

Over the FENCE

Thank you, Board of Education!



Left to Right: Trustee Rebecca Jensen, Trustee Dr. Kathleen Moco, Trustee Abigail Wasil, Vice President Todd Koch, President Scott Wallace, Secretary Dan Stawinski, Treasurer Robyn Norbeck.

The key to a brighter future for Michigan's children is a strong public education system.

Every day, students count on public schools to help prepare them for a successful future. Whether they understand it or not, they count on adults across the state ensuring they have access to resources to help them learn, keep their buildings safe, and have qualified teachers to guide them. It takes a pure, unwavering commitment to a community to make this all possible.

Yet, at the end of the day, the true superheroes contributing to the success of our students are just ordinary citizens with extraordinary dedication to public schools – our school board members. These individuals approach their volunteer work like it is a full-time job.

Their job is to establish a vision for the education program, design a structure

to achieve that vision, ensure schools are accountable to the community, and strongly advocate for continuous improvement in student learning. The job of a school board member is tough, the hours long, and the thanks few and far between. Too often we are quick to criticize school board members without really understanding the complex nature of their decisions. We must remember to take time to thank them for their untiring efforts.

January marks the observance of School Board Recognition Month. This is an opportunity to show our year-round appreciation for these servant leaders and begin to better understand how local trustees work together to prepare today's students to be tomorrow's leaders. On behalf of everyone in Fraser Public Schools, thank you to Mr. Scott Wallace, Mr. Todd Koch, Mrs. Robyn Norbeck, Mr. Dan Stawinski, Ms. Abigail Wasil, Dr. Kathleen Moco, and Mrs. Rebecca Jensen.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Fraser Families,
Welcome to 2024 and the second half of the school year! I hope everyone had a restful winter break and is recharged for the months ahead.

This month we are taking time to celebrate the seven members of our board of education during School Board Recognition Month. Our board members work countless hours to ensure they are making the best decisions for our students and staff. I would like to personally thank Mr. Wallace, Mr. Koch, Mrs. Norbeck, Mr. Stawinski, Ms. Wasil, Dr. Moco, and Mrs. Jensen for their service.

As we move into the new year, I want to thank the students, staff, and parents who have completed the district's School Climate Survey. This week, we will be sending out the final installment of the survey to all staff members. (Please note: Teachers and Ancillary Staff – FEA Members completed the survey during their DPPD in December.) This data will provide us with important information to help guide our next strategic plan. Our strategic plans have been a guide post for the district over the last 15 years, and we will continue to work with all stakeholders to develop and sustain the district vision for moving forward. There will be additional opportunities throughout the spring for our families, staff, and community to contribute to this new plan.

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CURRICULUM CORNER

**ELEMENTARY
STAFF LEARN
TO PLAY**

During a recent professional development, Fraser elementary staff spent the day playing.



Representatives from Playworks Michigan trained all elementary staff on how to make recess time more inclusive through safety, engagement, and empowerment. Playworks helps schools create a place on the playground and anywhere children are playing where they feel included, are active, and are building valuable social and emotional skills.

Fraser classroom teachers, principals, and all special education staff spent the day working together to learn interactive ways to engage all students during recess and play times.

According to the Playworks website, a randomized control trial found that compared to students at similar schools, Playworks students were more physically active and teachers reported that students had greater feelings of school safety and less bullying behavior.

"We have been receiving feedback from teachers that students need to review on the basics of playing together," said Kate Fitzpatrick, Director of Elementary Instruction.

"Practicing taking turns and following the rules of organized games would benefit all elementary students."

Research shows that recess benefits students by increasing their level of physical activity; improving their memory, attention, and concentration; and helping them stay on-task in the classroom. Providing staff with structure and tools to maximize recess time is a win!

Since the training in November, elementary staff have begun incorporating the things they learned in both indoor and outdoor recess, as well as play times in the classroom.

Staff have already started teaching the games they learned to students and seeing positive results on the playground.



FHS Student Chosen for Unique Opportunity



Fraser High School senior Jordan Fabirkiewicz has been chosen to attend the Student Reporting Labs Winter Academy.

