

Over the Fence

CELEBRATING THE CLASS *of* 2020

Under a clear sky, the 90th commencement of Fraser High School brought together 318 graduates and their families despite a global pandemic.



Following social distancing guidelines, the commencement was broken into two events—a virtual portion that premiered online at 3:00 p.m. and a drive-thru portion at FHS at 7:00 p.m.

The virtual portion included the commencement addresses from students, teachers and administrators, including the two co-salutatorians and valedictorian, who told their fellow classmates to celebrate their achievement and not dwell on the events that were canceled.

"Forgive me for the melodrama, but for our whole lives—in movies and TV and books—we constantly are told that high school should be the best four years of your life and to make it count. And now, at the culmination of it all, you feel like you're missing out on these amazing, well-deserved memories. And maybe we

are. But we already made plenty of new ones and we have plenty of time to make more. So, I challenge you to consider all the positivity that's been spread over the past few months," said Salutatorian Isabella Palomba.

Even though social distancing has changed so much, the top scholars encouraged everyone to embrace the new normal.

"Despite being so far from each other physically—the current state of our world has brought us closer than ever before," said Salutatorian Corinne Hinson.

"We've done great things and we are going to continue to do great things and a pandemic can't, and never will, change that," said Valedictorian Victoria Kovac.

An hour and a half after the virtual portion concluded, decorated cars jammed traffic on Garfield as they filed into the FHS parking lot.

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"Despite being so far from each other physically – the current state of our world has brought us closer than ever before."

CORINNE HINSON, Salutatorian

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Fraser Families,

What a year this has been! I have long said that we are like a Fraser Family, and the last three months have shown that even when everything we are used to is turned upside down, we still come together and make sure our children are the priority. I know it has not been easy for everyone since our schools closed in March, but I am amazed at the outpouring of support from our teachers, parents, community and students to come together and make it to this point.



The June newsletter typically celebrates the end of the school year. As you look through this issue, I hope you are as inspired as I am by the creative ways our schools celebrated students. All of our elementary schools hosted an event to celebrate the 6th-grade students moving up to Richards Middle School in the fall. Parades, lawn signs, clap outs and socially distant pictures marked the end of more than 300 students' elementary careers.

This year also marked the 90th commencement of Fraser High School, and the first commencement that included a drive-thru portion. I hope you had the opportunity to watch this event (and if you haven't, head over to our **YouTube** channel to check it out).

I would also like to take a moment to look forward to next year. The upcoming school year is full of many unknowns. But we also have things that we do know:

- We know that nearly 100 staff members have volunteered to work this summer on our districtwide Return to School Task Force. They will be following the guidelines from the State to develop our return-to-school plan.
- We know that our students will have opportunities to continue learning this summer through a variety of virtual activities and extended online learning opportunities on our website (see story on page five).
- We know we will offer our families options as they plan for the fall. Our virtual K-12 school is open for anyone who would like to participate. This option will be taught by our teachers and offer the same high-quality educational experience and support that you expect from us. More information can be found on our website, www.GoToFraser.com.

We will be sharing more information about our return-to-school plan and our virtual option throughout the summer. We will also be asking for your input. We are grateful for your continued support of our Fraser Family!

Please stay safe and healthy, and enjoy your summer!

With Fraser Pride,
Ms. Wozniak



CELEBRATING THE CLASS of 2020

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Graduates exited their cars near the band parking lot to have their professional pictures taken before getting back into their cars and driving out onto the track.

With their families just a few feet away, the graduates walked down the track to the 50-yard line, where they received their diplomas from one of the seven Board of Education members.

Senior Class President Jenna Cotey was the first to drive thru and receive her diploma, so she could be in the Klein parking lot hosting a dozen small group tassel-turning ceremonies for the remainder of the night.

Since attendance at the event was limited to graduates and their families, it was live-streamed on the district's Facebook page and watched from as far away as Texas. It was also broadcast on a webinar, allowing families to call in and listen to the happenings on the field while they waited in line.

