



Frank Augustus Miller Middle School
17925 Krameria Ave. • Riverside, CA 92504 • (951) 789-8181



Macaw Messages

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Main Office
789-8181
Attendance Office
789-8181
Ext. 57140



Mrs. Cheryl Simmons, Principal
Mr. Mark Shaw, Assistant Principal
Mrs. Elisabeth Sanchez, Counselor A - F
Ms. Erin Tavaglione, Counselor G - N
Mr. Michael Toner, Counselor O - Z
Mrs. Vanessa Hurtado, SAP Counselor

A Message from the Principal

As we approach the beginning of second semester, I want to share FAMMtastic news about the California Dashboard and student engagement levels at Miller. The **California School Dashboard** is the new system that provides overviews of student performance across several state indicators. The information compares two years of performance: status (prior year) and how the school changes the following year. Performance is measured by achievement and growth. The Dashboard released in December included information in four areas: English Language Arts, Mathematics, English Learner Progress, and Suspension Rate. I am proud to share the dashboard data for Frank Augustus Miller:

English Language Arts:
High: 10 - 45 pts. above medium
Mathematics:
High: -5 - 35 pts. above medium
English Learner Progress:
Very High: 85% or greater
Suspension Rate:
Medium: Greater than 2% - 8%

When the Dashboard becomes fully realized in the future, there will be six more indicators added to the four above. The future indicators will be chronic absenteeism, graduation rate, and four local indicators including parent engagement, local climate

survey, implementation of academic standards, and basics (teachers, instructional materials, and facilities).

Another method for measuring a quality education is the engagement of our students. As part of Riverside Unified School Districts' core value to enhance the well-being of students, we utilize a survey from Gallup to determine the level of engagement. Engagement is defined as the involvement in and enthusiasm for school. Engaged students are more committed, productive, and efficient than their disengaged peers.

In the United States, the average percentage of students fully engaged is 52%. Miller students exceed the average by 15% or a 67% engagement level! Engaged students are more likely to excel academically and connect to school through extra-curricular activities. In order to generate the survey results, students use a 1 – 5 scale to rate statements such as: At this school, I get to do what I do best every day; I feel safe in this school; In the last seven days, someone told me I have done good work at school; I have at least one teacher who makes me excited about the future.

Miller students score far above nationwide norms for high

levels of engagement. The qualities of Frank Augustus Miller Middle School that lead to engagement can be crystallized into these words:

Collaborative, Committed, Caring, and Connected (C⁴). Miller is a **collaborative** community as demonstrated by students and staff participating in our One Book, One School reading of *Wonder*. Miller is a **committed** community as seen in the level of dedication of each student and staff member who gives of their time, energy, talent and goes above and beyond. Miller is a **caring** community as embodied in the three school rules: Take care of yourself; Take care of each other; Take care of the school - bringing us together as FAMMily. Miller is a **connected** community represented through service that is given by each member of the school. Collaborative, committed, caring, connected students and staff members take ownership and create the essence of what Miller is today.

Thank you for choosing to educate your student at Frank Augustus Miller Middle School. I am honored to serve as your principal.

Sincerely,
Cheryl A. Simmons
Cheryl A. Simmons
Principal



“Success is not a destination to travel to but an attitude to travel with.”

A Message from the Assistant Principal

Greetings to all! I hope this message finds you and our Frank Augustus Miller Middle School community happy, healthy, and thriving. During this time of year we often take stock in checking into our personal goals as we embark on a new year. These goals are many and varied no doubt, yet my hope for our community is that they involve strong health and wellness for you all. Here at Miller we emphasize that our students connect with our academic program and participate in extra-curricular activities. The FAMMS staff is dedicated to the service of assisting our students with connecting with a healthy environment, progressing in their learning, and thriving in their general well-being. We see evidence each day that our students and staff embrace the notion that “success is not a destination to travel to but an attitude to travel with.” In my many years working in RUSD and serving at our schools I have often been heard to

say that great schools are not so due to their buildings and general appearance. What makes our schools great are the people that fill them. I am both honored and proud to report that Frank Augustus Miller Middle School is a great school simply because it is filled with great people such as your children, the incredible Miller Staff, and importantly, you! The effort our parents and guardians put in for their kids is amazing. This reveals itself each day at school with regard to the outstanding effort your sons and daughters bring to our community. We are proud of them and you should be as well!

