Good Day Parents, Grandparents, Relatives and Caretakers of Our Forest Heights Mighty Wise Owls, we are excited to begin the 2021-2022 School Year.

**We are Back at 200 Talbert Drive !!!!!**

Here are some **Glows:**

- Close to 80% of our Kindergarten Students scored in the Proficient or Advanced ranges on the Benchmark Mathematics Assessment.
- We provided and will continue to provide our scholars and families with enrichment opportunities in the areas of personal health and wellness, STEAM exploration and academic support
- We will continue to seek out new Partners in Education to provide meaningful learning opportunities for the Mighty Wise Owl Community.

There remains a few areas where WE **must** show **Growth:**

- We MUST do everything in our power to increase our attendance to 94% or above
- Find ways in which to establish monitoring of work and progress once students leave the schoolhouse.
- We **MUST** continue to engage OUR Forest Heights families in the teaching and learning process in order for OUR scholars and OUR school to be more successful.

With all of this in mind, we are poised to move forward this school year with high expectations for ALL. Here are some points to review prior to the opening of school on Wednesday, September 8th. There will be three activities prior to the first day of school for students. Please read this section very carefully:

- **Mock Day Student Orientation Grades – PreK, Kindergarten & 1st Grade - Friday, September 3, 2021 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**
- **Back to the Owl’s (Back to School Night) Thursday, September 23, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.**

**Student Arrival & Breakfast & Arrival Time:** Students should not be dropped off prior to 7:20 a.m. Breakfast will be provided in the multi-purpose room from 7:30 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. School Instructional hours are from 7:50 a.m. to 1:55 p.m. EVERYDAY. On days when there is inclement weather (cold, rain, snow, wind) students will be allowed to enter the multi-purpose room upon arrival. At all other times, students will line up in front of the building, in an orderly fashion by grade level and be called into the building. **Students arriving after 7:50 a.m. must obtain a tardy pass from the front office.** Please note: All Students will receive a daily breakfast, lunch and a pre-packed after school supper meal to take home.

**Late Arrivals/Early Dismissal:** Students are expected to arrive on time and remain until the end of the Instructional Day. Chronic tardiness to school is a detriment to the Instructional Day, as well as a personal loss of Instructional time by OUR students. We ask that unless you or your child has an appointment, you should make every effort to see that your **Striving Scholar** comes to school at the start of the Instructional Day. This same philosophy holds true for early dismissal. Students should remain in school for the entire Instructional Day, and only be dismissed early for medical appointments or family emergencies. **Early Dismissal will end at 1:25 pm. NO EXCEPTIONS.**
Student Dismissal Times:  Student’s regular dismissal will commence at 1:55 p.m.  ALL students being picked up as car riders from school will be called after OUR bus riders, van riders and walkers.  Although we do understand that changes occur, we ask that you be consistent and if and when a change in the mode/destination occurs you notify the front office and your child’s homeroom teacher in WRITING. We have identified 4 groups of students for dismissal:

- Van Riders
- Bus Riders
- Walkers
- Car Riders

We are understanding and are empathetic when emergencies occur, however, students who are not picked up by 2:30 pm on a recurring basis could be subject to Forest Heights Police Department, Prince George’s County Police or Child Protective Services being notified. Remember we do not offer before and or after care.

UNIFORMS

Forest Heights Elementary School has a Mandatory school uniform policy.  Students are to be dressed in accordingly:

Young Ladies
Navy Blue Khaki pants, a skirt, jumpers or shorts
Light Blue short or long sleeve polo shirt

Young Men
Navy Blue Khaki pants or shorts
Light Blue short or long sleeve polo shirt
Belts are to be worn (Black or Navy)

PARENT CLASSROOM VISITS/VOLUNTEERISM:  Parents are Always welcomed at Forest Heights Elementary School. With that said, we must take on the responsibility of knowing our roles and “staying in our lanes”. Classroom visits give parents and guardians the opportunity to become familiar with the instructional delivery of teachers while observing “your” child’s learning and interaction with others. It is not an opportunity to engage teachers or other instructional staff in “sidebar” conversations, have mini-conferences., or, challenge, speak to other children. We ask that if you do plan to visit the classroom, you contact your child’s teacher in advance as a courtesy to make sure there is no testing or special programming planned for that day. Volunteers are also welcomed to Forest Heights Elementary School. If you would like to work with students in small groups, read with students, assist with bulletin board construction, or photocopy or help beautify the school’s surroundings, please feel free to Ms. Josephine Adutwum, our Community Schools Coordinator. ALL Volunteers MUST have either a fingerprint or background check receipt from Prince George’s County Public School System on file with Forest Heights Elementary School. This especially holds true for Field Trip Chaperoning

WE believe that with some of these minor adjustments, we can move forward and build upon a school culture of nurturing, character building, shared values, and mutual respect for all involved. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 301.749.4220. MAKE IT A GREAT SCHOOL YEAR ON PURPOSE!!!!!

Respectfully,

Pete Thompson, Ed D., Principal