

# Over the FENCE

## Michigan Art Educator OF THE YEAR



Congratulations to Fraser High School art teacher Roger Drabant, who has been recognized as the Michigan Art Education Association High School Division Art Teacher of the Year and the Michigan Art Educator of the Year!

Each year, the Michigan Art Education Association (MAEA) recognizes art teachers from the Elementary, Middle, and High School divisions, as well as an overall Art Educator of the Year.

To be considered for the award, a teacher must be a member of the MAEA and be nominated by a fellow member. There are over 700 art teachers in Michigan who are members of the organization.

The vetting process is extensive and based on

work through the state organization co-chair. Mr. Drabant is the Region 6 co-liaison, the K-12 Show chair, and the Ethnicity, Diversity, and Inclusion (ED&I) co-chair. He has presented at every state conference for the past 10 years and has served on several conference committees, including co-chairing the 2019 conference in Port Huron.

The committee also looks at involvement at the national level through the National Art Education Association, regional and national awards earned by students, letters of support, and personal shows as a displaying/practicing artist.

This year, there were a dozen nominations from the High School Division. "I am honored that I was selected to represent the Michigan Art Education Association as this year's High School Division Art Teacher of the Year, considering those who were also nominated," said Mr. Drabant.

Once the three division-level Teachers of the Years are selected, the committee brings in past State Art Educators of the Year awardees to vet the three finalists and help select the one teacher who will represent the state organization at the national-level conference as the MAEA Art Educator of the Year. This year's conference will take place in San Antonio, Texas in April. Mr. Drabant has also been selected as the Michigan Art Educator of the year!

"This is a huge honor and privilege, and I look forward to accepting the award at the annual fall conference in November. To be considered for any state-level award is an honor; to be selected for both the High School Division Art Teacher of the Year and the Michigan Art Educator of the Year is humbling, to say the least," said Mr. Drabant.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Fraser Families,

During the last few weeks, I have witnessed our Fraser Family come together, support each

other, and stand united to ensure a safe and caring community.

I have said it before, and I will say it again – Fraser is a special place. We are a tight-knit community and school district, and we all take pride in being a part of it. We remain dedicated to supporting and modeling safe behaviors for our students, staff, families, and community members.

I look forward to continuing to help our students, staff, and community continue to heal from this senseless tragedy.

As we enter October, I am excited to announce that the district is ready to launch the parent component of our new learning management system (LMS), Canvas. Unlike BlackBoard and itsLearning, we now have one LMS for all students K-12. Canvas provides a consistent environment for all our students, staff, and parents as they progress through grades.

I know learning a new system can be overwhelming, so we are

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# CURRICULUM CORNER

*Fraser Public Schools' staff kicked off this school year with two great days of professional learning.*

On August 24, all staff members gathered for a welcome breakfast and opening presentation from Dr. Wozniak. Her presentation included highlighting our Fraser High School teacher cadets. Three of our student leaders spoke about their experience working with elementary students in our summer school program. It was an inspiration hearing their reflection on the experience, as well as a testament to Fraser staff members who guided our students through the process.

On August 25, all teachers from grades PreK-12 gathered again at Fraser High School to learn from each other. Topics included our new Learning Management System (Canvas), trauma-informed instruction, small-group instruction, social-emotional learning, student grading practices, and much more. Research studies show that some of the most impactful learning teachers can experience is when they are learning from each other. Teachers appreciate and value the knowledge of their

colleagues who are in the classroom every day working with students. In Fraser, we are lucky to have staff members who are filled with expertise on a variety of topics. Our initial professional learning sessions this year were a success due to the dedication of our staff members to being lead learners for our district.

As the year continues, we will remain focused on providing professional learning opportunities for our teachers and staff members that will help them grow as practitioners and professionals. Leaning on the expertise of our own staff members is an effective and rewarding way to grow together as a collective group in Fraser Public Schools.

## Parents' Access to Canvas **COMING SOON**

The parent component of our new learning management system, Canvas, launches in October.

We are excited for the opportunity to have a consistent system for families to access student learning. At the secondary level (Grades 7-12), parents will also be able to see student assignments and grades at the same time.

Our 21st Century Coaches will also be hosting a day and evening parent webinar to introduce Canvas, show how to create a parent account, check assignments and grades, and answer any questions you may have.

Meetings should last about an hour. Please choose whichever one fits your schedule.

### **Canvas Parent Meetings**

**October 5 at 9:00 a.m.**

**October 6 at 6:30 p.m.**

If you are unable to make it to one of the webinars, a recording will be posted on our website.

An email will be sent to families October 3 with directions on how to create a parent account and registration links for the webinars.



## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

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planning a webinar later this month to introduce Canvas to parents. Our 21st Century Coaches will provide an overview of all the things you can do with a Canvas parent account. This includes viewing your child's assignments and grades [7-12]. You can read more about Canvas in the article on this page, and look for an email in the coming days with more information.

