TO: Waunakee Community School District Parents/Guardians and Students **SUBJECT:** Waunakee FFA Organization Information for 2025-2026

FFA

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

Students at Waunakee Middle & High School have an exciting opportunity to enroll in the Agricultural Education program and the Waunakee FFA Organization! Please consider this letter an explanation of FFA and agriculture courses that students may take in 2025-2026.

After enrollment in an agricultural course, students are given the chance to join the <u>National FFA Organization</u>, which is the largest student organization in the United States. There are over 700,170 members in all 50 states, Puerto Rico & the US Virgin Islands! <u>Wisconsin FFA</u> alone has 250 FFA Chapters and boasts over 20,000 student members. Waunakee has been granted the wonderful chance to be part of this dynamic group.

The FFA Organization has drastically changed from its humble beginnings in 1928. Our history is rooted as the Future Farmers of America but the organization saw a need for change in 1988, when it officially changed its name to the National FFA Organization. Our organization promotes agricultural industries, supporting over 300 different career pathways for students, to help them achieve "premier leadership, personal growth and career success" (FFA Mission). Today students are able to take the knowledge that they have gained within or outside of the classroom and challenge other students from around the country to make our world a better place. Leadership conferences, judging contests, community service projects and speaking contests are only a few of the activities that all members are welcome to participate in. We strive to have students feel a sense of family as they work beside us to promote the agricultural industries and share their experiences with others.

My hope is that your family will encourage participation in the FFA Organization this year and our agriculture department for years to come. The classes offer diverse opportunities regardless of background or future plans. There is such a wide variety of topics to learn about, events to compete in, and skills to learn! Each student will gain recognition and awards for their participation. Students should consider choosing an agriculture course as an opportunity to learn about new concepts, become a well-informed consumer and to develop leadership skills.

We are hosting an FFA meeting on **Monday, September 22nd at 6:30pm in the middle school agriculture room (Room 110).** High School students, Middle School students, Parents and Alumni members are all invited to see what we are all about! Enclosed is a copy of <u>Commonly Asked Questions</u> and attached throughout this letter are links to various sources of information about our organization. I hope your family will consider the positive impact that the FFA Organization will have on students. Please contact us if you have any questions or comments regarding agriculture courses or the FFA Organization.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Rhonda Knapp Mrs. Kristina Puntney Mrs. Gina Trower WHS/WMS Instructors & FFA Advisors (608) 849-2100 ext 2319 whsffa@waunakee.k12.wi.us

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