presentation. They will explore how to use Google presentations to create an informational presentation about what they learned in Multimedia I last year. It will be a great learning experience for them! Color is another topic we will review as it is important to understand the psychology of color in order to apply it to whatever you are creating. Next, we will be back in PSE creating patterns and textures. The students will use Google sketch up to create a building and then place it into Google Earth. The students will learn a little about HTML coding and create some web pages. The students will also do work for teachers around the school (creating flyers, etc.) if any teachers have the need for our "business". The students will also create a virtual museum to display some of their Photoshop projects. They will also create a website to display their work from MM2 and VP2. Stay tuned for more fun information from this class.

In VP2- the students will learn more skills related to video production. They will learn how to create different effects such as coming out from behind a pole, mirroring themselves, creating lightening effects, etc.

They will work in groups to develop ideas and brainstorm as to which projects they might like to do. We also create some videos for the Broadcast class to incorporate into their projects.



### Animation:

#### Sample of a comic strip created by a student

Again, the skill of proper file management will be reinforced as well as creating a Google calendar. All the students in class will create a website to display their animations. You will also be able to see what they have worked on in class! Just ask them to show you their site. The students will practice sketching characters for projects; they will learn how to draw different characters and will learn how to draw eyes, noses, mouths, etc. The students will create an original character to use in projects throughout the year. They will incorporate their character to create an original comic strip. They usually come out really cute!

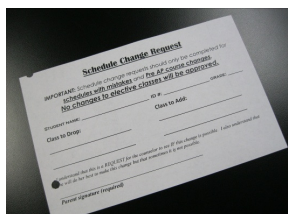
They will work in groups to research the history of animation and choose an animator to research. Then, working with their group, they will put together a presentation to show to the class about what they learned. From there they will create an animation using an app called "Sock Puppets" on the iPad from the school library. The students will begin with learning 2d animation using FlipBook software. From there – they will go into 3D software. I know I am looking forward to meeting all the characters; they should be very interesting.

# Counselors' Corner



The beginning of a new school year is always an exciting time for Fowler Middle School students. This is a great time for all students to step out on the right foot as they journey through many fun and significant opportunities ahead in the 2016-2017 school year. The counselors, along with all of our staff members, value the opportunity to work with students and parents to make the middle school years a positive and challenging time as students learn and grow in all aspects of their lives.

With this goal in mind, we have several exciting events planned throughout the school year and several important dates for you to put on your calendar.



**August 22 – 26, 2016 - Schedule Change Requests** – Students may pick up schedule change request forms in the front office beginning Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, and they must be turned in NO LATER THAN 3:35 on August 26<sup>th</sup>. These forms are only used for Pre-AP level changes. No changes to elective classes will be approved. Counselors will provide students with a new schedule if it is possible to make the change.

**August 31, 2016 (7:55 am)** - 6<sup>th</sup> grade New Student Breakfast in the Library

**September 1, 2016 (7:55 am)** - 7<sup>th</sup> grade New Student Breakfast in the Library

**September 2, 2016 (7:55 am)** - 8<sup>th</sup> grade New Student Breakfast in the Library



**September 7, 2016 (9:00-10:00 am)** – Coffee with the Counselors –Counselor Introductions and Services Provided – Fowler Library

**September 15, 2016** – Power to Change Introductory Lesson



**September 19-23, 2016 College Week** – This is a week of celebrating “higher education” and giving the students a chance to learn about many of the diverse opportunities available in their future.



**September 19-21, 2016 “My Future” Lessons** – The counselors will kick-off the first lesson for 7<sup>th</sup> graders on college readiness and career planning. These lessons will be provided once each six weeks through Texas History classes.

**September 29, 2016** – Power to Change Day



**September 29, 2016 (7:55 am)** – Falcon Connection Meeting (New to Fowler Students)



# Catherine B. Fowler LIBRARY



## Get Involved @ Your Library!

Does your student love to read and spend time with other readers? There are several ways Falcons can get involved at the library!