Their personal successes may be both great and powerful, or minor steps in that direction. Truth be told, one thing is for certain; they are not perfect and neither are we! In this season of new beginnings we are reminded that the measure of our character rests in the strength of our

resolve to never give up, to persevere, to persist and yield to the natural gravity of our great school that we can learn, grow, and thrive in our well-being. We are comforted in the knowledge that we will all make mistakes and have the opportunity to learn from them. I am encouraged that your sons and daughters are courageous enough to risk making mistakes. This is how we learn and grow! We expect our students to embrace their true nature and remain as ever the great people that they are. I look forward to serving them in the New Year and enjoying their many successes each and every day; one mistake at a time!

Sincerely,

Mark Shaw
Assistant Principal
mshaw@rusd.k12.ca.us



School Spirit Days

Don't forget that every Friday is a Spirit Day at Frank Augustus Miller Middle School where students may wear our school colors of turquoise and yellow. With

our focus on exposing ALL students to college and their academic life/plans after high school we have made every Wednesday College Day where the students may

wear their favorite College Team/University Wear.



Counselors' Comments



This is an important time for 8th grade students as they prepare for high school.

Counselors from Arlington and King High Schools will be present on March 2nd during the history class periods, to review course registration for high school. The high school counselors will return on March 9th and conduct individual meetings with the students to help them with course selections for 9th grade. Students will bring home this information so parents can review it with them. It is also important for students to finish the year strong as the high schools will look at grades from the second semester to finalize

class placement and to determine eligibility for extra-curricular activities. Our current 7th graders will receive course information and be registered for 8th grade in March, prior to spring vacation.

We had a wonderful time presenting classroom lessons regarding career opportunities in October. Students enjoyed exploring their areas of interest and determining what careers might be a good match in the future. Parents are encouraged to ask their child to share the results with them, especially some of the career possibilities the student may be interested in pursuing.

Students can access their Career Cruising account through the FAMMS website and will have access to a large amount of information on thousands of career options and the steps it takes to obtain those careers.

As always, please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns that you may have. We are here to serve students and their families.



Saturday for Success

This year, Frank Augustus Miller Middle School will be offering an innovative program called “*Saturdays for Success*.” This program is designed to give students the opportunity to make up critical time at school that was missed because of an absence (suspensions excluded). “*Saturdays for Success*” is not punitive in nature but rewards

students and parents for taking the initiative to participate. When students attend the program, an unexcused absence, truancy, or illness is removed from the student’s attendance record. Eligible students will bring home an invitation that will need to be returned in advance of the “*Saturday for Success*” that

they plan to attend. Absences cleared through Saturday’s for Success keep students eligible for perfect attendance.



Public Library Resources



Visit a Riverside Public Library for the resources your student needs to succeed. Whether help is needed with homework or for an assignment, the library can help. Many free tools are available for your use from home with your Riverside Public Library card:

- 1) Brainfuse—live homework help; connect with a tutor for grade specific, subject specific help daily from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- 2) For encyclopedia sources, see *World Book* or *Grolier Online*

Sources for news and periodical articles on a wide range of topics, see *Infotrac*, *Onefile* and *Infotrac Newstand*.

- 3) Tutoring - one-to-one K-12 homework help provided by local college students. Contact your local branch.

Classified Employee of the Year



Frank Augustus Miller Middle School is filled with amazing staff members who are collaborative, committed, caring, and connected to our school community. This school year we have selected Mrs. Vickie Inglese, Principal's Secretary, as an employee who represents the strength of our team as our Classified Employee of the Year.

Mrs. Inglese has been a pillar in making

our main office run as smoothly as possible. If you ask something of Mrs. Inglese, she will always respond with a smile in a positive and helpful manner. We are lucky to have a secretary who has so much pride in her job and our school.

Mrs. Inglese models, through her words and actions, our three school rules that focus on caring for oneself, each other, and our school. She provides a high level of

service to our school, demonstrating a strength of commitment to our school.

The students, staff, and FAMMS community truly appreciate Mrs. Inglese and the dedication she shows to our school. Macawesome job, Mrs. Inglese! Thank you for your service to FAMMS.



Here are a few reminders for our school-wide use of Chromebooks:

- Remember that a **FULLY CHARGED** Chromebook must be brought to school daily.
- Remember, Chromebooks are to be stored in backpacks.

- Take care of them.
- Insurance is available to purchase through a third-party vendor which covers spills, drops, and accidental damage. See the [FAMMS website](#) for details.

- We have a handful of black Chromebook cases available for purchase. They are an excellent protection for Chromebooks. The cost is \$30 cash or check payable to FAMMS. They may be purchased in room 814.

