Record First Day Attendance
The first day of school was a record breaker for Frederick County Public Schools. When students returned for the start of the 2017-18 school year on August 16, the school division had 13,126 students in attendance. That’s 474 more students than were in attendance on the first day of the 2016-17 school year.

Do You Have the FCPS Mobile App?
Frederick County Public Schools has launched a custom mobile app that provides instant access to a variety of school and division information. The new app is available at no cost from Apple’s App Store or Google Play.

FCPS 101
Frederick County Public Schools is launching a community engagement program called FCPS 101. The program will provide parents and others with an opportunity to learn about Frederick County Public Schools and its operations, including instructional and administrative services. Individuals interested in participating in FCPS 101 must submit the application form by Friday, September 15.

Appropriation for 12th Elementary School
The Frederick County Board of Supervisors voted August 9 to appropriate $27 million for the construction of the 12th elementary school to be built at Snowden Bridge. The School Board had requested $28.5 million. Since the School Board’s request was not fully funded, the capacity of the school will have to be further reduced and additional cost saving measures considered.

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Speak Up, Stay Safe

Keeping schools safe is everyone's responsibility. If you see suspicious activity, report it to school staff and law enforcement. Suspicious activity may include: a vehicle or individual in an odd or concealed location; an unattended package or backpack; individuals seeking information about a school, its operations or security procedures beyond mere curiosity; or unusual, repeated or prolonged observation of school buildings, bus stops or students. Contact the Frederick County Sheriff's Office at 540-662-6168.

Teacher of the Year

Frederick County Middle School English teacher Suzanne Miller has been named Frederick County Public Schools' 2018 Teacher of the Year. Miller has been a teacher at Frederick County Middle School since 1999.

Support Staff Awards

A number of outstanding support staff members were recognized with awards prior to the start of the 2017-18 school year. Congratulations to Bus Driver of the Year Lois Clark, Custodian David Dixon, Instructional Aide Pam Tubandt, School Nutrition Services Employee Wendy Phillips and Secretary Connie Spates for being recognized for their excellent work to support students and staff.

The Wheels on the Bus....

The entrance Superintendent David Sovine and Assistant Superintendents Al Ondorff and Jim Angelo made at the school division's convocation program has drawn national attention. Their Bus Ride Karaoke video has been viewed more than 176,000 times online and received comments from people across the country.

New Admiral Byrd Middle School Principal

Dr. Jessica Nail was named the new principal at Admiral Richard E. Byrd Middle School on August 15. She succeeds Teresa Ritenour who was named the school division's Director of Student Support Services in July. Dr. Nail has served as an assistant principal at Admiral Byrd Middle School for the past five years.
Hands-on Learning
The solar eclipse that occurred on August 21 provided an excellent opportunity for students to engage in hands-on learning. At Middletown Elementary School, students not only engaged in activities inside their classrooms designed to teach them about the eclipse, they also had the opportunity to go outside and witness the event.

Bright Futures Food Drive and Community Fair
Bring your family and enjoy games and activities while supporting Bright Futures-Frederick/Winchester. The community fair is September 9 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Bright Futures Distribution Center (178 Indian Hollow Road). Admission is free with the donation of non-perishable, child-friendly food items. All donations will benefit the Food Pack Program which provides weekend food for children in our community with food insecurities. Activities include a principal’s dunking booth, face painting, gem mining and more. There will be more than 25 vendor booths to visit.

Millbrook Receives State Award
Governor Terry McAuliffe and the state Board of Education recognized Millbrook High School earlier this month with a 2017 Board of Education Distinguished Achievement Award. The award was earned by schools that met all state and federal benchmarks and made progress toward the goals of the Governor and the Board.

Golfers Helping Bright Futures
The Seventh Annual Chick-fil-A Golf Classic to benefit Bright Futures-Frederick/Winchester raised nearly $11,200. Thanks to Chick-fil-A, the volunteers and players who helped make the tournament a huge success.

Free and Reduced Meals Program
Eligible families may apply to participate in the Free and Reduced Price Meals Program at any time. The application process is relatively simple and can be completed online.

FCPS Rapid Communication System Text Messages
The Frederick County Public Schools’ Rapid Communication System includes a SMS text message function. In order to receive text messages sent through the FCPS Rapid Communication System, parents must have the phone number of the device on which they want to receive text alerts included on their child’s student record. In addition, they must opt-in to receiving the text messages if they have not done so previously. To opt-in, text “Y” or “Yes” to 67587 from the device on which you want to receive text messages. Once the opt-in process has been completed, you will receive a confirmation text message. The FCPS Rapid Communication System is used to contact parents in a variety of situations ranging from severe weather and power outages to other emergencies that may cause a school to evacuate, relocate or go on lockdown. The system also is utilized to inform parents when schools are closed, opening late or closing early due to inclement weather. Individual schools also utilize the system to communicate information to their school communities.
Easy School Payments with MySchoolBucks

MySchoolBucks is Frederick County Public Schools’ online school payment portal which is available to pay for student meals, fees, activities and other purchases online. The system also allows parents to view current cafeteria account balances, review recent purchases, receive low-balance alerts and setup recurring payments on a weekly or monthly basis. Payments can be made through MySchoolBucks 24 hours a day using VISA, MasterCard or Discover.

Advertising Space Being Made Available on the FCPS Website

A limited amount of advertising space is still available on the school division’s homepage and each individual school homepage. All of the revenues generated will go back into programs directly impacting students. For information on advertising opportunities, contact Steve Edwards at edwardss@fcpsk12.net.

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