

Firebirds Newsletter

Folwell Community School

3611 20th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55407

Office: 612-668-4550 folwell@mpls.k12.mn.us

Principal's Message

Happy October;

As time moves into Fall, we are getting in the momentum of teaching, learning and caring. Students come to the building with smiling faces and ready to give their best socially, physically and academically. It is a privilege and a joy to partner with you in the success of your children.

September 15th through October 15th is Latino Heritage to recognize the achievements and contributions of Latino Americans who have inspired others to achieve success. We have and will continue to discuss and celebrate these great Americans.

Parent pick-up is improving and busing drop off and departure is getting better.

A reminder about COVID prevention protocol:

- Please wear a mask when any person enters the building
- If your child is sick, please keep them home

Lastly, we are looking for 100% of the educational benefits forms to be filled out by guardians the link is below:

[Titan School Solutions \(titank12.com\)](https://titank12.com) Click the Apply Meal section

You can call the school and have someone help you fill out the form as well.

Lacy Cannon

Application for Educational Benefits

Did you know that all Folwell families should complete the Application for Educational Benefits form regardless of socio-economic status? Information provided on the Application for Educational Benefits:

- generates millions of dollars in funding for Minneapolis Public Schools and our schools, students, and families.
- determines benefits for students and families such as free bus cards and discounted internet service. Please note that due to a federal waiver, all students will receive no cost breakfast and lunch for the entire 2021-2022 school year. **All families are still strongly encouraged to complete an application for their household.**

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Date Oct. 1, 2021
Volume 2021-2022,
Issue # 2

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The Application for Educational Benefits (formerly known as Free and Reduced) can be completed at **TITAN K-12 Family Portal**.

1. Visit **TITAN K-12 Family Portal**, www.family.titank12.com
2. Click on **Apply for Meals Today** (log in not required).
3. Follow the instructions to complete your online application.

If you prefer to complete a paper form, please contact Miriam Maples, Family & Community Liaison at 612-668-4592 or Miriam.maples@mpls.k12.mn.us

An eligibility notice letter will arrive via mail or email within 10 business days.

Paper applications and letters will be also sent out in the mail prior to the start of the school year to every family that has not yet completed the form online.

Additional Information

- This form used to be called the “Free and Reduced Lunch” form
- The income thresholds are higher than in some programs, so many families are surprised to find they DO qualify.
- If you are certain your family does not qualify, you can check “decline benefits” without providing income information.

Folwell Site Council

Want to get involved with your student’s education? Attend the first meeting of the **Folwell Site Council** on **Tuesday, October 12 from 5:30-6:30pm**. Due to COVID-19 concerns this meeting will be held virtually and is open to all Folwell community members. Following this meeting you may apply to join the Council and attend subsequent meetings. Please RSVP to Miriam Maples, Family & Community Liaison at 612-668-4592 or Miriam.maples@mpls.k12.mn.us.

Here is more information about Site Council:

All Minneapolis Public Schools have Site Councils to support site-based decision making to increase academic outcomes for our students. MPS values family and community members as active partners in reviewing funding, policies, practices and programs at our schools. Site Councils are a way that parents and community members can learn what is happening in their school and influence decisions.

It is important for Site Councils to reflect the student population of the schools to ensure a diversity of ideas and input. These are some common activities that Site Councils do to increase student achievement:

- Advise the school principal or site administrator on school-based decisions.
- Review and advise the school staff on the School Improvement Plans (SIP) which outlines specific goals the school will achieve to increase academic outcomes for students.
- Review and help develop the Family Engagement Plan (FEP)
- Review and provide guidance on the use of Title I funds and Compensatory Revenue to ensure it is being used as intended and in a way that increases outcomes.
- Advise the principal on the use of the school budget to ensure that the goals outlined in the SIP are achieved.
- Communicate with the school community about what is happening at Site Council and on other things affecting the school
- Hosting a meeting with the full school community about what is happening at the school and taking in advice and ideas on how to continue to improve outcomes for all students.

Meet Folwell Specialists

My name is **Jane Blackwell** and I am one of the Music instructors for the **1st- 5th grade General/Vocal Music**. I am a native of Huntsville, Alabama. After graduating from Alabama A & M University my teaching career began in Alexandria, Virginia. I have four children and four grandchildren. My favorite out of school activities are bowling and cooking.

I hold a Master's Degree in Teaching and Learning from St. Mary's University in Minnesota. I have been an Adjunct Professor at St. Mary's University. I am honored to serve as a mentor for students from the following local universities and colleges; University of Minnesota, Hamline University, Waldorf College, Northwestern Bible College, St. Olaf, and Metropolitan State University. In 2018 I was recognized and honored as a Teacher Candidate of The Year.