We are excited to partner with our families as we work together in sharing your child's academic progress. We know that when families are engaged in the learning process, our students succeed.

With Fraser Pride,  
**Dr. Wozniak**

## A Supportive Learning Environment



Disney Elementary started the year focusing on establishing positive relationships, building community, developing routines, and learning how to be prepared to learn. Their staff wants students to feel welcome, safe, and have a positive sense of community.

“I will speak from my heart with respect for myself and others.” This is the opening statement that our second graders are saying at Disney every day before they begin a restorative circle. Both classes are learning what it means to be a positive part of a community in class and school.

As part of their SEL practices, students use a talking piece for each circle and share things – from what their favorite foods are to what feelings they have about experiences in their lives. Students and staff are working to build a strong connection in each class where every student feels safe and validated, knowing that every voice matters.

At the end of each circle, students close with this statement, “I am grateful for myself and my class.” Disney looks forward to seeing each student grow as a person and as a member of their class family. The goal is that teachers and students all feel supported in their learning environment.

## Building Classroom COMMUNITIES

*Second grade at Eisenhower Elementary was busy the first two weeks of school learning procedures and expectations and building classroom communities.*



Students participated in an M&M candy “Getting to Know You” activity, made things with Play-Doh to describe themselves, and shared

“All About Me” bags with the class.

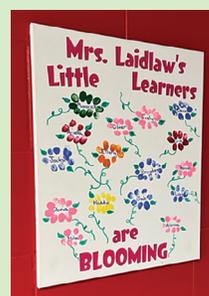
They also played games like Stand Up/ Sit Down and Four Corners to learn about each other. Students and staff look forward to building relationships with each other in the coming weeks.

Fourth-grade students also used Play-Doh to share a fun fact about

themselves on the first day of school. Mr. Rybicki and Mrs. Arnold started building their classroom communities through Morning Meetings. Each morning, students meet to greet each other and share. This will be a wonderful time to connect, build relationships, and create a positive climate within their classrooms.



## A NEW YEAR, A BLANK CANVAS



A new year of school, a new canvas ready to be painted. At Eisenhower Elementary this year, students and staff are focusing on new beginnings, new goals, and new relationships. Mrs. Kelley, principal at Eisenhower, met with each classroom to discuss the school's theme for the year. Each classroom is creating a canvas that represents their class family. They are using this time to brainstorm, connect, and create together. As you walk down the halls of Eisenhower, the walls are lined with the classroom canvases.

# Richards Middle School **CASTLE CREW**

*The RMS community welcomed the Castle Crew back a little differently this year.*

To build a strong foundation for growth and success, students and staff engaged in an intentional initiation the first four days of the school year. On Monday, August 29, students didn't receive their



normal syllabus and list of expectations. Instead, our Knights began building relationships with peers and staff and engaged in a school-wide activity of decorating a paper brick. The bricks were then "built" together in the cafeteria to show that everyone is represented and plays a part in our building. This will be on display for the remainder of the year and will be added to as we gain new students.

The week continued with providing opportunities for students to voice what they thought building expectations should look like through classroom discussions

each hour on Tuesday. Mr. Julian and Mrs. Skladanowski then reviewed the student Jamboard share-outs and presented to the students on Wednesday. The week culminated with the first assembly of the year, where students participated in team-building activities and learned what support looked like in the building, as well as being introduced to staff.

They are excited about the atmosphere and energy they are experiencing at the Castle but know the impact of the intentional community building and explicit teaching of expectations has set the foundation for success for this school year. Students have been engaged, empowered, and excited for a new year to honor the Castle.

## Twain Practices the **Golden Rule**

Second-grade students at Mark Twain Elementary built community and self-regulation skills by reading "Do Unto Otters" by Laurie Keller. After studying the Golden Rule, these students collaborated to make a class list of expectations.

As a culminating event, they made their own stuffed otter!



Parents enjoyed reading the students' expectations and seeing the cute otters at Meet the Teacher Night.

## WILD ABOUT **KINDERGARTEN!**



Kindergarten students at Salk Elementary had the opportunity at their Open House to go on a safari and explore their classroom as they searched for animals in different locations. The safari allowed the children to become familiar with their classroom and routines, and answered questions that new parents had about starting school.

Hunting for animals was not the only thing the newest Seahawks had to find. On their first full day of school, students enjoyed hearing the story "The Gingerbread Man" and then toured the school reading clues in order to locate Salk's gingerbread cake that ran away!

This tour allowed the newest members to find all their specials classrooms, the office, and the media center, where gingerbread cake was finally found.

## Kindergarten and 6th Grade **PARTNERS**



The boys and girls in Miss Stenger's Kindergarten class at Emerson Elementary were able to meet their Sixth Grade Reading Buddies for the first time. After listening to "Chicka Chicka Boom Boom," they completed a name activity together.

