

Alton U. Farnsworth Middle School

Guilderland Central School District

6072 State Farm Road, Guilderland, N.Y. 12084
(518) 456-6010 FAX (518) 720-3576

DANIEL MAYBERRY
Superintendent of Schools

MICHAEL S. LASTER
Building Principal

RYAN ST. JOHN
House Principal

KELLY WILLETTS
House Principal

August 17, 2026

Dear Farnsworth Families and Students,

Summer days may be winding down, but our excitement for the new school year is just beginning! To our returning families: welcome back! To our brand-new students and families: we are thrilled to welcome you into the Farnsworth Middle School community. We hope your summer was full of rest, laughter, and great memories.

Middle school is a time of incredible transformation. It's where students discover new passions, build lifelong friendships, and realize how capable they truly are. Our dedicated staff members have spent the summer prepping innovative lessons and creating safe, inclusive spaces where every single student can thrive—academically, socially, and emotionally.

We can't do this without you. A strong partnership between home and school is essential for student success. Whether you're volunteering, attending events, or emailing your child's teachers, your involvement makes our community whole.

To make sure our classrooms are vibrant, focused, and free of digital distractions, we are following recent New York State guidelines.

- All personal electronic devices—including cell phones, earbuds, and smartwatches—must be **turned off and kept in locked lockers (or left at home) from 8:45 AM to 3:25 PM.** We want students fully present with their peers and teachers. Keeping devices in pockets or backpacks during the day is a violation of the code of conduct and will result in the device being confiscated for a parent to pick up.
- Don't worry, you can always reach your child! In an emergency, just call your child's House Office. Students will also have full access to school phones if they need to call home. We will walk students through all these details during the first few days of school.

Here are some essential dates you need to kick off the school year:

- 6th Grade Orientation: Thursday, September 3rd
- First Day of School: Tuesday, September 8th
- Your child's house, team, and counselor assignments are already live on the eSchoolData Parent Portal (posted August 7th). Official class schedules will be handed out on the very first day of school.
- Keep an eye on our school website and ParentSquare over the next few days for orientation schedules and general updates.

Join us at Open House this fall! Come meet the teachers, explore our classrooms, and see what your child will be learning this year! All programs begin at **6:45 PM**:

- **6th Grade:** Tuesday, September 22nd
- **8th Grade:** Tuesday, September 15th
- **7th Grade:** Tuesday, September 29th

Find everything you need to know about your student's specific team by clicking the links below:

- Hiawatha Team Letters & Supply Lists
- Mohawk Team Letters & Supply Lists
- Tawasentha Team Letters & Supply Lists
- Seneca Team Letters & Supply Lists
- Comprehensive Skills Program (CSP) Team Letters & Supply Lists
- Cross-Team Supply Lists (*WLC/ENL, FACS, Art, Tech, Health, Music, PE*)

Please take a few minutes to review the Farnsworth Middle School Handbook and [District Code of Conduct](#) on our [website](#) together as a family. It's a great tool for understanding our community expectations and answering common questions.

If you have any questions before the first day of school, please reach out to your child's House Secretary. We are here to help!

We are excited to embark on this new journey with you. Together, let's make this a year of remarkable learning, growth, and joy!

Respectfully,