



University of Pittsburgh

Falk School
School of Education

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Dear Falk Parents,

I hope you had an active summer. I wanted to give everyone an update on what is happening with the gymnasium and Physical Education classes this year. Currently the gymnasium looks like an empty shell. All that remains from the gym are the four walls. It is an amazing sight to see from the Middle School floor of the new building. The renovations are scheduled to be finished sometime in November.

Until the renovations are complete, all Physical Education classes will take place at Trees Hall. There are three areas in Trees that are available for Falk to use. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays the students will be using a Climbing Wall (permission slips are required, see below). On Tuesdays and Thursdays the students may be using either the racquetball courts or a multi-purpose room.

Students will be transported to Trees Hall (which is a short distance from Falk) by University of Pittsburgh vans. These vans will be driven by myself, Mr. Brent Lopick and two new Physical Education teachers: Mr. Dave White and Ms. Beth Bachman.

Under this arrangement, students will have Physical Education once a week for approximately one hour. Once the gymnasium is completed the schedules will change and students will have physical education per our regular schedule.

Enclosed you will find a permission slip for the University of Pittsburgh Rock Wall at Trees Hall. **Each** student must have a permission slip signed before they are permitted on the wall. The students will be learning about bouldering and top roping. Bouldering is climbing short low routes without ropes and with a crash pad. Top Roping is climbing higher routes while using the protection of a harness and a rope that is suspended through an anchor (Top Rope system). A certified belayer will control the rope, keeping it taut and controlling the falls and descends. All of Falk's Physical Education teachers who will be working the ropes have been certified in top roping and belaying.

Please sign the permission slip that is enclosed and return by mail in the envelope provided. The students that do not have signed permission slips will still go to Trees Hall but **will not** be permitted on the rock wall.

Thank You and Enjoy the School Year,

Laura Hunt
Athletic Director
Physical Education Teacher K-8