I am presently enrolled at Grand Canyon University working on my Doctorate in Leadership with an Emphasis on Effective Schools. Some of my most remarkable career highlights include conducting the Alexandria Public Schools All-City Chorus in Alexandria, Virginia. I have also directed and led several middle and lower school musical productions and Choral events including invitations to sing the National Anthem for the Minnesota Twins and Timberwolves, collaboration with Sweet Honey and the Rock Organization, student performances with the national group of Up With People and Vocal Essence. I have had the opportunity to be a part of the Learning Through Music program at the Ramsey International Fine Arts Center (Boston Music Consortium/ New England Conservatory) for Integrating the Arts in academic learning

I can be reached at 612-668-6830 or jane.blackwell@mpls.k12.mn.us

My name is **Amy Hager** - students refer to me at Ms. Amy. I am a Board-Certified Music Therapist and provide **Music Therapy** for students in High 5 - 4th grade at Folwell this year. Originally from Wisconsin, I moved to Minneapolis in 2001 and received a degree from the University of MN. When I am not teaching, I write and play music in a few bands, garden and enjoy adventures with my husband and toddler.

During each school day, we will focus on singing, listening, moving, playing, and other creative music activities to help your children become better learners. We will be working on IEP goals, social skills (turn taking, self-expression, communication, etc.), academic skills tied to classroom learning targets, motor skills, and of course, music skills! I look forward to helping your children learn and grow through music!

I can be reached at amy.hager@mpls.k12.mn.us

My name is **Larry Nelson**, and I am an Artist/ Musician, and **Art Teacher** who came to the Twin Cities via a circuitous route going from New Jersey, to Chicago, to Taiwan and ending up here in 1996. My first teaching job was Kindergarten English in Taiwan for 3 years. In addition to teaching part time at Folwell, I have been teaching high school Art at FAIR School for the past 12 years. My studio in the Ivy Building is my special place where I get away to make art and play music. I am so grateful to be back teaching Kindergarten Art, they are so full of inspiration.

I can be reached at lawrence.nelson@mpls.k12.mn.us





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www.twitter.com/MPS_Folwell
www.instagram.com/mps.folwell/

Folwell Community Meet & Greet

Join us on **Thursday, October 7 from 5-6pm** for a Folwell Community Meet & Greet. This event will be held outside on the playground. Meet school administrators and staff, get to know other Folwell families and enjoy the playground before winter arrives. In celebration of **Hispanic Heritage Month**, Mexico Azteca will perform Mexican folkloric dance at 5:30pm. For questions please contact Miriam Maples, Family and Community Liaison at 612-668-4592 or miriam.maples@mpls.k12.mn.us

Now Serving Hot Lunch

Culinary & Wellness Services started serving hot lunch on Monday! New meal prices and menus can be found at, cws.mpls.k12.mn.us. Students' MEALS are still free, but they will have to pay for ala carte entrees and milk. A meal is a government reimbursable meal and must contain three meal components including a full serving of a fruit or vegetable (example; Just a sandwich is an **entree**. Add apples and it's a **meal**). Students will **not** be charged for milk **if** they have a meal but will be charged if they have; milk alone, milk with just fruit or milk with just an entree. In other words, students must have a full meal for their milk to be free. For questions please contact Miriam Maples, Family Liaison at 612-668-4592 or Miriam.maples@mpls.k12.mn.us

Parent Teacher Conferences

Fall conferences will be held on **Tuesday, October 19th from 4-8:15 pm and Wednesday, October 20th from 8:30-11 am and 12-3 pm**. Information about how to sign up will be shared soon. We will be offering a **Flu Shot Clinic** during conferences on October 19, 4-7pm. Look for more information soon.

Upcoming Events/Important Dates

October

7 – Meet & Greet
12 – Site Council Meeting
19 & 20 - Teacher Conferences
21 - State Conference Day
22 - Conference Conversion Day (Flex)

November

4 - First Quarter Ends
5 - Teacher Record Keeping Day
8 - Second Quarter Begins
24-26 - Thanksgiving Holiday

December

20-31 - Winter Recess

January

17 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
27 - Second Quarter Ends
28 - Teacher Record Keeping Day
31 - Third Quarter Begins

February

21 - Presidents Day
22 - Parent Teacher Conferences

March

31 - Third Quarter Ends

April

1 - Teacher Record Keeping Day
4-8 - Spring Break
11 - Fourth Quarter Begins

May

30 - Memorial Day

June

10 - Last Day for Pre-K-12
13-14 - Possible Make up days
15 - Teacher Record Keeping Day

June 20-July 28 - Summer school (Fridays off)

