

Newsletter

April 4, 2024

WHAT'S IN THIS NEWSLETTER?

- **Updates** - Survey, Gala, Spring Sports, DC Trip Meeting
- **Sign-ups** - Lunch Volunteers, New HS Hoodies
- **Profile of the Week** - Shannon Baker, Elementary Academic Coordinator



2024 SPRING SURVEY

We are committed to providing the best possible educational experience for our students! Each year, we conduct a survey to gather feedback from our families. Your responses play a crucial role in shaping our decisions as a leadership team and governing school board.

Would you take 5 minutes to complete this anonymous survey? Your honest feedback allows us to identify areas where we excel and areas where we can improve. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our school community.

TAKE SURVEY

IMPORTANT DATES

April 26 - NO SCHOOL

May 4 - HS Prom

May 10 - Spring Fling Dance Party (4-8 Grade)

May 17 - Spring Carnival

May 27 - Memorial Day (NO SCHOOL)

May 31 - Senior Kayak Trip

June 4 - FIT Graduation, 5pm

**K-8 APRIL LUNCH
MENU**

**9-12 APRIL LUNCH
MENU**



FIT ACADEMY AUTHORIZER REVIEW

Charter schools in Minnesota contract with an authorizer, as required by law, to oversee and evaluate the school. FIT Academy's authorizer is **Volunteers of America**.

We are very pleased to announce that our school scored 85% overall for this past year! A score of 70% is a passing score and 80% is considered excellent. As part of this evaluation process, VOA evaluated FIT Academy in the areas of Academic Achievement, Fiscal Management, and Organization (management and governance); and we received perfect scores in both management and governance!



SPRING GALA CANCELLED

Unfortunately, the Hollywood themed Spring Gala has been **cancelled** due to a scheduling conflict with Bogarts Entertainment Center. We apologize for the inconvenience this change in plans may have caused.

After receiving this news, we immediately began to regroup. We know that our FIT community enjoys these events, and we love that these fundraising events support our school! We are crafting a plan for a fundraiser later this Spring. Details will be announced once the plan has been finalized!



MCA TESTING SCHEDULE

April 8-12 - MCAs for 6th-8th & 10-11th grade
 April 15-19 - MCAs for 3rd-6th, 8th grade
 April 16 - ACT for 11th grade
 April 22-25 - MCAs for 3rd-5th grade



FOCUS: WORD OF THE MONTH

For the month of April, our character focus will be **FOCUS**.

The word *focus*, as a noun, has the definition of being "the center of interest or activity;" and, as a verb, its definition is to "pay particular attention to." Now with Spring Break in our rearview mirror we head into April being fully aware that our focus will revolve around MCA testing. Measuring what and how well students learn is an important building block in the process of strengthening and improving schools. Testing results can provide schools additional guidance in the decisions around curriculum and instruction. So it is very important that students focus on doing their best when MCA tests present themselves each spring.

I would like to offer a reminders that we, the supporting adults of these testing students, can use to encourage them. I would argue that these reminders or ideas should be part of their/our lifestyles and not just a "focus" heading into testing; however, crowding in a couple of these ideas could certainly have a positive impact on your child this testing season.

- Drink plenty of water
- Eat nutritious foods
- Move your body and get extra fresh air
- Sleep - be consistent with bedtimes and wake up times
- Play memory and strategy games.
- Encourage art and creativity to ensure left and right brain areas are both engaged!
- Offer your curiosity about their tests - Ask your students casually about the tests, when they are, what subject, how they went for them. Put children at ease by discussing your own experiences with taking tests. Stress the importance of listening to test directions and following them carefully. Provide practice activities at home such as following a recipe or reading and answering questions about a story.

These are just a few ideas and reminders that just might not only make a difference in a student's testing experience, but offer them overall health benefits that will perhaps stick with them outside this focus on the spring testing window.



MUSIC SURVEY

Our music teachers Mr. Paul and Ms. Lopez would like to survey our families about your interest in after-school music opportunities. Please complete the survey below to help them as they create a plan for this new opportunity!

[Click to take the Music Survey](#)



PROFILE OF THE WEEK

Shannon Baker, Elementary Academic Coordinator

With 18 years of teaching experience as well as a bachelor's and master's degree in Elementary Education, we are privileged to have Mrs. Shannon Baker as our Elementary Coordinator! She has been with FIT Academy since it opened, and she taught 2nd and 3rd grade during the first few years. For the past 5 years, she has also served on the FIT board as a teacher representative.

Mrs. Baker's day typically starts with making sure carpool and breakfast go well, and she also assists our substitute teachers with anything they may need before the school day starts.

