



Chestnut Oaks Middle School

# SUMTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

1200 Oswego Road ♦ Sumter, South Carolina 29153 ♦ (T) 803.775.7272 ♦ (F) 803.775.7601

July 12, 2024 (updated)

Welcome back to another exciting school year at Chestnut Oaks Middle School! We are thrilled to kick off the 2024-2025 academic year with our theme: **\*\*Falcons Forward\*\***. As we prepare to SOAR to new heights, we eagerly anticipate the incredible journey ahead, filled with learning, growth, and community. **Mark your calendars—the first day of school is August 1st! We can't wait to see our Falcons back in action, ready to embrace the new year with enthusiasm and determination.**

## ***"Jump Start"/ Orientation***

We will host a "Jump Start" camp for all 6th-grade students and parents on July 31st from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. This transition camp will allow our students and parents to become acclimated to Chestnut Oaks Middle School as a new Falcon! Any 7th and 8th grade parents and students **new** to Chestnut Oaks are invited to orientation as well from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Parents will receive pertinent information such as schedules, bus routes, meet the teachers, etc.

## ***School Supplies***

For the 2024-2025 school year, Chestnut Oaks Middle School will purchase school supplies for our students. Parents are welcome to purchase additional pencils, pens, folders, etc. **Parents will be responsible for providing bookbags (clear bookbags).** We are pleased to announce an important update regarding our safety measures. Starting August 5, we will be implementing the use of clear bookbags throughout our campus. The decision to introduce clear bookbags is rooted in our commitment to enhancing safety and security for everyone. By using clear bookbags, we aim to: increase visibility of bag contents, facilitate quicker inspections, enhance security measures, and create a safer environment by deterring unauthorized items from being brought in. If you need the name of different locations to purchase clear bookbags, please let us know and we will be happy to assist. Thank you for your cooperation as we work together to maintain a safe and secure environment for everyone.

## ***Our Nest System***

This year, we are proud to introduce our new Nest/Housing System, designed to foster a sense of belonging, teamwork, and school spirit. Each student will be placed into one of our Houses, where they will engage in friendly competitions, collaborative projects, and community-building activities. The Nest/Housing System aims to create a supportive and inclusive environment, helping every student find their place and thrive.

## ***Continuing Our ELEV8 Program***

We are excited to continue our ELEV8 program, which has been instrumental in enhancing the educational experience for our students. ELEV8 focuses on leadership, character development, college and career readiness and academic excellence, providing our Falcons with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed both in and out of the classroom.

## ***Staying Connected & Getting Involved***

Effective communication between school and home is key to student success. Please make sure your contact information is up to date, and stay informed about school events and announcements through our website [www.coms.sumterschools.net](http://www.coms.sumterschools.net), social media pages, and regular newsletters. We encourage all families to get involved in school activities, join our School Improvement Council (SIC), and volunteer for school events.

*The mission of Chestnut Oaks Middle School is to deliver a comprehensive, rigorous standards-based education utilizing best practices in order to prepare students for an ever changing, global society as well as meet the diverse needs of the students, community, and society.*

*Sumter School District is an equal opportunity employer.*



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## ***Weapons Detection Systems***

This correspondence is to inform our families and staff that after a successful high school pilot program this school year, the expansion of a weapons detection system (metal detectors) to our elementary and middle schools is forthcoming. The safety of our students and staff is our number one priority, and metal detectors will help provide an additional layer of security to keep schools safe. Installation will begin this summer to make sure everything is in place for the 2024-2025 school year.

This additional safety measure is just one component of our overall emergency plan. We will continue to review our safety and emergency protocols, conduct regular safety drills, maintain a strong relationship with local law enforcement, and provide ongoing training to our staff. Our schools also strive to create environments where students feel comfortable talking with administrators and staff regarding potential threats.

We understand that the use of metal detectors may raise concerns for some parents and students. Please know, Sumter School District remains committed to the safety and security of all our students, and we believe this pilot program is a proactive step toward ensuring safe learning environments.

As we embark on this new chapter, we are filled with optimism and a strong sense of purpose. Together, we will make this school year exceptional, moving “Falcons Forward” toward a bright and successful future. We look forward to seeing you in the new academic school year. If you have any questions, please contact our office at (803) 775-7272. #FalconsFWD #ALLINFORSSD

Respectfully,

*Mrs. Jenaii D. Edwards*

Mrs. Jenaii D. Edwards, MEd. - Proud Principal

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