By 9:30 p.m., the final graduate and car made their way down the track, surrounded by many of the volunteers who had helped make the event a resounding success.

To view the entire graduation video, please visit our [district Facebook page](#).



REMEMBERING THE CLASS of 2020

GRADUATES

318

CLASS SPONSORS

Stephanie Zary and Jessica Perkins

CLASS COLORS

Black and Gold

CLASS FLOWER

White Rose

CLASS SONG

"I'm Still Standing" by Elton John

CLASS MOTTO

"According to all known laws of aviation, there is no way a bee should be able to fly... The bee, of course, flies anyway because bees don't care what humans think is impossible."

– Bee Movie

Congratulations IAM Graduates

Four Fraser students were among the 2020 graduates of the International Academy of Macomb (IAM).

The IAM is an International Baccalaureate World School located in Clinton Township.

Students from every district in the county are invited to attend the school, which has a commitment to high-quality and challenging international education. Congratulations to the following students:

Courtney Nichol

Brendan Shalawylo

Caila Sterling

Kennedy Waelchli

EARLY COLLEGE OF MACOMB GRADUATES

Twenty-two Fraser High School students completed their associate degrees at Macomb Community College through the Early College of Macomb (ECM) program this year. The program allows students to begin working on their college degrees in 11th grade. Students opt to take a fifth year of high school in order to finish the three-year program, which does not charge the students tuition.

The graduates participated in the FHS commencement with the Class of 2020, but officially earn their diplomas next year once they finish the ECM program.

Akia Arms

Francesca Bonello

Andrew Domenicucci

Sawsan Elhady

Alyssa Goers

Jamison Grace

Joshua Kopich

Isobel Muskovin

Jackson Oltman

Wyatt Peruski

Bradley Pieprzyk

Tyler Pierce

Brendan Rice

Alyssa Rose

Kayla Schnaltz

Marisa Sciriha

Riley Sebastian

Nickolas Shock

Ashley Sovel

Alyssa Stevenson

Kamryn Tapp

Kathleen Yang

FOUR MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2020 WILL BE SERVING OUR COUNTRY IN THE ARMED FORCES

Congratulations to the following students who have enlisted:

Britney Caldwell – Air Force

Seth Cramer-Kawa – Marines

William Gray – Navy

David Wells – Army

BEST OF THE BEST 2020



VICTORIA KOVAC
Valedictorian

Parents:

Jana Kovac and Jozef Kovac

College Plans:

University of Michigan,
Ross School of Business

Future Field of Study:

Business Administration
and Sustainability



CORINNE HINSON
Co-Salutatorian

Parents:

Chad and Amy Hinson

College Plans:

University of Michigan

Future Field of Study:

Business Administration



ISABELLA PALOMBA
Co-Salutatorian

Parent:

Vincenzo Palomba

College Plans:

University of Michigan,
then Medical School

Future Field of Study:

Neuroscience/Neurosurgery

2020 TOP SCHOLARS

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Ella Baranski
Brendan Cairney
Madison Dettloff
Corinne Hinson
Caitlin Kelly
Victoria Kovac
Thomas McNelis
Cheyne Middleton
Isobel Muskovin
Sydney Nummer
Isabella Palomba
Brendan Rice
Sean Rooney
Khalil Roy
Kayla Schmaltz
Riley Sebastian
Dylan Spurr

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Ryan St.Onge
Alyssa Stevenson
Natalie Trudell
Marissa Valade
Sarah Wallace
Nicholas Allport
Audrey Braun
Leah Cinder
Matthew Cole
Megan Davidson
Alyssa Goers
Emma Guzman
Shellby James
Joshua Kopich
Vincent LaTorre
Zachary Lenning
Rachel McMenamin

Lauren Pryor
Jacob Rodgers
Jeremy Russo
Marisa Sciriha
Keegan Smith
Abigail Stone

