Finley Opening Day Successful
Opening day is always a day of great apprehension for students, staff and, yes principals. This year, opening day was a great success. We certainly dealt with the typical problems we encounter such as, lost students and sticky locker doors, but other than that, there was nothing to report. I would like to commend all parents for their cooperation and patience during the drop-off procedures in the morning. Our security guards, Tracie and Derek are in charge out front and have your child’s safety as a top priority. Please follow their directions at all times and if you have any comments or questions about our procedures, please address them to Mr. Amato at jamato@hufsd.edu. Remember, on rainy days the volume of cars increases so leave a little earlier if possible. The homeroom bell rings at 8:05, but students need some time to go to their lockers. We do not want students to miss the morning announcements, especially Mr. Amato’s “Words of Wisdom” on A-Days. Ask your child about the words of wisdom.

Mandated Courses
All students at Finley are taking New York State mandated courses. These are Math, English, Science, Social Studies, Foreign Language, Physical Education, Health, Music, Art, Home and Careers and Technology. Many middle schools offer “exploratory” courses to enrich and open students’ minds to other topics. These courses at Finley are Human Relations and Topics in Humanities. These courses explore human problems and triumphs and seek to have students develop opinions and skills to articulate a position on an issue. These skills align with New York State curriculum standards.

Sports and Clubs for Students
Fall sports teams are in full swing. We offer football, soccer, field hockey, track, tennis and swimming for boys and girls in the fall. This week, club advisors will be holding interest meetings for students. Students should listen to the morning announcements for those dates and times. Finley’s late buses run on Tuesdays and Thursdays and pick up in the front of the building at 3:45. Here is the club listing for this year.

Art Club: Mr. Belton, Advisor. Students who enjoy visual arts will love to attend.

Audio Visual: Mrs. Weinstock, advisor. Students who want to assist in setting up audio-visual equipment for instructional use.

Community Club: Mrs. Cain, advisor. Students who want to help people locally and in the larger community will love this club.
Drama Club: Ms. Hahn, advisor. Students who want to perform on stage and those who want to work behind the scenes will love this one. This club starts in late November.

Honor Society: Mr. Perlongo, advisor. Students must be inducted into this club. It is for 8th graders only. Seventh graders who earn GPA’s of 95 or higher for three quarters of their 7th grade will be invited to the induction in May of 2010. The group will meet to discuss service projects for the year. The first one will be a campaign to raise money for the American Heart Association by holding a Hoops for Heart night at Finley. Details to follow.

Mathletes, Mrs. DeMarco, advisor. This club is open to all students who like math and want to try some fun, enriching topics and problems.

Math Counts: advisors, Mrs. Grodzicki and Mrs. Grobe. This is a county and State wide competitive math group. Students are selected and invited by their math teachers. Students travel to other schools for competitions. Last year Finley’s team went to the State tournament at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Newspaper: Ms. Schiller, advisor. Students who like to write and use technology can add a wonderful dimension to the school community by writing about it.

School Store: Ms. Murphy, advisor. The school store is located in the Blue Zone in the main lobby. It is open in the mornings and sells all kinds of school supplies and healthy snacks. Interested students can help with sales and inventory.

Tri-M Music Honor Society: Ms. Kim, Advisor. Students are selected by their music teachers based on proficiency, effort and love of music.

Student Council: Ms. Finneran and Mr. Battista, advisors. The student council is made up of students from both grades who want to be involved in everything from the magazine and gift student council fundraiser to setting up for school dances to organizing fun events such as the pep rally.

Stage Crew: Mr. Scarnato and Ms. Jeddah, advisors. Students will build, paint and set up props and sets for the drama production in March. The drama production cannot go on without these students.

Open School Night- October 1st 7-9PM

Thursday, October 1st will be Open School Night. Parents can come to meet their child’s teachers and hear what will be required of students throughout the year. The evening will start with a presentation by Mr. Amato in the auditorium and then parents will move through their child’s schedule. Each period will run for 8 minutes, the bell will sound to move to the next class. Parents will follow the A-day/semester 1 schedule. Use your child’s current schedule or ask your child to write it down for you. You can print a sample copy of a schedule from my e-board under “Open School Night.” The guidance office will be open to help you with the schedule that night.

Welcome back to all of our families. Please check my e-board on the hufsd.edu website and my e-mail address is jamato@hufsd.edu.