Message from the Attendance Office

Research shows that having consistent attendance at school positions a student to achieve academically in a great and powerful way. Please make every effort to send your child to school daily.

If possible, schedule medical or dental appointments after school hours. Wednesday afternoons is a great time to schedule appointments. If your child is absent, it is important to clear absences with a parent note or a phone call to the attendance office.

Chronic Absence is absence from school for 10% or more of the number of school days a student has attended. If children don't show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers. Preliminary data from a California study found that children who were chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of 3rd grade. Students in

grades 4-12 who are chronically absent are much more likely to fail their classes and drop out of school. Please make every effort to assure your child is in school every day!



REEF Grant Award Winners

FAMMS was awarded with four Riverside Educational Enrichment Foundation (REEF) Grants this year. We are extremely proud of their hard work and extra efforts to support FAMMS students.

The following are the

recipients and the title of their grants:



Mrs. Bauer: "2018 RUSD Middle School Choir Festival"

Mr. Salyers: "I can Fix It"

Mrs. Tiberi: "Older than Dirt"

Mrs. Weinstein: "One Book, One School—Wonder"

Congratulations to our grant recipients! We look forward to seeing the results.

RUSD Middle School Volleyball Tournament



The RUSD Middle School Volleyball Tournament was held in November. A BIG CONGRATULATIONS goes out to the FAMMS teams! The 8th grade boys and girls teams

won **1st Place** and the 7th grade girls team won **2nd Place!**



A BIG THANK YOU to Coach Aguirre, Coach Hain, Coach Jones, and Coach Mejia for their expertise.

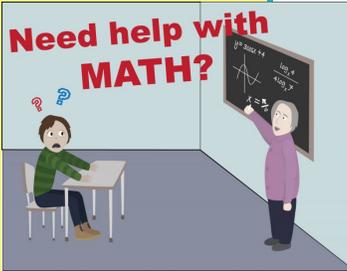
The RUSD Basketball Tournament is up next later this month.

PTSA Meetings

PTSA Executive Board Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 12:30 p.m. in the office conference room.

All parents are invited to join us on the following dates: February 8th, March 8th, April 12th, and May 10th.





Math Tutoring at FAMMS

Did you know that FAMMS offers Math Tutoring for our students? Math teachers are available to answer questions about homework, tests, or classwork. Seventh grade tutoring is on Tuesday

and Thursday from 2:00 - 2:30 PM with the student's math teacher. Eighth grade tutoring is Tuesday and Thursday from 2:00 -3:00 PM in room 309. Teachers are there to answer questions, not to

supervise students doing homework. Students must come with specific questions to ask. Some students may also retake tests in the room if their math teacher has given



Please remember that current student grades may be checked online at any time using the Aeries Portal which can be accessed from the FAMMS website.

OR

Have you heard that there is now an Aeries Mobile App? Visit the App store from any mobile device and search for Aeries Mobile Portal. Select your child's school

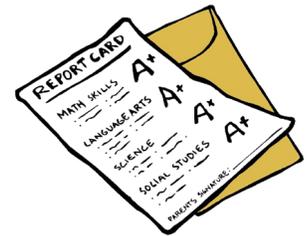


Student Grade Reports

and log-in using your current user name and password.

- Semester 1 Report Cards are mailed home the week of January 29th.
- RUSD Mid-Quarter Progress Reports are mailed home the weeks of March 5th and May 7th.

- Quarter 3 Report Cards are mailed home the week of April 9th.
- Semester 2 Report Cards are mailed home the week of June 18th.



A Message from the Yearbook Staff

We will be selling yearbooks through the first week of March. The cost of the yearbook is \$40. Please be sure to purchase your yearbook before the deadline.

Recognition ads are available for purchase at <http://community.pictavo.com/>. Available sizes are 1/8 page (\$20), 1/4 page (\$42), and 1/2 page (\$90). All ads are done online

and are subject to review/editing prior to acceptance for publication. The deadline for ads is March 9th. Contact Mrs. Reese with any questions at ext. 57040.



2017 - 2018

Yearbook!
favorite memories...

COMMPE.PICTAVO.COM

Easy, Convenient, and Secure online transaction with just a few clicks of the mouse.

Scan the QR code to check out a quick tutorial video!



1. Click 'Shop your School' and find your school (Search Frank Augustus Miller Middle School)
2. If you haven't already, create an account and verify your email address.
3. Find your product & click 'Add to Cart.'
4. Click 'Checkout' to complete your purchase!
5. Head to 'My Stuff' to design and submit your masterpiece!