Courtney Truskowski
Angelina Viviano
Emma Waters
Ashleigh Wise
Sydney Zombo

CUM LAUDE

Akia Arms
Brooke Arnold
Justin Babbitt
Jadah Brown
Alexander Capizzo
Daniel Cobb

Jenna Cotey
Joseph Cross
Brianna Daley
Savannah Danis
Noelle Dessert
Andrew Domenicucci
Maximillian Duco
Sawsan Elhady
Brooke Fantin
Megan Gill
Alaiya Harris
Alexander Hoppe
Kailey Mangold
Ashlyn Mayers
Xavier McCowan-Harris
Olivia Miele
Nicholas Olesky
Tyler Pierce

Jessica Pizzimenti
Leonora Prekaj
Rachel Prykucki
Acadia Rathbun
Jennifer Reynoso-Jimenez
Brianna Rottmann
Erik Schroeder
Nickolas Shock
Maxwell Spadafore
Cory Strange
Elaine Stumpf
Kyle Tretchler
Ava Vivona
Jack Waters
Megan Waters
Anne Williams
Mitchell Winkelman
Chloe Wojciechowski

FHS STUDENTS NAMED RISING STARS

Fraser High School would like to congratulate and honor two career and technical education rising stars. Junior Olivia Pesti was named the Northwood University Junior Business Student of the Year. The same honor was awarded to Senior Joey Tavalieri last year. This award is paired with a \$20,000 scholarship to Northwood University.

Joey was accepted into Northwood and is weighing his options for the fall semester. He graduated from FHS with a 3.2 GPA and completed 10 CTE courses, ranging from Computer Programming to Marketing to Consumer Sciences. He plans to use the experiences he had in CTE as a pathway to guide his career choices in the future.

Olivia is currently holding a 3.4 GPA and completed six semesters of CTE courses. She has also enrolled in Accounting, Microsoft Office Specialist, Retail Store Operations, and Business Leadership and Technology II for her senior year to keep enriching her path toward a career in business. She will be participating in DECA competitions and plans to apply for the National Technical Honor Society as well. After high school, Olivia would like to attend Northwood and major in accounting.

“Our current articulation agreement with Northwood will open many doors for our students and provide additional opportunities for credits, scholarships and grants,” said teacher Mrs. Alycia Williams. “We want to say a huge congratulations to both Joey and Olivia! We know you will keep your Rambler Pride strong and make us so very proud with your future endeavors. You have provided a great outlook for future students who will aspire to reach such great heights!”

STUDENTS *of the* YEAR

Each year the departments at Fraser High School select one student to represent them as the Student of the Year. These 14 students are chosen based on courses completed and dedication. They are recognized at Board of Education meetings throughout the winter and spring months. Congratulations to the following students:

Lauren Johnston, Art

Marissa Woods, Business

Isabella Palomba, English

William Ryan, Industrial Technology

Matthew Cole, Instrumental Music

Rachel Jensen, Math

Dana Walker, Life Skills

Tyler Bednarchik, Physical Education

Ryan St.Onge, Science

Jack Waters, Social Studies

Brooke Arnold, Vocal Music

Elijah DiCerbo, World Language – French

Raul Tarango-Alcantar, World Language – German

Caitlin Kelly, World Language – Spanish

Student Athletes Commit to College Careers

We would like to recognize the following students who have committed to continuing their athletic careers at the post-secondary level. These students have worked hard during their time at Fraser High School to excel in their sports, and we wish them the best of luck as they continue in college.

