

August 7, 2018

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians:

Ride on Ponies (it also can be used as a greeting)...we are back and better as we continue preparing for 196th opening of Foxcroft Academy. I, for one, am very excited about our first day back, which is **Tuesday, August 28th for freshmen and new students and Wednesday, August 29th for all returning students.** I am writing to update you on things that we have been working on, introduce you to new staff members, provide you with important information, and share with you some of the projects that we will be working on this year.

I am pleased to announce new members of the Pony Herd. Stephanie Parlee has joined the faculty to teach Latin and English. She comes to Foxcroft Academy with experience in teaching at the college level and is very excited to be teaching Latin at the high school level. As you remember, Peter Hartel retired this past spring and we are very happy that we will be able to continue the Latin program. Ryan Dankert is not new to FA but he will be replacing Mrs. Davis who is moving to be closer to her grandchildren in southern Maine. Mr. Dankert has a rich experience as an Educational Technician III and will be a valuable addition to the Math Department. Gabi Henderson '13 will be the long-term substitute teacher for Ms. Reyes-Henderson (Gabi's mother). Ms. Reyes-Henderson will be undergoing cancer treatments for the next two months but will do lesson planning and assessment in support of Gabi. Brittany Robbins, a UMF graduate, will be the long term substitute for Mrs. Godley who will start the year on family leave and will return in November. At the writing of this letter, FA is in search of an Educational Technician III to fill Mr. Dankert's vacant position.

Pre-season for Fall sports starts on Monday, August 13th, 2018. Also, Mr. Smith has recently announced that Homecoming will be the week of October 1st through 5th. This should give the class of 2022 plenty of time to learn the school song! Due to Homecoming, parent teacher conferences will be moved to Thursday, October 11th.

New this year, Foxcroft Academy now carries a student accident insurance policy that covers all student athletes while they are participating in a sport. All families also have the option of purchasing a voluntary accident insurance policy for non-interscholastic sporting activities. Please contact our Business Office at 564-8351 for details of these plans.

Important message to parents: Foxcroft Academy uses PowerSchool for electronic updates to student information and beginning-of-year forms and agreements. We will continue to use PowerSchool for assignment grades and class attendance, along with progress reports and report cards. Enclosed with this letter are instructions for setting up a PowerSchool account. If you have a returning student and already have a PowerSchool account, just log in and click on "Online Registration and Forms". If you already have a PowerSchool account but have a new student coming to the Academy, log in, go to "My Account", click on the Students tab, and use the Access ID and Access Password to add your new student. Electronic forms to be filled out in PowerSchool include the Enrollment Agreement, Emergency Information, Health Center Form, Bus Agreement, iPad Permission Form, and Student Handbook Sign-Off Form. A link to the Co-Curricular Agreement Form and the Lunch Form for Free and Reduced Status is also available (these forms must be returned to us on paper). (If you still wish to receive material from us in paper form, please contact Pam Weatherbee at pam.weatherbee@foxcroftacademy.org or call 564-8351. Even if you have requested this in the past you will need to make a new request for paper mailings each year.

The school year begins on **Tuesday, August 28th, for freshmen and new students and on Wednesday, August 29th, for all returning students.** On both mornings, all students should report to the gym by 8 a.m. Students may reserve a locker with a refundable deposit of \$6.00. On Tuesday, freshmen and new students will follow a mini-schedule and meet with their advisor groups. There will be a free lunch for all freshmen, new students, faculty, and staff and regular paid lunch will begin on Wednesday so students should bring money to put on their accounts. The first day for students to attend Tri-County Technical Center is Wednesday, August 29th, which is a B day. Students who attend TCTC on B days will be bussed there after the opening of school activities.

State of Maine Lunch Forms: Even if you choose not to receive free or reduced hot lunch, if you are eligible, completing the form helps the Academy receive up to 60% of its computer networking and telecommunication costs from the Federal government. Please complete this confidential form if you feel you may be eligible; the cost savings to the Academy could be in the tens of thousands of dollars. If you know you are not eligible, there is no need to complete or return this form. All of the required forms should be completed **by the first day of school.** The emergency information forms are critical as they will be how we contact you in case of an emergency, so please make sure it is completed with the most current information.