Finals Week Modified School Days

Please be aware that FAMMS will be on a Semester I Final Exam Schedule on Tuesday, January 23rd, Wednesday, January 24th, and Thursday, January 25th, 2018. Students will take District Assessments on these days. **Please BE AWARE that**

school dismisses at 12:05 PM on testing days. Attendance is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT on testing days. Periods 1 & 4 test on Tuesday, periods 2 & 5 test on Wednesday, and

FINALS WEEK

periods 3 & 6 test on Thursday. Please make 12:05 PM pick-up arrangements for your child on these days.

Remember that school is not in session on Friday, 1/26/18, as this is a teacher grading day.

12:05 PM Dismissal on 1/23/18, 1/24/18, 1/25/18

A Message from the Library



Thank You PTSA for the New Books!

We have more new books, thanks to the hard work of the PTSA. All proceeds from the book fair held in November were invested back into the library in the form of brand new popular titles for our students. Thank you PTSA for your long hours of planning and work at the book fair. It is wonderful to have a PTSA so supportive of our students and the library.

Are You Reading *Wonder* with your Student?

Thanks to a Riverside Educational Enrichment Foundation (REEF) grant and LCAP funding, in November all students and staff members were given their own copy of the book *Wonder* by RJ Palacio. The theme of the book is kindness, and our school has been immersed in this attitude.. For example, the ASB held a door decorating contest and food drive right before the winter break to give students a chance to demonstrate kindness to those outside of our school community who are in need of food. Random Acts of Kindness Club, under the direction of Mrs. Gordon, created signs and posters to decorate our school with quotes from *Wonder* and

their own interpretations of what kindness is. Please plan to attend one of the evening Parent/Student book club meetings. Lunchtime activities are planned to emphasize the importance of being kind to others. Students will also have the opportunity to enter media, art, bookmark, and writing contests as we continue our WONDERful experience with our One Book, One School program.

Great Kindness Challenge to be Held January 29th - February 2nd

In conjunction with our One Book, One School reading of *Wonder*, students will participate in The Great Kindness Challenge. On Monday January 29th, students will receive a checklist with 30 specific items that they will be challenged to complete during the week. Examples are: sitting with someone new at lunchtime, making a bookmark for a friend, and writing "Thank You" on a Band Aid for the nurse. There will be dress up themes each day, and students will each make a link for a large "Kindness Chain" which will be on display in the Gym.

Parent/Student Book Club Meetings Planned

Join us for an evening of activities and discussion surrounding our One Book,

One School selection, *Wonder* by RJ Palacio. Meetings will be on Tuesday evenings, February 6th and 20th at 6:00 PM in the library. We will have light refreshments and a fun time together. Contact our Librarian, Yvonne Weinstein, to let her know that you plan to attend so that we have enough refreshments (yweinstein@rusd.k12.ca.us or (951) 789-8181 ext. 57115).

Other Library Happenings

In addition to the many reading and research resources available in our library, we have other activities for students to engage in, learn from, and enjoy. We began sewing classes before winter break, and one of our 8th grade students, Ashlynn, has become the sewing expert and now teaches other students how to sew. Many students have enjoyed creating things with Legos, while others work on jigsaw puzzles before school, during lunch, and after school. Our 3D printer is a popular tool and there are always students waiting for a turn to have their object printed. We are excited that our library provides a place for some students to productively read and study while others are exploring and creating.

Student Clubs at FAMMS

Our Associated Student Body (ASB) clubs promote student leadership. This year students were given the opportunity to form clubs using the Club Rush process.

Students and teachers came up with ideas for clubs. Students then voted for their top 3 club choices during Club Rush Week. We were able to offer clubs to nearly 100% of

our students this year. Our clubs are held during 7th period, which is also a time when students may work on homework, receive interventions, or read independently.

Here is a final listing of clubs and their advisors for the 2017 - 2018 school year. Way to go FAMMS students and teachers!