"One thing I love about this new position as Elementary Coordinator is that every day is different! I am able to help in all areas (testing, data, schedules, curriculum, professional development for staff). And I love hearing, 'Hi, Mrs. Baker!' from students as I see them throughout the day." Mrs. Baker mentioned her position gives her the chance to watch students making progress all over the school, and she loves being able to cheer on the students and teachers as she sees these great things happening!

"I enjoy the ability to use my experience to coach and help teachers across all experience levels in areas such as classroom organization and management, curriculum development, and general classroom concerns that may require an outside perspective."

Outside of school, she loves to spend time with her family and friends--especially playing games together. You should ask her about her favorite games the next time you see her! She is married and has 3 children. And one of her favorite places to vacation is enjoying the sun and fun on a Caribbean cruise!

Thank you, Mrs. Baker, for all the ways you support our students and teachers. You serve everyone so well! We are grateful for the experience and wisdom you bring to your position.



NEW SPORTS CO-OP

Exciting News About a Sports Co-op for FIT Academy!

Randolph Schools and FIT Academy have agreed to a full sports co-op beginning in the fall of 2024! Randolph, located about 30 minutes away, has very strong sports programs. Several of their high school teams have participated in state tournaments in recent years! This co-op will involve all high school sports and some middle school sports. *Look for further communication from Mr. Cassidy, including information about Fall sports!*



SPRING SEASON INFO

Middle School Volleyball: Our team is undefeated this season!! They had a double-header against Yingua yesterday.

[April volleyball schedule.](#)

Flag Football: Spring Flag Football is well under way! We practice every Monday and Wednesday after school. There are currently 17 players and 7 are girls. Our first game will be on Thursday, April 25th. Coach Jeske and Coach Vang have been working on fundamentals during indoor practices. Our first anticipated outdoors practices begin this week!

[April Football Schedule](#)

[May Football Schedule](#)

High School Golf: Practices continue at Valleywood and Birnamwood.

Clay Target: Practices started this week.



WASHINGTON, D.C. TRIP

On **Wednesday April 17th at 4pm in Room 201**, we will have the final meeting about the Washington, D.C. trip. **This meeting is required and only for the parents/students who are already signed up.** We will be going over important travel information including flights, where we will be meeting, pack list, and the final agenda for the trip. We are excited about this trip! See you on April 17th in **Room 201**.

Please make your final payment



HIGH SCHOOL ORIENTATION

Mr. Allaire and our secondary coordinator Mrs. Halama have recorded an introduction and orientation to next year's high school program. You can view the orientation here and email any questions to Mrs. Halama at ahalama@fitacademymn.org or Mr. Allaire at callaire@fitacademymn.org.

[WATCH VIDEO!](#)



NEW HS HOODIE!

We now have a new high school hoodie available for sale! The fabric is Sport-tek, and the pattern is blue/black camohex. You can order through the SchoolBelles website.

School Code is s3052

Cost is \$35

Sweatshirts are listed under Spirit/School Wear



CALL FOR BOARD NOMINATIONS

On Wednesday, May 15, we will elect members to our FIT Academy Governing Board, and we need your nominations! This Board governs and oversees the school.

Minnesota law requires that charter school boards include at least 5 members who are not related. Members must include at least one of the school's licensed teachers; a parent or legal guardian of a student enrolled at the school; and an interested community member. In addition, members cannot have conflicting interests with the school.

Our school board is currently 7 members strong. For this election, the ideal board composition to be seated is no less than 5, and no more than 7. There can be no group majority on a school board.

We will have the following vacancies this election:

- 1 Parent Seat
- 1 Teacher Seat
- 1 Community Seat
- 1 Other (the next highest vote recipient from any of the three groups)

New board members will begin their terms in June 2024.



LUNCH VOLUNTEERS!

We would love for you to volunteer in our lunch room! It's a fun way to connect with your kids and other students. You will help students open milk and lunch items as well as clean the tables after each lunch period. Click to sign up!

SIGN UP TO
VOLUNTEER



HEALTH REMINDER

We want to remind parents to keep your children home from school when they are ill. As a refresher, **school policy requires students to stay at home if they have had a fever or vomitted in the last 24 hours.**



AFTER-SCHOOL CARE

We offer after-school care again this year from 2:45 pm to 5:00 pm. Open to students in grades K-5. You must enroll by Wednesday, if you plan to use after school care the following week. If you have questions, please email [Jen Iten at jiten@fitacademymn.org](mailto:jiten@fitacademymn.org).

REGISTRATION FORM



Would you considered leaving our school a review?
Your perspective could be helpful in leading other families to our school. Just click above!



We want to invite everyone to join our 2
Facebook groups!
[FIT Academy](#)
[FIT Academy Families](#)

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