

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 Second Week of School;

We are grateful for a completed second week of school; seeing students was the delight of each morning and throughout each of the two weeks. Our construction is complete, and the new main office is available. For the past two weeks, we have focused on building relationships with students. As we strengthen our relationships with students, academic instruction and learning becomes seamless.

Areas of reflection are the process for parent pick-up and afterschool busing. Our objective is how we can do better. We appreciate your patience as we adjust and make improvements.

A few reminders about transportation and pick up:

- Any transportation changes need to be called into the front office by 12:00pm
- There is a shortage of drivers, bus pick up and drop off will be delayed
- We are creating ID cards for students to be placed on their backpacks

A reminder about the COVID prevention protocol:

- Please wear a mask whenever entering the building
- If your child is sick, please keep them home

Thanks again,

Lacy Cannon

Here Comes The Bus (HCTB)

[Here Comes The Bus](#) (HCTB) allows parents to view the location of their child's school bus on a computer, tablet or smartphone.

Here Comes The Bus is an easy-to-use website and mobile device app that allows parents to view the location of their child's school bus. Parents and caregivers can receive email alerts and push notifications when the bus enters a notification radius as set by the parent.

With Here Comes The Bus, parents will be able to:

- Locate the child's bus before and after school
- Receive a notification when the bus is located near the stop
- Confirm the child's bus has arrived at school and at the bus stop

Here Comes The Bus tracks all yellow school buses on to and from school routes and afterschool activities routes to a student's primary pick up / drop off location (such as a home address). Minneapolis Public Schools requests that students are waiting at their assigned bus stop **5 minutes prior** to their scheduled pick up time to support an efficient transportation system.

Date Sept. 17, 2021
Volume 2021-2022,
Issue # 1

Inside this issue:

COVID-19 Updates	2
Health Office Request	2
Free Weekend Food	2
After School	2
Meet Folwell Staff	3
Important Dates	4

COVID-19 Updates

ILLNESS- To keep our Folwell community safe we are asking that families do a daily health screening to make sure students are well enough to be at school. If your child has ANY symptoms of illness please keep them home and notify the school they will be gone due to symptoms of illness and we will excuse them. If you are ever not sure whether to keep your student home, please contact the health office at 612-668-4558.

For any known case of COVID-19, the school health office and administration will be working with the Department of Health to identify close contacts in the building. Parents will be notified if their student is a close contact and will need to quarantine.

TESTING- The Minnesota Department of Health recommends regular testing for ALL students returning to school (but not required). We have many COVID-19 test kits available for students and families at Folwell. If you are interested in getting a test kit for your student please contact the health office at 612-668-4558 or Rachael.popp@mpls.k12.mn.us. Otherwise there are many testing locations around the area. For more information about testing/testing locations please see- <https://mn.gov/covid19/get-tested/>.

VACCINES- Although our students are not able to get vaccinated for COVID-19 yet, it is still very important for all eligible members of our Folwell community to get vaccinated to help stop the spread. For more information about the COVID-19 vaccine and information about the safety of the vaccine please visit <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/basics.html#safe>.

For those interested in getting vaccinated you can find your free vaccine here- <https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/find-vaccine/locations/index.jsp>.

For more information about COVID-19 protocol being followed at school please visit https://mpls.k12.mn.us/covid_safety.

Health Office Request

If your child is in K-2, please consider sending a change of clothing with your child. These clothes can be stored in the child's locker and used when primary clothes become wet or soiled.

Free Weekend Food

Again, this year Folwell will be participating in the Every Meal (formerly Sheridan Story) Free Weekend Food program. Families can sign up to receive a free bag of food every Friday. There are no qualification requirements and your family's privacy is protected. Families may select from five different bag types including; East African, Latino and Southeast Asian. If you would like to participate in this program, please complete the form in the attached Every Meal brochure and return to school. We expect food delivery to start in early October.

Questions? Contact: miriam.maples@mpls.k12.mn.us or 612.668.4592

Join Us in After School at Folwell

Make new friends and learn something new in classes like GEMS/GISE Robotics, dance, sports, arts & crafts, and more! Classes will begin the week of October 11th. To complete the online registration, scan the QR code or visit [this website](#). A paper registration will be sent home with students, as well. Class sizes are limited, a letters with students' schedules will be sent home to confirm enrollment. Questions? Contact alicia.robey@mpls.k12.mn.us or 612.668.4590



Meet Folwell Staff

My name is **Abdullahi Aden** and I have my dream job at Folwell. I am the **Bilingual School Counselor** for K-3-5th graders. I was born in Somalia and grew up there until the age of 14 when the civil war broke out. I fled to Kenya with my family, and I became a refugee there. I lived in a refugee camp until I got the opportunity to move to the U.S in 2001. I attended college at MCTC for my Associates degree and Metro State University for my bachelor's degree in business. I received my master's degree in school counseling from the University of Wisconsin, River Falls. Prior to joining Folwell I worked at Armatage elementary for 8 years as a Bilingual Program Assistant. I live with my wife and four young children in Apple Valley.



In both my personal and professional life advocating, educating, and fighting for equity and justice is at my core. I am constantly growing and learning how to confront and challenge not only others' biases and privilege, but also my own. I believe as educators it is our responsibility to provide the time and space for our kids to learn and talk about race, identity, acceptance, and tolerance. We have a lot of work to do and all of our kids deserve a chance so that our systems don't just work for some students, but all students. I strive to help your children in three broad Domains; academic, career, & social emotional development.

I can be reached at 612-668-4561 or Abdullahi.Aden@mpls.k12.mn.us

My name is **Miriam Maples** and I am your **Family & Community Liaison**. This is my first year at Folwell and I'm looking forward to getting to know your family. My roles will include facilitating communication between families and school staff, supporting family involvement in children's education, assisting families with accessing community resources and hosting family events. I would love to meet you so please stop by the Family Engagement Space in room 154.



I can be reached at 612-668-4592 or Miriam.maples@mpls.k12.mn.us

My name is **Rachael Popp**, this is my second year as **School Nurse** at Fowell. I'm happy to be back! In the Folwell Health Office we work with students, families and staff to ensure the safety and wellbeing of ALL students. Healthy students make for better learners. For any concerns about your student's health, safety or wellbeing at school please contact the Folwell Health Office. This includes any need for medication (as needed and/or daily) or specialized treatments at school. I am also part of the COVID-19 safety team at Folwell, for any concerns about COVID-19 please reach out as well. I look forward to working with you and your wonderful students this year!

I can be reached at 612-668-4558 (main phone) or 507-312-9669 (can text this number) or Rachael.popp@mpls.k12.mn.us

Application for Educational Benefits



3611 20th Avenue S
Minneapolis, MN 55407

Mr. Lacy Cannon, Principal
Ms. Kimberly Enck, Assistant
Principal
Mr. Barry Wadsworth, Admin TOSA

Phone: 612.668.4550
Fax: 612.668.4560
E-mail: folwell@mpls.k12.mn.us

Website:

<https://folwell.mpls.k12.mn.us>

Miriam Maples, Family Liaison
612.668.4592
Family Engagement Space-Room 154

Follow us on Social Media!

www.facebook.com/MPS.Folwell
www.twitter.com/MPS_Folwell
www.instagram.com/mps.folwell/

Information provided on Applications 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.**

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.

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.

Upcoming Events/Important Dates

October

20 - Parent 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)