The PBS NewsHour Student Reporting

Labs project stretches across 50 states and over 175 schools. The NewsHour has selected 13 students to take part in a Winter Academy in Austin, Texas. Travel, hotel, and meals are provided for the students by the NewsHour. These students will meet with mentors, PBS producers, and other students from across the country to get advanced training and produce stories for the PBS NewsHour.

Congratulations to Jordan on this amazing learning opportunity. We look forward to seeing what she produces during the workshop and what lessons she brings back to share with her classmates.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

... Continued from front page

The first several projects from the May 2023 bond will be completed this year. Our board of education recently approved the bid for the first project, to replace all window shades in the district. Other projects include much-needed boiler replacement at two elementary schools, HVAC controls at Richards Middle School, and parking lot replacement at Fraser High School. More information about the projects scheduled for this year can be found in the article on page 3.

Between the strategic plan and bond projects, this year promises to bring positive improvements to our district. I look forward to the journey.

With Fraser Pride,
Dr. Wozniak

Attendance Rates Continue to Show IMPROVEMENT

After review, the attendance data for the first half of the school year continues to improve!

We appreciate our families' commitment to ensuring students come to school every day. So far this year, Fraser has had 75 days of school. More than 94 percent, or 4,604 students, are on Tier 1 for attendance, which means they attended 60 or more days of school.

On the opposite side of the spectrum, a little more than one percent, or only 58 students, have attended less than 52 days of school.

Attendance rates take into consideration both excused and unexcused absences.

As of December 18, 2023, Fraser's attendance percentages were:

	Percentage	# of Students
Tier 1	94.11%	4,604
Tier 2	4.68%	229
Tier 3	1.20%	58

Evidence shows chronic absence [missing 30 percent or more of school days for any reason] negatively impacts students beginning in young fives and kindergarten. Students in these grades who are chronically absent are more likely to not read on grade level by third grade. Additionally, chronic absence in sixth grade is a leading indicator a student may drop out of high school.

Please continue to stress the importance of school attendance at home and make sure your students attend every day to ensure future success.

We look forward to working with families to celebrate our students' great attendance for the second half of the school year!

Bond Projects Planned in New Year

We are so excited to share the start of the new bond program that passed last spring.

We appreciate the overwhelming support from the community, local leaders, our staff, parents, and students on our vision for a brighter future. These transformative projects over the course of the bond will enhance the educational environment for our students and provide them with state-of-the-art technology and learning resources.

While many of the projects are still in the design and planning phases, there are a few projects that our construction partner, Barton Malow, will accomplish during 2024. The kick-off of these initial projects not only signifies the physical transformations to our schools, but also symbolizes our dedication to providing cutting-edge facilities that will inspire learning, innovation, and community pride for years to come.

Window Shade Upgrades January – May 2024

Every school in our district will have new window shades installed on outside windows. Upgraded shades will not only help reduce the schools' energy costs, but also create a barrier from severe temperatures, making classrooms more comfortable. The shades will also provide additional privacy and security.

Boiler Replacement April – August 2024

Both Disney and Emerson elementary schools will receive brand new boilers. The units in both schools have reached the end of their lifecycle and it is critical that they be replaced. This equipment not only helps keep our schools open and safe for students to attend throughout the winter months, but they also provide improved energy efficiency throughout the buildings.

HVAC Controls Upgrade June – August 2024

At Richards Middle School, we will be upgrading the HVAC controls system. These improvements include air purifiers and filtration systems to remove pollutants and germs from the air, creating a cleaner learning environment for our students.

Parking and Site Improvements June – August 2024

At Fraser High School, we will be replacing multiple parking lots, as well as other site improvements to concrete and asphalt. The current concrete and asphalt has reached the end of its intended lifespan and its replacement will help improve student safety and functionality on campus.

For more information about the 2023 bond and upcoming projects, please visit our [bond website](#).



