

January 29, 2014

Dear Fifth Grade Families,

This is an exciting time as your child completes his or her fifth grade year and prepares to transition to middle school. This time can also bring anxiety as new questions are raised about the middle school experience. Our job at Quail Hollow Middle School is to do everything in our power to answer your questions and facilitate a smooth transition from elementary school to middle school for your child. Over the years, we have designed several programs to support this effort. These events and resources are outlined below.

- **Information Sessions (February/March):** This program will introduce you to our school vision and motto, operating routines and procedures, how to complete the sixth grade course selection cards, and much more. The program will include students and parents who can speak about their experience at Quail Hollow Middle School. For your convenience, I will lead these sessions at our three primary feeder elementary schools (Smithfield ES, Pineville ES, and Sterling ES), in addition to leading a session at Quail Hollow MS for students joining us from other elementary schools.
- **Student Field Trip to Quail Hollow Middle School (March):** These field trips are an opportunity for students to come with their teachers and classmates to visit Quail Hollow Middle School during the school day. This is a valuable experience for students to see our school in action with students in the building. Students will be provided with information about what a typical school day looks like, they will learn about what it means to be a Falcon, they will hear from students and teachers, and they will go on a school tour. In order to ensure all students have their questions answered, we will have separate field trips for different elementary schools.
- **Parent Tours:** Parents are welcome to visit our school. We understand your schedules vary and we can accommodate tours both during the school day and in the evening. These tours will be led by parent and/or student volunteers who can share their experience as Quail Hollow Falcons. To schedule a tour, please contact our Counseling Department Secretary, Ms. Olivares, by email (alexandrap.olivares@cms.k12.nc.us) or by phone (980-343-3620).
- **Falcon Connection:** We encourage you to visit the Falcon Connection website (www.qhmspts.org) to learn more about the great things happening at our school. From the home screen at the Falcon Connection website, you can enter your email address to receive weekly email newsletters. These newsletters include grade level updates, the school calendar of events, students of the week, and much more. This is a great way to learn about the middle school experience.

You will receive information about specific dates for these events at your elementary school soon. In past years, this programming has started in January. This year, we have delayed the start of the programs for a wonderful reason. Quail Hollow Middle School is one of seventeen schools across our school district (along with Smithfield Elementary School) to be selected to participate in a School Design initiative supported by the Belk Foundation. Through this initiative, we will be working with two national school consultant firms, in addition to collaborating with other schools across CMS to make strategic updates to our school design. Your child will benefit from these exciting updates in the upcoming school year. We have delayed the start of parent information sessions so I will have more information to share with you when we meet.

Between now and our upcoming information sessions, I encourage you to check out the articles below with more information about our school:

- Quail Hollow Middle School is selected as one of seventeen schools for a new School Design initiative: http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2014/01/09/4597778/belk-foundation-gives-505000-to.html#.UuPhN_ko7sM.
- Quail Hollow Middle School art program wins a \$25,000 from the Belk Bowl: http://belkbowl.com/our_partners/belk/rocking_the_belk_bowl_2013/
- Quail Hollow Middle School athletes show their character by partnering with Southminster Retirement Community to support the Alzheimer's Association: <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2013/09/18/4324242/quail-hollow-students-seniors.html#.UuPjfPko7sM>

Respectfully,



Rachael Neill
Principal