Club	Advisor	Club	Advisor
100 Mile Club	Mrs. Crawford	Math Counts	Mrs. Jones
Art	Mrs. Dyer	Peer Buddies	Mrs. Ruff Mrs. Estrada-Carillo
ASB	Mrs. Holland	Outdoors	Mr. Berz
AVID Leadership	Mrs. Zigmund Mrs. Lowery	Random Acts of Kindness	Mrs. Gordon
Boys Who Code	Mr. Malone	Music	Mrs. Saucedo
Christian	Mr. Aguirre	Personal Finance	Mr. McCloud
Clay	Mrs. Green - 7 th Mrs. Reese - 8 th	Gaming	Mrs. Tiberi Ms. Donahoo
Coloring	Mrs. Ayala - 8 th Mrs. Kozicki - 7 th	Sports	Mr. Jones Mrs. Squire
Drama	Mr. Luchsinger	Science Olympiad	Mrs. Parker
Game Coders	Mrs. Haegg	Soccer	Mr. Mejia
Girls Who Code	Mrs. Blasjo	Silent Reading/HW	Various Teachers
Global Citizens	Mr. Ahmadi	Mindful Meditation & Global Discussion	Mr. Genung
Jazz Band	Mr. Salyers	Volleyball	Mrs. Hain





FAMMS Calendar



January

10, 17, 24, 31... Planning Days, dismissal at 12:05 PM
 20..... RUSD 7th gr. Basketball Tournament
23 - 25 Finals Schedule, dismissal at 12:05 PM
26..... End of 1st Semester, NO SCHOOL
 27..... National History Day Competition, Uni, 9:00 am
 30..... 3rd Qtr./2nd Semester Begins

February

7, 14, 21, 28..... Planning Days, dismissal at 12:05 PM
 3.....RUSD 8th gr. Basketball Tournament, RCC, 8:00
 8.....PTSA Meeting, 12:30 PM
 9..... ASB Dance, 2:00-4:00 PM
 16 & 19 **President's Day Holidays, NO SCHOOL**
 22.... S1 Honor Night, 7th Gr. 6:00 PM, 8th Gr. 7:00 PM
 27 6th Grade Visitation to FAMMS

March

7, 14, 21, 28..... Planning Days, dismissal at 12:05 PM
 2.....6th Grade Open House, 6:00 – 7:30 PM
 2/9..... 9th Grade Registration
 6..... Husky Pride Day, North HS
 8..... 6th Grade Open House
 8.....PTSA Meeting, 12:30 PM
 11.....Daylight Savings Time Begins
 13..... Spring & Promotion Pictures (Pre-Pay)
 15..... RUSD Band Festival, RCC 12:00 PM
 15.....AVID Parent Information Night, 6:00 PM
 17.....RUSD 7th Grade Soccer Tournament
 24.....RUSD 8th Grade Soccer Tournament
 30..... Last day to buy a yearbook
 30..... **End of Qtr. 3, NO SCHOOL**

April

2 - 6 **Spring Break, NO SCHOOL**
 11, 18, 25..... Planning Days, dismissal at 12:05 PM
 9..... School resumes after Spring Break, Qtr. 4 Begins
 12.....PTSA Meeting, 12:30 PM
 16.....State SBAC Testing Begins
 20.....ASB Carnival, 2:00 – 4:00 PM

May

2, 9, 16, 23, 30.... Planning Days, dismissal 12:05 PM
 2..... CA Day of the Teacher
 5..... Cinco de Mayo
 7 - 10 2018/19 Color Guard Clinic/Tryouts
 10.....PTSA Meeting, 12:30 PM
 13..... Mother's Day
 15.....Spring Choir Concert, 6:00 PM
 17..... Band FAMMS Cluster Concert, 6:00 PM
 19.....RUSD Middle School Track Meet, 8:00 AM
 22..... Spring Band Concert, 6:00 PM
 23.....Final Grade Check, 8th Grade Activities
 24.....Color Guard Spring Show, gym, 6:00 PM
 25.....School Spirit Day, Wear Red/White/Blue
 28..... **Memorial Day Holiday, NO SCHOOL**

June

1..... 8th Grade Promotion Dance, 6:00-8:00 PM
 6, 13.....Planning Days, student dismissal at 12:05 PM
 7.....8th Grade Awards Night, 6:00 PM
 8.....8th Grade Promotion Trip
 7..... Yearbook Distribution, Lunch
 13..... Last Day of School for 7th Grade
11-13 .Planning Day Schedule, Dismissal 12:05 PM
 14.....8th Grade Promotion Ceremony, field, 8:30 AM
 15..... Happy Summer!
 17.....Happy Father's Day!

*Please note that as the school year progresses, other activities may be added. Also, dates and time are subject to change.

Finals Schedule
 1/23, 1/24, 1/25
Early Dismissal
12:05 PM

End of Semester 1
 Friday, 1/26/18
No School

President's Day
 Friday, 2/16/18
No School

President's Day
 Monday, 2/19/18
No School