WINDOW SHADES
(ALL SCHOOLS IN THE DISTRICT)

Upgrade Window Shades



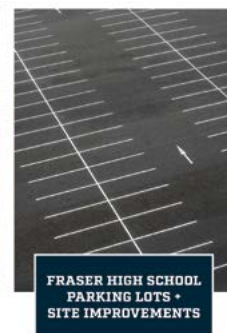
**DISNEY • EMERSON
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
BOILER REPLACEMENT**

Replace Boiler Plant + Accessories



**RICHARDS
MIDDLE SCHOOL
HVAC CONTROLS**

HVAC Controls Replacement



**FRASER HIGH SCHOOL
PARKING LOTS •
SITE IMPROVEMENTS**

Asphalt Paving
Concrete Replacement
Multiple Parking Lot
Replacements

RMS Amazon Care Closet

With the season of giving coming to an end, Richards Middle School thought this was an excellent time to support an initiative that will directly benefit our students and families in the Castle.

As we continue to work together to ensure the success and well-being of our Knights, we are excited to introduce a valuable resource that can make a significant difference in the lives of our students. We are pleased to announce the establishment of the Amazon Care Closet at Richards Middle School. The Amazon Care Closet is a dedicated space where students in need can access essential items such as toiletries, snacks, and other basic necessities. This initiative aims to support our students by addressing their basic needs, ensuring they can focus on their education without the added stress of lacking essential supplies.

The Amazon Care Closet is a convenient and discreet resource for our students. It is stocked with a variety of items, including but not limited to:

- Toiletries (such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, and feminine hygiene products)
- Snacks (non-perishable food items)
- Basic school supplies (notebooks, pens, pencils)

We understand that students may face challenges both inside and outside of the classroom, and we believe that providing these basic necessities can make a significant impact on their well-being and academic performance. Our goal is to create a supportive environment where every student can thrive, regardless of their circumstances.



directly to Richards Middle School. We believe that the Amazon Care Closet will positively impact our school community and ensure that every student has the opportunity to succeed. We encourage you to share this information with your child and let them know that this resource is available to support their needs. Thank you for your continued support of our school and our mission to create a nurturing and inclusive environment for all students. If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the Amazon Care Closet, please feel free to reach out to us.

If you are interested in donating items, please access the [Amazon Care Closet link here](#). Donations will be sent

Learning About Indigenous Peoples



Emerson fifth-grade students explored Eastern Woodland and Southwest Native American art to help compare Indigenous Peoples. Mrs. Shawn Pashby attended a workshop at the Detroit Institute of Arts and learned about black ash weaving from Pottawatomii/Ottawa/Ojibwe artist Kelly Church.

Mrs. Pashby tied her learning into her students' learning. Students brainstormed materials that would be available to Native Americans in Michigan and used construction paper strips to weave their own mats. Students also discussed uses for their mats, and learned what cedar and black ash mats are traditionally used for.

In contrast, the students discussed available materials in the Southwest, and crafted pinch pots. Pots were decorated in colors and images that would typically be found on Pueblo pottery.



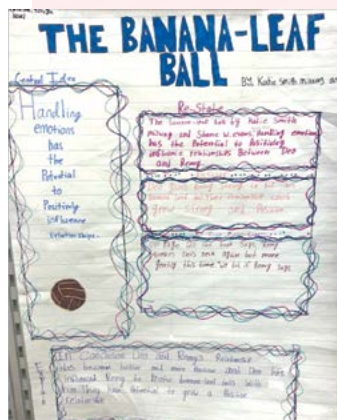
Playworks at Disney

Elementary teachers in Fraser attended a Professional Development where they learned about Playworks. Playworks encourages students to be active while building social and emotional skills through the power of play. The fifth-grade teachers at Disney introduced a few of the new games at recess and the kids loved them!

Switch which is similar to 4-square, Lightning which is basketball, and a more fun and organized game of Gaga ball were some of their favorites. The kids were so excited and had a blast playing the new games. Mrs. Gumm, Ms. Argiri-Slone, and Mrs. Ostrowski all had a fun time playing and engaging with their students during recess time too!

R.A.C.E. Thinking Map

Sixth-grade students at Eisenhower Elementary have completed their Trimester 1 Genre Unit on *The Cay*, by Theodore Taylor, and have used the central idea of “relationships influence potential,” while connecting the topic of the Interactive Read Aloud (IRA) texts. After completing the genre



unit, students were challenged to incorporate the IRA topics of “handling emotions” and “positive relationships” with the central idea of “relationships influence potential.”