**SLAB (School Library Advisory Board)**—Students in SLAB help with all sorts of library projects, such as decorating book fairs, keeping the library clean and organized, and making displays. SLAB members are chosen by application process. Applications are online and will be available on the library web site by **August 29<sup>th</sup>**.

**Book Clubs**—Our Library Lunch book clubs are casual, fun, and open to anyone! At meetings we'll read books together, discuss our favorites, and watch book trailers together to find new reads!

### I'M ALL BOOKED UP!

"I HAVE ALWAYS IMAGINED THAT PARADISE WILL BE A KIND OF LIBRARY." --JOSE LUIS BORGES

If

## Looking for a good book?

Try the FMS Library blog! Here you'll find book reviews on middle grade and young adult novels, tagged by genre and reviewed by your librarian! <http://imallbookedup.blogspot.com>.



## ★ Book Fair

★ Fall Book Fair will  
★ run September 30<sup>th</sup>  
★ through October  
★ 6th!



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual *Back to School Book Swap!*

**Parents, Teachers, and Students are all welcome!**

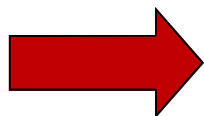
**We're excited to host our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Back to School Book Swap after school on September 8th! Here's how it works:**

1. Send **gently used** books with your student to the library. You may also drop off books during open house on the 6<sup>th</sup>. (*We will have an adult table for parents and teachers, and a middle grade/young adult table, so you may bring anything from about a fifth grade reading level up.*)
2. For every book that is accepted, your child will get a ticket. Each ticket can be redeemed for one "new" book at the event.
3. Stop by as soon as possible **after school on September 8th**. Books will be displayed on tables for you to browse and trade. We will be swapping and socializing until **4:30!** (If you can't make it that afternoon, whatever is left will be available in the library for a few days—just hang on to your tickets.)

### Fowler PTA Board 2016-2017

Position	Name	Email
Principal	Donnie Wiseman	<a href="mailto:wisemand@friscoisd.org">wisemand@friscoisd.org</a>
President	Derek Willingham	<a href="mailto:derek.willingham@gmail.com">derek.willingham@gmail.com</a>
VP - Membership	Melissa Lorenzen	<a href="mailto:mlamb412@gmail.com">mlamb412@gmail.com</a>
VP - Ways&Means	Monica Violante	<a href="mailto:ptamonicav@gmail.com">ptamonicav@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Laura Cabutto	<a href="mailto:lcabutto@hearrobins.com">lcabutto@hearrobins.com</a>
Treasurer	Christie Gore	<a href="mailto:cgore10@gmail.com">cgore10@gmail.com</a>
Parliamentarian	Tracey Grenier	<a href="mailto:davidg2504@aol.com">davidg2504@aol.com</a>
Programs		
Reflections	Nancy Worth	<a href="mailto:nancy.sabina@gmail.com">nancy.sabina@gmail.com</a>
Hospitality	Sharisa Lewis	<a href="mailto:sharisalewis@gmail.com">sharisalewis@gmail.com</a>
Spirit wear	Leigh Moore	<a href="mailto:jeffleighmoore@verizon.net">jeffleighmoore@verizon.net</a>
Volunteers	See PTA website	
Communications	Melissa Trezza	<a href="mailto:mtrezzatx@gmail.com">mtrezzatx@gmail.com</a>
Teacher Liason	Julie Brown*	<a href="mailto:brownju@friscoisd.org">brownju@friscoisd.org</a>
Healthy Lifestyle	Kathryn Osteen	<a href="mailto:Kathryn_Mitchell@baylor.edu">Kathryn_Mitchell@baylor.edu</a>
Environmental	Andrea Williams	<a href="mailto:williaan@friscoisd.org">williaan@friscoisd.org</a>
WatchDOGS		
SAGE	Christine Kurtz	<a href="mailto:ckurtz.pta@gmail.com">ckurtz.pta@gmail.com</a>

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