



# The Founders Academy

*A Public Charter School for Grades 6-12*

**May 6, 2016**

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## **From the Dean of School**



Happy Friday!

Many many thanks to all the parents and volunteers who made Teacher Appreciation Week so special, from decorated doors and hallways to luncheons and sweet treats. It was so great to see this outpouring of appreciation for our well-deserving teachers!

On behalf of Founders, I want to wish each mother reading this newsletter a very HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY! At Founders, we value each of you!

Have a good weekend!

Sincerely,  
Maureen Mooney  
Dean of School

## School News

### U.S. History

*U.S. History is the cornerstone subject at The Founders Academy. Here's what the class is doing this week with Mr. Van Ewyk:*

US History students will learn about Jefferson's Presidency and the Lewis and Clark Expedition this week. They will analyze the "Secret Letter to Congress" - the primary source that Jefferson sent to the Congress in order to raise funds for the expedition.

### Geography Bee

Founders had a Geography Bee on April 21st. There were 11 competitors in one field of grades 6th - 9th. They answered questions in four rounds, and included identification of photos and short videos of places from around the world. Students correctly identified Dubai, UAE, Ruby Falls, TN, and the Space Needle in Seattle, among many others. Leah M. and Rania B. had a tied score after 4 rounds and Leah won the tiebreaker and the competition by answering more closely to the question, "How many nations are currently UN member states?" (193). Leah won the first prize of \$30 cash. Rania won the 2nd prize of \$10 cash. Everyone won the prize of knowledge. It should be added that Rania was one of only two sixth grade students in the competition. Special congratulations to her for competing and excelling against students in grades above her own!

The final in the series of bees, The History Bee, is scheduled for May 12th. Registration is currently open. See Mr. Van Ewyk.



## Family Photo-Shoots

Have your family portraits taken at the school on **Saturday May 14th, between 9:00am to 12:00 noon.**

A \$25 session fee per family is completely donated back to the school. Please have your checks made out to The Founders Academy.

Each family receives one FREE 5 x 7 print. More prints are available at additional costs. This donation is provide by C3 School Photography.

Depending on the weather, the plan is to have pictures taken outside. Feel free to bring your pets.

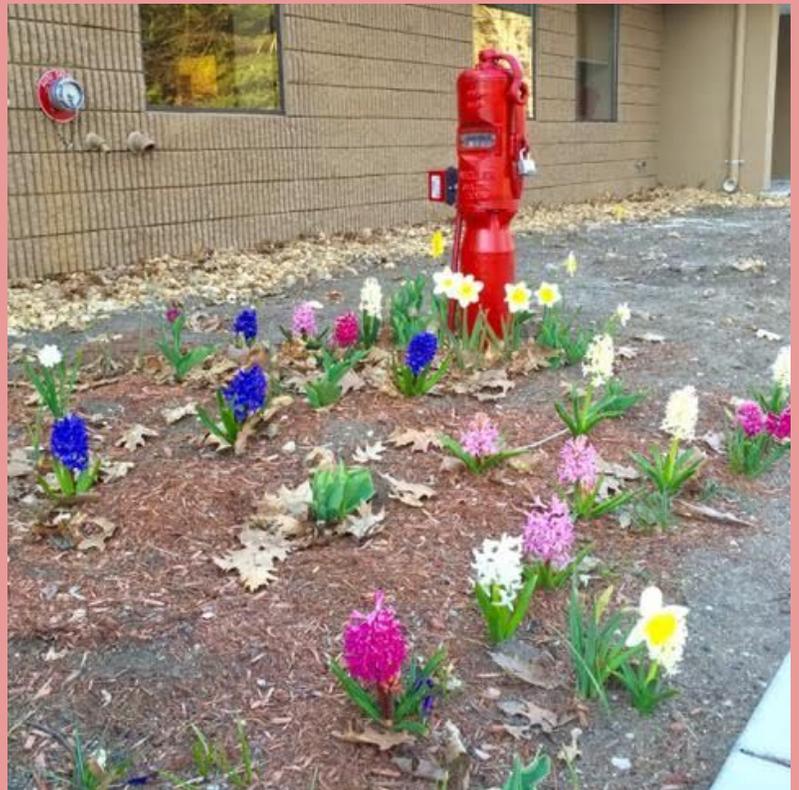
You must sign up to get your pictures taken, so do so soon using this [LINK!](#)

## Ms. Small's Flower Garden

The students in Ms. Small's round table held a total of three bake sales to raise money to adopt two plots in the front of The Founders Academy, and \$70 worth of bulbs. Students read the planting depths on the packages of bulbs, and arranged them according to height and depth.