They were given a choice on the five texts in the IRA unit and worked collaboratively in a group to read, map, and analyze the text for the central idea by creating a poster or a book creator. They presented these products to the class, who took notes in their R.A.C.E. Thinking Map. R.A.C.E. is an acronym for a writing strategy referring to Restate the question, Answer the question, Cite evidence from the text, Explain how the evidence proves your answer.

Students created paragraphs, with text evidence, from the teachings of their facilitating peer presentations. They typed their paragraphs into a Word document with flowing transitions and incorporated an introduction and conclusion to create a cohesive literary analysis. Students were very proud of their essays and created a cover page displaying their word counts (many were over 1,000). The central idea the students came up with was “handling emotions has the potential to positively influence relationships.”

Edison Elementary Continues to Deepen Connections with Students

Edison's “Eagles Nests” are entirely underway!

All students have been assigned to an adult staff member and have been meeting with them monthly. These “multi-age nests” allow an opportunity for every Eagle to establish a meaningful connection with an additional staff member whom they otherwise may not have had the opportunity to get to know!

During each monthly activity, they spend a little bit of time reviewing an aspect of our school-wide behavior matrix. They then plan a communication activity via restorative circles to build relationships among the group members. Lastly, they either play a game or do an activity – or both, if time allows!



During our December 2023 nest activity, students played “Bob the Bunny” – a game that we recently learned from Playworks. They then established goals for the new year, which are displayed in Edison's hallway for all to see! The staff is really excited about this program at Edison, as they have already seen the positive impact that it's making on our Eagles!

Twain Students Learning Through Play

Twain third-grade students have been learning and growing through play. Students are learning a new game each week thanks to Playworks – a training teachers recently received. Through these fun and easy games, kids are gaining social, emotional, and physical benefits. The games are designed to encourage all kids, even the most hesitant, to join in and try something new. We have been working on core recess games such as gaga ball and tag variations, as well as quick brain break games to help students manage energy in the classroom.



Here is what students have to say:

“I like that in some of the games you have to get out of your comfort zone and some of them are challenging.” – Marco

“I like that the games give us exercise and help us.” – Kailey

“I like playing all the new games like Pac-Man tag because you get to enjoy them with all of your friends.” – Liam G.

Students Earn Coins for Gaining CTE Knowledge

More than 40 Richards Middle School students were treated to a pizza lunch and celebrated for their dedication to learning and growing in their CTE knowledge.

Throughout the first semester, all eighth-grade students were invited to attend Lunch N Learns for the career technical education programs offered at Fraser High School.



During the lunches, FHS teachers and students presented and shared insight on each of the programs, Career Technical Student Organizations associated with the program, and discussed possible career opportunities in each field.



A total of 42 RMS Knights received a CTE coin and certificate for participating in three or more Lunch N Learn opportunities.

- Mechanical Design and Electronics Technology
- Culinary Arts
- Fashion Design
- Health Sciences
- Insurance and Work Based Learning
- Business Administration, Leadership, Accounting, and Web Design
- Marketing
- Future Teacher and Consumer Science
- Computer Programming and Cybersecurity
- Welding
- Woodworking and Engine Technology

Landform Presentations



The fourth-grade students at Salk Elementary learned about landforms in science and presented what they learned to their classmates.

Students chose any landform on Earth to research, answered questions about the landform, and planned a presentation. Students chose how they wanted to present their facts. Some of their choices included making a book creator, designing a poster, or building a 3D model. The students had a blast learning about Earth's landforms and did an amazing job presenting!

America RECYCLES

Congratulations to sixth-grade student Hailey Weir for her entry into this year's Macomb County Green Schools logo contest. The Eisenhower Elementary Green Team ran the contest to celebrate America Recycles Day. They had nine amazing pieces of artwork and voted for Hailey's as Eisenhower's



school entry. Hailey was awarded a Five Below gift card and will have her design submitted with our Green Team application to compete with other Macomb County schools.



Traveling the World

Mrs. Farkas' second-grade students at Eisenhower Elementary have been traveling around the world!

They start off each morning getting their passports stamped and being questioned by the customs

representative. Upon entering their class, they turn their luggage in and hop on a plane where they view their trip on a map to the next day's country.

