

November 4, 2025

Good Afternoon Oakdale Middle Community:

As part of our ongoing commitment to regular and transparent communication, we are providing an update in response to questions we have received regarding staffing, support, hiring practices, and investigation procedures..

Staffing

Dr. Christine Samuels, Oakdale MS principal, remains on leave. Ms. Brandy Brown, has been and remains the acting principal at OMS. FCPS uses the term “acting” to signify a temporary placement or in the absence of formal appointment by the Board of Education. The use of an acting is standard practice in FCPS when an administrator is on leave for an extended period of time. To fill Mrs. Brown’s assistant principal role, Mr. Kurt Cunningham is serving as acting assistant principal. Mr. Toby Heusser and Mr. Jason Hawk continue to serve the school as assistant principals. If at any time, this status changes, we will alert the staff and community. We thank the administrative team for their continued leadership during this time.

Support

Staff from our Student Services office has been available at the school to provide support to students and/or staff as requested. They are collaborating with our counseling staff at OMS to coordinate support if a student, parent, or staff member is in need. Should you wish to speak to someone in the counseling office, please contact your child’s counselor: Ms. Terri McCracken, 6th grade counselor at theresa.mccracken@fcps.org, Ms. Amy Gibson, 7th grade counselor at amy.gibson@fcps.org, or Ms. Tracie Eck, 8th grade counselor at tracie.eck@fcps.org.

Hiring Practices and Investigation Procedures

The FCPS website contains detailed information about our pre-employment screening for any individual hired by the school system. Please note, while Maryland law requires fingerprinting for all new hires, FCPS goes beyond the minimum requirements. The layered verification process is detailed here: [Comprehensive Pre-Employment Screening](#).

With regards to requests for information on the status of the investigation, as FCPS is not involved in the investigation and must stand down while law enforcement leads this effort, we do not have information we can provide nor a timeline of when to expect it will conclude. If you have questions about the approach FCPS follows, details of our process may be found on our website at [Employee Investigations](#). We know that waiting for an investigation to conclude can be challenging, and we appreciate your patience during this process. While we cannot always share details about ongoing investigations, we are committed to transparency about our processes and outcomes where possible.

We have communicated separately with our families with students in our specialized program classrooms. Following is the same key contact information they were provided should you wish to communicate with any of these individuals.

- **Oakdale Middle School Program:** Ms. Brandy Brown, Acting Principal, OMS at brandy.brown@fcps.org or call at 227-203-2450.
- **FCPS Related Processes and Procedures:** Mr. Danny Enck, Director, School Management, Planning, and Logistics at daniel.enck@fcps.org or call at 240-286-7210.
- **Special Education Services:** Ms. Katie Buckley, Director, Special Education at katie.buckley@fcps.org or call at 240-586-8677.
- **Law Enforcement Investigation:** Detective Lawson, who can be reached at 301-600-2817 or LLawson@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

We value the candor, partnership, and spirit of continuous improvement in our community. We hope this update is helpful and wish all of our OMS students a successful start to Term 2.

Mr. Tom Saunders, School Administration and Instructional Leadership (SAIL) Director