

Smoke Signals



From the Principal's Desk

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year. I hope you have enjoyed your summer break and that you are ready for a successful school year. I look forward to another year working with the finest students in Sumter School District. **Our new school hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

We believe all of our students are able to learn at the highest level. Students, I ask that you come to school eager to learn and willing to work with our teachers and staff in order to reach your potential. Your teachers are prepared to assist you in your journey as you strive to reach your academic, social and athletic goals. If we work as a team, we can accomplish anything.

Parents, you are a vital part of your child's success at Furman Middle. Please feel confident that your child is receiving the best educational opportunities that are available. We also want you to feel comfortable being a part of the school and invite you to visit the campus as much as possible. Please take advantage of every opportunity to participate in your child's education. We encourage you to join our Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) and our School Improvement Council (SIC). We also encourage you to regularly communicate with your child's teachers and administrators. I have an open door policy and invite you to stop by any time.

The mission of Furman Middle School is to provide challenging opportunities for all students to be successful through standards-based instruction. It is our belief that each parent and child is a valuable member of the Furman community.

I look forward to working with you this year!

Michael Riggins, Principal

August/September 2017

Sumter School District
 Furman Middle School
 1345 Wilson Hall Rd.
 Sumter, SC 29150
 (803) 481-8519
 Michael Riggins, Principal
michael.riggins@sumterschools.net

School-wide Fundraiser!!

Begins September 12th
 Ends September 26th



Looking Ahead...

Mission Statement

The mission of Furman Middle School is to provide a comprehensive, innovative, rigorous standards-based education utilizing technology and project-based learning in order to prepare students to be competitive in an ever-changing global society, as well as meet the needs of the students, community and society.

Vision Statement

The vision of Furman Middle School is to create a technology rich and project-based learning environment where education encourages teachers and students to build a learning bridge between the classroom and 21st century.



Mark your calendars

2017-2018

New School Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.



August	18	6th Grade Camp & Orientation 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Orientation - 7th Grade - 10:30 a.m. 8th Grade - 11:15 a.m. (The bookkeeper will be available for you to pay fees)
	21	1st day of school - Early Dismissal at 11:30 a.m.
September	4	Labor Day Holiday - No School
	12	School Fundraiser Begins
	14	National Anthem Project - Patriot Hall 7:00 p.m.
	18	Picture Day
	20	Interims Issued
	26	School Fundraiser Ends

October

- 18 Make-Up Picture Day
- 19 WorkDay/In-service Day
- 23 Red Ribbon Week Begins
- 24 1st Quarter Ends
- 25 2nd Quarter Begins

November

- 2 Report Cards Issued
- 9 Veterans Day Holiday
- 20 Thanksgiving Holidays Begin
- 27 School Resumes

Important Information



Drop-off & Pick-Up Procedures

Morning Student Drop-off: Parents dropping students off in the mornings should turn left toward the bus parking lot and enter the fenced area. Students **must** remain in their vehicle until **the bell rings at 8:00 a.m.** School personnel will serve as the crossing guard for students and will escort them to the building. Morning drop-off is in front of the school **after 8:30 a.m.**

Afternoon Student Pick-up: Please use the same entrance as the morning drop-off and turn left toward the bus parking lot and enter the fenced area. To help ensure safety, do not pull up and park on the paved area by the bus shed, and **DO NOT allow others to get out of the car while waiting for your child/ren to be dismissed from school.** Please wait for the direction of our staff before moving your vehicle because other students may be walking between cars. Thanks for helping us keep all students safe. **Also, be reminded that all students must be picked up no later than 4:00 p.m. Parents will be notified by letter if students are continuously picked up after 4:00 p.m. Emergencies do happen, so please notify the office staff if you have an unforeseen emergency.**

Bus students are dropped off and picked up in the back of the school. They are dismissed when their bus arrives.

The Indian Cafe`



All students will receive free breakfast and lunch!



Students are required to dress appropriately for P.E. classes. PE Uniforms may be ordered and purchased through the PE Department for \$20.00 per set. PE uniforms must consist of a gray t-shirt and purple shorts. The shorts must not be any shorter than the width of a dollar bill from the top of the kneecap. The t-shirt and shorts must not be excessively tight fitting.

No Shots - No School!

By law, students must have the required immunizations to attend school. Please take care of this responsibility before school starts so that your child's academic progress is not hindered.



Your Child Must Have:

1. Hepatitis B shots to go into 7th, 8th, and 9th grade.
2. A second Measles shot is required for all students (Kindergarten through 12th grade). Please call your family doctor for more information. If you do not have a family doctor, call your local Health Department.

Health: NEW RULE for School

ALL seventh graders are **REQUIRED** to get the Tdap vaccine to protect them against whooping cough (pertussis). Students who haven't had a Tdap vaccination may not be allowed to attend school.