By watching educational videos, reading stories, and learning fun facts through discussions, students have a

wonderful time learning about the different holidays and how the countries celebrate. So far, they have stopped in Germany to learn of Penny the Christmas Pickle, in the Netherlands to have St. Nick leave candy behind in their shoes, and Israel to learn about Hanukkah. Their adventures will take them to Australia, Sweden, England, and many more countries!

SPORTS Wrap-ups



Girls Varsity Golf

After not fielding a varsity golf team in 2022, five brave young women stepped up – many with no prior experience – and enjoyed a successful season. Led by seniors Norah Koch and Ava Oberliesen, a junior, and two freshmen, the varsity golf team competed in several tri-matches at our home course, Maple Lane. The Mac Blue Tournament was also held at Maple Lane where Ava Oberliesen was our top scorer and MVP. With the energy of our junior player, Isabella Hodnett, the team is looking to recruit many more young women who want to compete at the varsity level and have fun on the links.



Boys Varsity Football

The 2023 Fraser Varsity Football team battled their way to a 4-5 [2-3] record in the MAC Blue Division. Every week there was a battle and this team played as a team. Senior leadership on the team was outstanding led by senior offensive lineman/defensive lineman (OL/DL) Mario Pomorski and senior OL/DL Bryce Warner. Senior quarterback Jack Tury led the team in passing while senior running back Ben Daniels led the team in rushing.

Other outstanding senior performances for the year were wide receivers/running backs Aiden Hikkela and Keonte Riley. Tray'Vion Hunter had a great season with 10 sacks. The team finished the season with a thrilling 20-19 win with a 10-yard pass from Tury to junior Mason Cieplik against a playoff-bound Troy team, revenging a 42-0 loss in this final season. With many underclassmen coming back next year, the momentum is moving to a good year in 2024.



Boys Varsity Soccer

Varsity senior Carter McMahon lost his brother, Conner McMahon, who was a beloved teacher at Fraser High. The tragic event led the boys' soccer team to dedicate the 2023 season to Conner, and they delivered a magnificent performance and continued to raise the bar for future Rambler teams.

The team received recognition all year, ranking among the top District 1 high school boys' soccer teams in all of Michigan and finishing the year 12-3-3.

The team kept working on personal development as a cornerstone of growth for the program. The individual players lived and demonstrated the values of RISE on and off the field.

Many of the student athletes had fantastic seasons including Amar Selmic, Darryl Jackson, Brendan Smigielski, Evan Grove, Nolan Sheppard, and several others.

Noah Manor, our senior goalkeeper, had six clean sheets and allowed less than one goal per game, winning Michigan's Sports Illustrated Goalkeeper of the Year award, among other accolades.

Jacob Stone set a new Ramblers school record of career goals scored at 52 goals in his 4 years on the Varsity team. Jacob was also selected on the All-State team Honorable Mention and Michigan's Sports Illustrated attacker of the year.



Boys Tennis

The Boys Tennis team kept with Rambler tradition and competed in a tournament-heavy schedule this season with 13 matches in the first eight days of competition. The team finished third at the Lancer Invitational. League play was tough with L'Anse Creuse North, Henry Ford II, and Lakeview having joined the MAC Blue Division. All are strong teams and Macomb County standouts. The Ramblers finished in middle of the pack with a 2-3 record.

The team celebrated many individual accolades. Junior Carson Bennie received a MAC Blue All-Conference recognition and was also awarded 1st Team All-Macomb County, as well as the team's Most Valuable Player award for the first time as the top spot holder for us. Fraser's number one doubles duo, Camden Townsend and Cooper Norbeck, was also awarded the MAC Blue All-Conference and 1st Team All-Macomb County. Both received the team Strong Finisher Award. Senior and team captain Hunter Black received the Rambler Award. Senior Wynn Chan was selected as the Ironman Award recipient. New to the team, senior Nathan Ames received the team Most Improved Player Award.

The Ramblers celebrated the 2023 season with many victories and triumphs and are sad to see five of their seniors leave. They are looking forward to perseverance in their next new adventure of 2024.

