

A Message from the Principal

Welcome Back to School!

As always, ensuring that all Falcon Creek students and adults feel safe physically, psychologically, and emotionally is my top priority as your Principal. Falcon Creek continues to be a PBIS School (*Positive Behavior Intervention and Support*), and we have many programs scheduled throughout the school year to reinforce safety. “No Place for Hate” will continue to be part of our school-wide efforts for bully prevention. This will be our school’s fourth year of participation towards teaching understanding and empathy towards others. 8th grade students participated in training over the summer, and they will be rolling out activities such as signing a pledge of resolution, displaying empathy through sidewalk chalk art, and teaching students to be “up-standers”, by calling out bullies and bullying behavior wherever they see it. Throughout the months of September and October, our School Resource Officer, Deputy Kim Schell, will be in classrooms to promote curriculum focused on students becoming positive digital citizens. In November, our counselors and mental health professionals will be visiting classrooms where students will receive instruction in identifying signs of depression, self-injury, and suicide in themselves and others. Most importantly, they will be trained in how to respond appropriately. We will continue to implement quarterly Deans’ Talks with all our students as a reminder of the importance of following school rules and School District Policies.



Falcon Creek teachers and staff believe in recognizing students who demonstrate the characteristics of **Safety, Organization, Achievement, and Respect (SOAR)**. Any student can receive a Falcon Feather for being caught doing something the represents (**SOAR**). Every Friday, Falcon Feathers are drawn, and those students receive school-wide recognition and a candy bar. Monthly, a student is additionally recognized with a piece of spirit-wear clothing. We recognize outstanding student contributions through quarterly assemblies, Veterans Day, Red Ribbon Week, Honor Roll, Aurora Scholars Program, and the 8th Grade Awards program, just to name a few!

Something new to Falcon Creek this year is the **ICAP** and **NAVIANCE**. **ICAP** is the **Individual Career and Academic Plan** that will now begin in middle school and follow your child throughout high school. **NAVIANCE** is the digital platform that students will use to help steer their planning and decision making. Goal setting, career exploration, and high school readiness are important themes that students will learn through the ICAP process. You will be hearing more about this in the coming weeks.

The Falcon Creek 2nd Annual Color Fun Run is right around the corner. I am expecting lots of parent support and student participation in our one and only PTCO fundraiser. This fundraiser makes available NEST Grants for additional learning experiences, resources, materials, facility improvements and opportunities that impact our teachers and our students. Thanks to all of you, in advance, for contributing to such an important endeavor. Our FCMS Color Fun Run will take place October 13, 2017, and more information will be coming within the next few weeks.

In closing, thank you so much for the honor of serving as your Principal. Falcon Creek Middle School continues to be an incredibly close community of parents, teachers, and staff who work together to support all of our students.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa B. Ruiz".

Lisa B. Ruiz, Principal

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