School Lunch: Lunch prices for students will be **\$2.95** for the 2018-19 school year. Those eligible for reduced lunches will pay **\$0.40**. Breakfast is **\$1.50** while the reduced price is **\$0.30**. Students who were approved for free or reduced lunches for the 2017-18 school year will be able to receive the same benefit through September 7th, 2018. If you qualify for free or reduced lunches for the current school year, you must have the school lunch form completed and returned to Foxcroft Academy by September 7th or the benefit will be suspended until the paperwork is received. These forms may be picked up in the main office or printed from the Foxcroft Academy website.

Lifetouch Studios will be here on Tuesday, September 4th, to take student portraits. Any seniors who are providing their own senior picture will need to have that in to the yearbook staff shortly after the start of school for the senior section deadline.

Student Handbook: The Handbook informs all students of their responsibilities and expresses the expectations we have for them at the Academy. Please view the Handbook with your student on their iPad or online at www.foxcroftacademy.org, so you can review the rules and regulations of Foxcroft Academy together. **We will require a signed statement from each student and their parent/guardian that indicates that the Student Handbook has been reviewed. This form may be returned electronically or by paper form.**

Students may pick up their iPads any day starting Monday, August 13th between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. if they return **all required forms** including the Technology and Internet Use Rules/Permission form indicating that they understand the rules and expectations and pay the protection plan premium **either online or in the main office.** The required forms will be included with the online forms and will be available in the office. **Students will not be able to take their iPads home until the protection plan premium has been paid, and all required forms are in.** If this is not financially possible for your family, please contact Ms. Weatherbee and we will make an attempt to assist you. Members of the IT Department will be available to distribute your student's iPad and answer any questions you might have. Extended hours for iPad pick up will also be offered on **Monday, August 13th and Monday, August 20th** when the office and IT Department will be open from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m.

An **Open House** will be held on **Wednesday, September 5th, from 6-7 p.m.** The evening will have an open house format, and this is a time for your students to introduce their parents/ guardians to their teachers, see the school, and view curriculum/syllabi. In conjunction with the open house, Counseling Services will be hosting a College Fair Extravaganza at 5:30 p.m. geared specifically for seniors and their parents but all are welcome to attend.

Parents/Guardians- I would also encourage you to join the Foxcroft Academy Parent Advisory Council which is starting its eighth year. This is a parent group that meets with the Head of School to discuss issues and provide input to programming at Foxcroft Academy. Our first meeting is **September 20th at 6 p.m. at the Peakes House** (I owe the PAC a cookout!). The other dates are November 15th, January 17th, and March 14th all at 6 p.m. in the Stuart E. Hayes Esq. Conference Room.

Parents, I would like to ask for your help. After a few years of allowing students to use their cell phones during passing and lunch times, and it was decided that this was not working. Certainly, we believe that using technology is still paramount in preparing students for their post-secondary pathways, and just as important, the students need to learn when it is appropriate to use technology and when it is not appropriate to use it. The IT Department has implemented good controls to oversee content on the iPads as they continue to be a valuable tool in the learning process. Cell phones are another story and create barriers to learning when not used properly. You can help by not texting or calling your child on the cell phone during the day. If you need to contact your child, please contact the office at 564-8351 and we will either relay the message or have the student call you back. Thank you.

This is an exciting time at Foxcroft Academy. We will be going through an “authorization visitation” from International Baccalaureate. Remember, IB is a college preparatory program that focuses on providing the tools for students that wish to have IB on their transcripts as it demonstrates to colleges that they are “college ready”. Over twelve students and their families are preparing to enter the program during their junior year. This does not mean that FA will be offering fewer technical education classes as both pathways are equally important.

The science lab has been completely renovated from the floor to the ceiling under the supervision of Tom Nason, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, with input from the Science Department. FA is starting preparations on our work to operate the ice rink being built on the old “Brother’s Chevrolet” lot by the Libra Foundation. We are excited about the new opportunities for our community and I am looking forward to learning more about curling! Also, I have “hit the road” to talk with potential donors to support the Foxcroft Academy Field House. This artificial turf facility will also have a track around the perimeter and will be large enough to support regulation field hockey and soccer games. Under the guiding principles of the Mission and Vision, Foxcroft Academy is committed to “enhancing the educational experience for all students and staff with quality facilities and technology.”

This will be the 196th opening of Foxcroft Academy! Freshmen and new students, I will see you on Tuesday, August 28th, and upperclassmen on Wednesday, August 29th. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Academy at 564-8351. Don’t forget to follow me on Twitter @ArnoldShorey, as it is a great way to follow what is happening at Foxcroft Academy.

So Ponies, saddle up, and Ride on!

Arnold B. Shorey
Head of School