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Girls Varsity Volleyball

The Fraser Varsity Volleyball team had an excellent season! The Lady Ramblers, under the guidance of head coach Kim Argiri-Slone, concluded the 2023 season with a 22-15-0 overall record. They finished third in the MAC White Conference with an impressive 6-4 record. The coaches were excited about the progress the team made this season. All-League 1st Team selections were Catherine Barnes and Marissa Gutow. Catherine Barnes made the county's All-Defense first team and Marissa Gutow made the second team. All-State academic honors were awarded to senior Taylor Dubay. One player, Breana Szydlowski, earned her first varsity letter. We are looking forward to next season.

"Listen to Women" Art Contest



FHS student Emily Gayed participated in the third annual "Listen to Women" art contest, sponsored by the American Association of University Women Grosse Pointe Branch, securing First Place with her incredible painting collage titled "Multicolored."

Emily's outstanding piece not only earned her well-deserved recognition but also a cash prize. And that's not all! Emily showcased her artistic prowess by entering a second artwork, which garnered interest from a private party for purchase. This not only reflects the quality of her work but also demonstrates the impact her art has on those who view it.

Additionally, we would like to extend our congratulations to Ella Gilbert for receiving an Honorable Mention for her remarkable photograph titled "Her Fruits." Ella's work, like Emily's, adds to the rich

tapestry of artistic expression and insight into the lives of women.

The success of Emily and Ella in this contest is a testament to the creativity, talent, and dedication present in our art program at Fraser High School. We are immensely proud of their achievements and grateful for the platform provided by the American Association of University Women Grosse Pointe Branch.

The pieces will be on exhibit until January 14, 2024, at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial Art Gallery.

PLANNING AHEAD

JANUARY 15
No School – Martin Luther King Day

JANUARY 22
Board of Education Meeting
RMS Idea Lab, 7:00 p.m.

JANUARY 25
Gleaners Mobile Food Pantry
FHS Klein Side, 9:30 a.m.

JANUARY 31
8th Grade Family Night
FHS Auditorium, 6:00 p.m.

JANUARY 31
All Levels Early Release – District
Provided Professional Development
Elementary & ECSE: 8:35 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
RMS: 8:05 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
FHS: 7:30 a.m. – 11:44 a.m.



Fraser High School

ACTIVITIES AUCTION

A Night at the Soda Shop



Friday, February 2, 2024
7:00-11:30 pm

Vintage House
31816 Utica Road
Fraser, MI
48026

\$40 per person

Ticket includes dinner, drinks, and dancing
Must be 21+ to attend



Proceeds benefit the Class of 2024, 2025, 2026, and 2027

Silent Auction, Live Auction,
Raffle Baskets, and 1950s Costume Contest

Auction Prize Payment due at the end of the event. Cash or Check accepted.

Questions? Contact Megan Schaeff | megan.schaeff@fraserk12.org

FRASER PERFORMING ARTS
CENTER PRESENTS:



Disney
**THE LITTLE
MERMAID**

Thursday, Feb. 8, 2024 – 7 PM

Friday, Feb. 9, 2024 – 7 PM

Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024 – 1 PM

**Fraser Performing Arts Center
Fraser High School
34270 Garfield Rd.
Fraser, MI
www.fraserperformingarts.org
(586) 439-7312**





WINTER

Wellness Night

February 23rd @FHS
Garfield Side thru Auditorium doors

Join us for a night of free fun!

Activities Include:
Hot Cocoa, Cookie Decorating, Self-Care Activities, Restorative Practices, Calming Room, Face Painting, Raffle

Community Partners Attending:
Certified Therapy Dogs, Live Pound Class, CARE of Southeastern Michigan, All Things Possible Wellness Center, Massage Therapists, Triumphant Cross Lutheran Church, Juggernauts Kid Foundation

Elementary Students + Parents	5 pm-6:45 pm
High School/Middle School Students	7 pm- 8:45 pm

Sponsored by the FHS Be Nice Club



Fraser Band Boosters Present
Our 32nd Annual

Spring Craft Show

**SATURDAY,
MARCH 2**

**Fraser
High School**

34270 Garfield Road
Fraser, MI 48026

**10am-4pm
\$3 Admission**

No Strollers Please

