Falk Elementary School
School Supplement to the District Policy Guide
Dear Parents and Families,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Falk Elementary School. Thank you for sharing your children with us every day.

Falk Elementary School serves about 370 students in Early Childhood Learning (3 year old), 4-Year-Old Kindergarten (including a Spanish language section), and Kindergarten through 5th grade. Families in our attendance area currently have the option of English Language Instruction or Spanish Dual Language Instruction at the Kindergarten and 1st grade levels. The staff and I are committed to preparing students to be college, career, and, community-ready by challenging them to achieve at high levels academically, socially and emotionally.

Every morning school begins at 7:45 a.m., with doors opening at 7:30am for our community breakfast.

As a part of increasing our focus on social-emotional learning, all classroom teachers use Responsive Classroom and every student participates in Morning Meeting daily. The goal is for the classroom to meet as a community and to help students understand what it means to be a member of a community and build the classroom community together.

In addition to Literacy and Math, staff work relentlessly to align and focus efforts on other subjects such as Social Studies, Science, PE, Art, Music, Library and Computers.

Here at Falk all students are provided the tools needed to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally. We hold all students to high expectations, promote academic risk taking, and nurture a love for learning.

The entire Falk staff and I are excited to have the opportunity to build strong relationships with parents and families, as well as partner with you in the education of your child(ren). Our goal is that all children become successful learners. I am also committed to improving the communication between school and community and would like to invite you to be an active participant in the education of your child(ren).

I thank you for your continued support and I look forward to getting to know you. If you have ideas, thoughts or concerns, please feel free to contact me. Remember, you are always welcome to stop by and visit anytime.

Sincerely,

Adam Zingsheim
Falk Principal

**Telephone**
OFFICE: (608) 204-2180
FAX: (608) 204-0479
ATTENDANCE / SAFE ARRIVAL: (608) 204-2201

**Web address**
https://falk.madison.k12.wi.us
facebook.com/MMSDFalk
@MMSDFalk

**Address**
6323 Woodington Way
Madison, WI 53711

**School Hours**
Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. Community breakfast
Mondays 7:45 a.m. - 1:10 p.m. (Early release)
Tuesdays-Fridays 7:45 a.m. - 2:42 p.m.
About our school
Falk Elementary School serves children in Early Childhood (3-year-old kindergarten), 4K (4-year-old kindergarten) through 5th grade.

Falk School is supported by an active parent organization (PTO). Our school has a long-standing tradition of providing an effective educational experience for all students. The key to our success will continue to be having high expectations for all students, a welcoming environment for our parents and families and a collaborative staff.

Falk Elementary School is projected to serve 370 students in 22 EC-5th grade homeroom classrooms this year. Although all subjects are important, reading/language arts and mathematics receive greater emphasis, especially in the primary grades. Once children develop proficiency in those skills, greater emphasis is placed upon the “content” areas of social studies and science.

The teachers at Falk work in teams to maximize their experiences and meet the needs of all the students. In addition to Literacy and Math all students are exposed to a Science and Social Studies curriculum. In addition, students and families participate in an Open School House (OSH) program on Tuesday evenings during the school year and other enrichment activities that are provided outside the school day. For instance, students and families participate in Literacy Night, Math Night, Science Night, Arts Day with International Potluck and Dia De Los Niños throughout the school year. Lastly, 5th grade students have the opportunity to take Strings class and play the violin, viola, or cello.

School equity vision statement
We believe our school community can create the conditions for students to graduate college, career, and community ready by validating and affirming students’ assets and building bridges to reach desired outcomes. A focus on equity means: 1.) Reducing the predictability of who succeeds, 2.) Interrupting the reproductive practices of inequity, and 3.) Cultivating the unique talents and gifts of each child.

Key Policies and Guidelines

Childcare/after-school information
There is additional programming and childcare for Falk students at and around Falk. MSCR uses the Falk gyms to run after-school childcare from dismissal time until 5:45 p.m. Contact MSCR at 204-3030 for more information.

Falk is a part of the Community Learning Center (CLC) - a grant that funds after school programming for students. The CLC offers academic and recreational programming including MSCR Afterschool After School Academic Clubs for Excellence (AACE) throughout the year. MSCR Afterschool offers a variety of planned activities like field trips, conflict resolution, teamwork and cooperation skills. MSCR also offers an all-day summer program. Our AACE program offers many of the same opportunities but with a dedicated instructional program provided in either Reading or Mathematics based on student eligibility.

The CLC plans and sponsors family nights throughout the year in collaboration with Falk staff and plan the Valentine’s Day Family Fun Night, the Kindergarten Math Night, as well as Healthy Self Family Nights.

Events are posted on our website and on our Facebook page.
Traffic safety, Parking lot, Pick up/Drop off Information
Falk school is constantly recruiting 4th and 5th grade students for safety patrol. Staff members organize the patrols. The PTO funding provides raincoats, hats, belts and badges, and an end of the year trip.

Becoming a patrol is a responsibility that is earned in school by doing well on schoolwork and displaying mature behavior. Staff are very proud of the job that our patrols do at Falk and hope to continue this tradition of excellence. Parents/legal guardians are encouraged to urge their children to cooperate with school safety patrols to promote:

- Acceptance of responsibility
- Being valuable members of a team
- Being responsible citizens
- Volunteering and helping fellow students
- Becoming leaders and pathfinders

In addition, Falk has a Traffic & Safety Plan, which is posted on our website: falk.mmsd.org.

Field trips
At the beginning of each school year, grade level teams plan curriculum based field trips for students. Information is generally sent home with students and included in classroom newsletters.

Family engagement
Falk has a PTO and this year has focused on how we communicate student progress on a regular basis with our families.

Parent/teacher conferences
Parent conferences are held twice a year - one in November and one in March. Grade levels also participate in Parent Teacher Teams, group conferences focused on supporting student learning.

Student personal property
Students are encouraged not to bring personal property, like games and electronics, to school.

School support services
The student support services at Falk consist of a Parent Liaison, School Nurse, Nursing Assistant, Psychologist, Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) Coach, Instructional Coaches, and Social Worker. The school also provides services for Advanced Learners, students with special needs, and English Language Learners.

Behavior
Falk has a full time Positive Behavior Support (PBS) Coach. All students learn to be Safe, Responsible and Respectful.

Picking up your child during the school day
To ensure the safety of your child, please send a note in advance to your child’s teacher or the office. We require parents to come into our office and sign out the student. We will call the classroom to have the student sent down to the office to meet the parents. Please remember anyone picking up a student must be authorized and listed in Infinite Campus. Once school is in session, no non-school staff (including parents) will be allowed to go to a classroom unaccompanied and pick up a child.

Find more information in the district policy guide, found at www.mmsd.org/policy-guide.