Attendance Information

Your student's attendance at school is very important. The school day begins at 8:30 a.m. After the first bell rings, students should be in class before the tardy bell rings at 8:30 a.m. The last bell rings at 3:30 p.m.. A student who arrives late or leaves early is missing important instructional time. Students who arrive late more than three times will be given an unexcused tardy and will be referred for discipline. Students should leave early only if they are sick, have a medical appointment, or a family emergency (such as a death or hospitalization). Excuses will be required for the above reasons upon the student's return. Please be reminded that students must be marked present in every class, every day to qualify for perfect attendance recognition.

PowerSchool Parent Portal

Powerschool will provide you electronic access to your child's grades, attendance, and homework. The PowerSchool Parent Acceptable Use Policy, Parent Access Request Form, and additional information is available in our guidance office.

EduLink System

EduLink is an automated telephone notification system that will be used weekly to remind and inform you of upcoming events and important information. It is **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT** that we have a current working telephone number on file.



Purpose-In order to improve discipline, reduce violence, encourage attendance and enhance the learning environment, the board will allow district schools to have a student uniform program. Schools that decide or are mandated (Furman, Ebenezer and Hillcrest Middle Schools) to participate in the school uniform program will follow these guidelines.

2017 - 2018 Mandatory School Uniform Policy - See District Policy JICA

Bottoms: Solid unadorned Khaki (**Tan**) or Black colored pants, skirts, shorts, skorts, and jumpers (appropriately sized) jeans or jean material pants are prohibited.

Tops: Solid White or Navy Blue oxford, polo shirts or turtle necks (long or short sleeves) are required. A manufactured logo is allowed as long as it is no larger than a quarter (25 cents). Nothing is to be on the back, across the front of the shirt or on the sleeves. Shirts must be appropriately buttoned and tucked.

Belts: Solid unadorned Black, White, or shades of Brown belts are preferred. However, the color of the belts is at the discretion of the parent or legal guardian. Belts must be worn in garments with belt loops.

Shoes: Black, White, or shades of Brown shoes are preferred. However, the color of the shoes is at the discretion of the parent or legal guardian. Students cannot wear sandals, open-toed shoes, or toe shoes.

Tights, Hosiery and Socks: Students are permitted to wear colors of choice. Leggings and jeggings are prohibited.

Visible undergarments, such as t-shirts, are at the discretion of the parent or legal guardian. Nothing is to be on the back, across the front of the shirt or on the sleeves.

Outerwear: Jackets, blazers, vests, or sweaters must be full length solid White, Navy Blue, Black, or Brown with no writing other than the emblem. However, no large emblems are permitted. No pullovers or hoodies are allowed. Any outerwear garment that prevents the ability to see the entire uniform shirt is prohibited. **Non-uniform outerwear must be placed in lockers and is prohibited during the school day.**

Disciplinary Actions:

1st Offense: Warning - A documented phone call to a parent by a staff member.

2nd and Subsequent Offense will be handled according to Sumter School District Code of Conduct.

*District dress code still applies.

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Sumter School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age admission to, treatment in, or employment in its programs and activities. For inquiries regarding the policy, contact the Assistant Superintendent of Personnel Office or the Director of Specialized Programs, Sumter School District, 1345 Wilson Hall Road, Sumter, SC 29150 or call 803-469-6900.



Sumter School District

School Supply List 2017-2018

Note: These are only general supplies. Individual teachers will give a supply list that is very specific on the first day of school when schedules are issued. Only paper and pencils will be necessary for the first day of school.

6th, 7th & 8th Grades

3 Ring Binders - 1-1½"
Pocket folders with prongs
1 Pack - Blue or black pens
1 Pack - #2 pencils
1 Pack - color pencils
Loose-leaf notebook paper - 500 sheets
Graph paper - pack of 50 sheets
Highlighters
Glue Stick

Volunteers

You Can Make A Difference In The Life Of A Student!

Furman Middle School Volunteers serve as the coordinating link between the community and Furman Middle School. Matching the needs of students and teachers with volunteers not only gives our volunteers a vested interest in our school/community, but it is an integral part of the educational process.

For more information about volunteering, please call Ms. Tindal/Ms. Mitchell at 481-8519, extension 104.

Locker Fees

The locker rental fee is \$5.00. All students must rent a locker. Sharing lockers is not permitted. Students should keep their lockers clean and organized and **should not share their combination with others**. The replacement fee for a lost/damaged lock is \$5.00.

Agendas

Agendas will be used as a means of communicating with parents and must be used as a hall pass for students during the school day. The replacement fee for an agenda is \$5.00.

IDs

School issued student IDs must be worn around the student's neck the entire school day. The replacement fee for IDs is \$3.00 and Lanyards is \$1.00.