They dug holes and planted crocuses, hyacinths, tulips, daffodils, and a few lilies. We were so excited to see how colorful the flowers were as they began blooming early this spring. This week we will plant some sunflowers, zinnias, cosmos, and marigolds, so that there will be flowers blooming all summer.

It is a beautiful sight!



## Teachers on Spring Break

Over Spring Break Mr. Van Ewyk was invited to speak to the graduating class at Harrison High School in Kennesaw, GA. Mr. Van Ewyk taught history at Harrison from 2003 - 2010. The school has an enrollment of 2,700 students, and the class of 2016 alone was nearly 700 12th graders. Mr. Van Ewyk was asked to offer words of celebration and encouragement as the graduates make their way to the next step in life. He offered advice for college, work, and life in general. He was also sure to make a special recognition for the 32 students at the school who were planning to serve in the military after graduation. He also told some very funny jokes.



## NECAP Test

Eighth graders are required to take the NECAP Science standardized test. Dates will be announced shortly. For more info visit this link: <http://education.nh.gov/instruction/assessment/necap/>.

## Nacho Tuesdays

A new [form](#) is up on the website for those wishing to order nachos for "Nacho Tuesdays" here at Founders. All proceeds benefit the Music Department. Please have orders submitted **by Tuesday, May 14th**.

## Final Assessments

Final Assessments are coming up and we want to be sure that students are prepared. Depending on the teacher, the final assessments can be either an exam or project/presentation. A detailed rubric will be provided for a final assessment that isn't an exam.

Final Assessments are scheduled for May 23 - June 3. Subject areas have been assigned specific days in which they will give their assessments so that students do not have too many assessments on one day. The assessment schedule is as follows:

Monday, May 23 - World Language

Tuesday, May 24 - World Language

Wednesday, May 25 - NONE ("Everyday" classes may choose to give part of an exam on this day)

Thursday, May 26 - English/History

Friday, May 27 - NONE

Monday, May 30 - No School (Memorial Day)

Tuesday, May 31 - English/History/Art

Wednesday, June 1 - Computers/Music/Art

Thursday, June 2 - Math/Science

Friday, June 3 - Math/Science/Computers/Art

The daily schedule will run as normal - assessments will be given during a class' normal meeting time. (So if a student has French on Tuesdays/Wednesdays/Fridays at 8:30, they will have their assessment on Tuesday 5/24 at 8:30.) Nightly homework will stop being assigned by teachers on Wednesday 5/25 - unless that homework is for a project/presentation that is part of a Final Assessment grade.

#### NOTES ABOUT THE FINAL ASSESSMENTS:

Those in 9th grade have the privilege of going home early during final assessment week.

Parents/guardians may coordinate to pick their students early after 12:45pm (assuming their final assessments are done for that day). If a 9th grader doesn't have final assessments on a day designated as such, he/she may stay home to study (please indicate this absence by emailing [attendance@tfanh.org](mailto:attendance@tfanh.org)).

To review how final assessments are factored into middle and high school grades, please refer to section 3.2 of the handbook.

Teachers have the discretion to decide whether or not students will be exempt from taking finals in their classes. However, if a teacher determines a student will be exempt, then the reason will be for the following:

- a 3.67 (unweighted) grade point average (or higher) achieved in the current quarter and the immediately preceding quarter.

## Math Tutoring

In preparation for the 7th grade math final exam, the FIRST Lego League coaches and Manchester CHAOS team members are hosting weekly math tutoring sessions Tuesday nights from 7:00 to 8:30, starting May 3rd for 5 weeks. The format will be a mix of concept review, test question review, test taking techniques, real world examples and a game each week. Limited to 12 students at a cost of \$20 per week, for snacks and prizes. Come for one or all the sessions. Proceeds going to the TFA's FLL Team and Manchester CHAOS Robotics teams (some of their team members are coming to help). Email Chris Mikus at [christopher.mikus@tfanh.org](mailto:christopher.mikus@tfanh.org) for more information.

## Smarter Balance Testing - Almost Done!

The Smarter Balanced Test is upon us for grades 6, 7 and 8. The Smarter Balanced Subcommittee has spent considerable time working very hard to plan the scheduling and arrangements.

The testing window for the state required Smarter Balanced Test is as follows:

- March 29, 2016 – May 6, 2016: Smarter Balanced Math/ELA Summative Assessment Testing Window (Grades 5 and 6)
- April 12, 2016 – June 10, 2016: Smarter Balanced Math/ELA Summative Assessment Testing Window (Grades 7 and 8 )

**The schedule ends today.** Those students that are not taking the exam will proceed with their regular schedule of classes.

**Please have your test-taking student bring his/her own headphones/earbuds on exam dates.**

If you have questions, please contact Dean Mooney directly. Please notify the Dean directly if your child is not taking the exam.