The kindergarten students are really looking forward to spending time each Friday afternoon with their new friends. They are excited to work on their letters, sounds, sight words, and become better readers!



*Fraser High School homecoming spirit week returned to a more traditional format, with the first indoor pep assembly and dance in three years.*

Students across the district participated in spirit days throughout the week leading up to the game. At FHS, the sophomore class of 2025 won for best spirit week decorations. The freshmen class of 2026 won for best float, and the seniors won the pep assembly.

At halftime, seniors John Willaert and Lauren Orsi were named king and queen.



## Volunteer Opportunity for Computer Science



Fraser Public Schools has been a proud partner of the Microsoft TEALS program for almost five years. TEALS helps bring computer science curriculum to students across America, offering curriculum, instructor support, and even lab support by providing

volunteers in the classroom to connect daily lessons to industrial applications that workers see every day in the information technology pathway. TEALS has a variety of delivery models to fit the needs of those interested in volunteering. If you are interested in pouring your computer science knowledge back into our learners, please **click here** to reach out to TEALS and learn more about volunteer opportunities.

## Cyber Security and Computer Programming **RECEIVE GRANTS**

*The Cyber Security and Computer Programming programs at Fraser High School are the recipients of two national grants that will directly impact students and enhance learning.*

The Cyber Security program was awarded a technology grant from Cyber.org worth about \$7,000. The grant provides 100 licenses to US Cyber Range, a virtual training space that simulates a variety of security incidents. This provides students with a safe environment for realistic, hands-on cybersecurity labs and exercises.

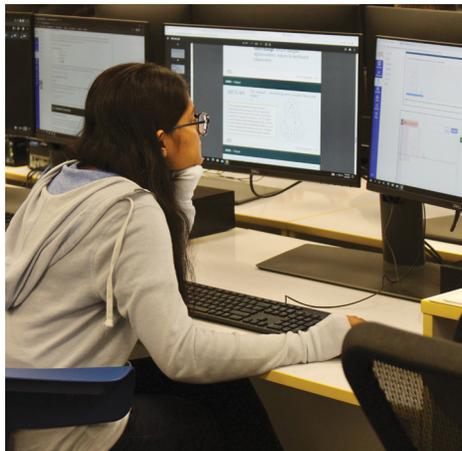
“This is something new at Fraser High School, and we will be implementing it in the upcoming months in my Cybersecurity and Advanced Cybersecurity courses,” said program director Mrs. Christina Vrzovski.

Mrs. Vrzovski applied for the grant during the summer and found out in August that FHS had been selected.

“What an honor, especially in a field like cybersecurity where there is zero percent unemployment,” she said. “These are the jobs of the future and Fraser is enhancing its cybersecurity programs

by providing new and innovative tools to prepare our students for success.”

FHS is also one of the newest partners of the Amazon Future Engineer program through Project STEM, which will enhance the Computer Programming classes at FHS. Mrs. Vrzovski applied a year ago, and recently found out she was selected for the national program.



“I am humbled to be able to provide such an amazing program for our students from such a highly recognized organization like Amazon. This makes me happy to know that our students are receiving incredible opportunities in a world where cybersecurity and computer programming play an important role in society. My students are eager to get started with both Project STEM and US Cyber Range.”

The Amazon-funded resources and support provides preparatory lessons, tutorials, and professional development for teachers and fully sequenced digital curriculum for students. These courses are designed to inspire, prepare, and propel students in their pursuit of computer science education. Mrs. Vrzovski plans to incorporate them into her existing computer science class.

“These curriculums align with the computer science standards, and the learning environment makes it easy for the students to navigate,” she said. “Amazon Future Engineer’s mission is to increase access to computer science education and prepare students (at any age) for careers in computer science. This opportunity will help students realize their potential as thinkers and builders.”

## PLANNING AHEAD

### OCTOBER 5

#### Count Day

The State of Michigan uses attendance records from this day to determine school funding.

### OCTOBER 10

#### Board of Education Meeting

7:00 p.m., Disney Elementary

### OCTOBER 13

#### RMS Conferences

1:00-4:00 p.m. and 5:00-8:00 p.m.

### OCTOBER 13

#### Gleaners Mobile Food Pantry

9:00-11:00 a.m., FHS [Klein Side]

### OCTOBER 15

#### Fall Craft Show

10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., FHS

### OCTOBER 19

#### 5th Grade Song Flute Concert

Time TDB, FHS Gym

### OCTOBER 24

#### Board of Education Meeting

7:00 p.m., IDEA Lab

### OCTOBER 26

#### Elementary Evening

4:30-7:30 p.m.

### OCTOBER 26

#### NHS Inductions

7:00 p.m., FHS Auditorium

### OCTOBER 27

#### Elementary Afternoon

& Evening Conferences

1:00-3:00 p.m. and 4:30-7:30 p.m.

### OCTOBER 27

#### Gleaners Mobile Food Pantry

9:00-11:00 a.m., FHS [Klein Side]