For general information on the Smarter Balanced Test, go to:

<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/smarter-balanced-assessments/> AND  
<http://education.nh.gov/instruction/assessment/sbac/students-parents.htm>

## Furniture at Founders

We, at Founders, are so thankful to the members of the newly created Furniture Subcommittee established by the Dean for all the furniture they've retrieved for the school! The school recently obtained various items from the old St. Joseph's School and the Jeb Bush campaign. We can furnish several classrooms thanks to the generosity of these two organizations and the hard work of the subcommittee!

The purpose of the Furniture Subcommittee is to find and retrieve free and reduced-price furniture for the school. If you know of anyone looking to possibly donate anything, please contact Deb Waitt ([debra.waitt@tfanh.org](mailto:debra.waitt@tfanh.org)). Our biggest needs right now are:

- lockers,
- a shredder,
- round lunch tables, and
- a gently used copier.

Thank you!



## Book Fair

Start your Mother's Day shopping at The Founders Academy Barnes & Noble Book Fair. Shop either at the Manchester Barnes and Noble Store (1741 South Willow Street, Manchester) or online at BarnesandNoble.com. Please tell them you are part of The Founders Academy Book Fair, give the special Founders' code 11798378 at check out. A percentage of the net proceeds will be donated to Founders. Shop online the days of the book fair through May 12, 2016 to earn money for Founders. Please don't forget to enter the Founders code on the payment page.

## Student Life

### Summer Camp Programs 2016

Information has been posted about Summer Camps 2016! Enrollment has begun!

The programs are set to run the weeks of July 11, July 18 and July 25.

Information about some of the camps being offered can be seen on the school website; go to the [www.thefoundersacademy.org](http://www.thefoundersacademy.org) and click on "students/summer camp program," or click [here](#).

We also have a page about the camps up on [www.parentingnh.com](http://www.parentingnh.com).

Check the site often for updates as the summer gets closer!

### Field Day - June 8

The Founders Academy Leadership Committee is planning a Field Day on **June 8th**, with a rain date of June

9th. Join us for a day full of competitions, games, contests, and so much more!

More details to come.

## Miscellaneous

### Food Pantry Needs

We're running low on supplies for our food pantry!! This is where we grab lunch for students who forgot theirs. If anyone has extra nonperishable food items (cup mac & cheese, cup ramen, crackers, etc), we'd appreciate any donations!

### Note: Food Order Forms

Parents, please look up your student's field trip/activity schedule before sending in orders for Pizza Monday, Fun Food Friday, Popcorn Fridays and Nacho Tuesdays. There will be no refunds for days when your student is absent.

### Wanted: Volunteer Substitute Teachers, Lunch, Interns & Study Hall Monitors

Founders is seeking volunteer substitute teachers, interns, study hall monitors, and lunch monitors! If you are interested in helping Founders for full days, half days or even a period or two, please contact Deb Waitt at 603.952.4705 or [debra.waitt@tfanh.org](mailto:debra.waitt@tfanh.org). We'll add you to the list!

## Club/Committee News

To see all clubs and committees (and more to come), click [here](#).

## Important Dates

School calendar online link: <http://www.thefoundersacademy.org/calendar>

May 6 - 7, 2016	FUNDRAISER: Barnes and Noble Book Fair, 1741 S. Willow Street, Manchester, NH. Watch for the CODE.
May 9 - 10, 2016	Science and Inventors Fair.

May 12, 2016	History Bee at 6:30pm.
May 13, 2016	Field Trip: 8th and 9th grades on a lake cruise.
May 13, 2016	Semi-Formal Dance. 6:30-9:00 pm.
May 16, 2016	Field Trip: 6th and 7th grades on Field and Forest Trip.
May 17, 2016	Spirit Day: Historical/Literacy Figure Day
May 18 - 21, 2016	Trip to Washington DC for grades 7, 8, 9. For more details, contact Ms. Mote at <a href="mailto:k.mote@tfanh.org">k.mote@tfanh.org</a> .
May ?, 2016	NECAP science exam for 8th graders.
May 27, 2016	Great East Music Festival Field Trip.
May 30, 2016	Memorial Day. No School.
May 31 - June 3, 2016	Final Exams.
June 6, 2016	Field Trip: Walden Pond
June 6, 2016	Chorus Concert at 7pm.
June 7, 2016	Band Concert at 7pm.
June 8, 2016	Founders Field Day (all day).
June 10, 2016	Last Day of School.
June 10, 2016	Fourth Quarter grades close.
June 17, 2016	Fourth Quarter Report Cards emailed to student and primary parent/guardian.



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