Jalen Richardson

Football at Olivet College

Brendan Cairney

Cross Country/Track at Ferris State University

Jessica Pizzimenti

Volleyball at Olivet College

Tommy McNelis

Basketball at U of M–Dearborn

Sydney Zombo

Softball at Hope College

Tyler Wengler

Baseball at Saginaw Valley State University

Audrey Braun

Dance at Oakland University

Ben Cicalo

Baseball at Rochester College

Thomas Flowers

Cross Country at Macomb College

Alexander Capizzo

Swimming at Wayne State University

FRASER STUDENTS RECOGNIZED BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN IN IT

In the fall, female technology students at FHS applied for the National Council of Women in Industrial Technology (NCWIT) Aspiration Award. The application includes demographics, courses taken and three short essays. From this year's group, Megan Gill and Gabriella Stickney received the Rising Star and Honorable Mention, respectively. If we were not in quarantine, the students would have been able to attend an amazing ceremony at Michigan State University

in the spring to receive their awards. This honor connects students with a network of possibilities, including recommendations, recognition and opportunities in the IT field.

Megan Gill is a senior who took MOS, MOS II, Hybrid Coding and Cyber Security courses. She was very surprised about the options available at Fraser High School and changed her major to Cyber Security after taking the course. “Megan has gone above and beyond the scope of her classes and is

an excellent leader,” commented her teacher, Mrs. Vrzovski.

Gabriella Stickney is a junior and had taken Creative Coding, Web Design, MOS I and MOS II. Gabby is a quiet student and has grown to be a tech-savvy student. Her attention to details has led to contacting MOS customer support about mistakes that she has found. Her teacher, Mrs. Vrzovski, said, “I have confidence that her little voice will do great things.”

CURRICULUM CORNER

SUMMER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The end of the 2019-2020 school year was unlike any other year in the long history of our district. We know that students may need to catch up on some learning this summer. We also want to provide an alternative to keep kids busy, since many summer camps are closed.

Our preschool and elementary teachers met virtually and compiled activities for students to work on this summer. Activities are broken down into English Language Arts, math, science and social studies. Specials teachers also developed summer learning content.

"We wanted our students to keep their iPads this summer so they could continue learning through optional summer activities," said Dr. Donna Anderson, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction. "Our goal is for students to keep learning through apps and activities that are already familiar to them."

Parents can access the list of opportunities for students finishing preschool through 6th grade on our website at www.fraser.k12.mi.us/summerlearning.

SUMMER READING PROGRAMS

Our local public libraries are hosting virtual summer reading challenges for students of all ages! Many libraries are open for curbside pickup and will be opening inside soon to borrow books. It's not too late to sign up and work on literacy skills all summer!

FRASER ([Click here to learn more](#))

Fraser is hosting friendly reading competitions for toddlers to teenagers. Participants can win prizes by reading every day!

CLINTON TOWNSHIP ([Click here to learn more](#))

Children and teenage readers can win a prize for every 15 days they read through Clinton Township's summer program. Read 60 days this summer and be entered to win a gift card.

ROSEVILLE ([Click here to learn more](#))

Roseville has a reading challenge for students of all ages and adults! Students earn points for every minute they read. Every 100 points earns a prize! Earn 500 points to be entered in the grand prize drawing.

SOCIAL STUDIES OLYMPIAD WINNERS

Congratulations to the following Edison Elementary students who placed at the Social Studies Olympiad:

Maddie Mumma – Gold for Her Storyboard Poster

Emily Lentine – Gold for Her Primary Document Journal

Katelyn Frazier – Gold for her Political Cartoon, Silver for Graphic Design and Honorable Mention for Quiltathon

2020 RETIREES

Congratulations to the following staff members retiring this year. Combined, these 10 men and women served Fraser Public Schools for 284 years! Thank you for your service and dedication, and we wish you well in your retirement.

John Commy, Special Education Aide – 29 years

Alice Czanstke, Food Service – 39 years

Mrs. Czanstke passed away in December 2019

Sherilyn Devuono, Bus Driver – 18 years

Karen Hartman-Burcar, Help Desk Project Coordinator – 24 years

Pamela Kelenski, Administrative Assistant – 25 years

Richard Julian, Custodian – 28 years

Deborah May, Teacher – 19 years

Kelly McCarty, District Network Manager – 25 years

Jane Pokriefka, Teacher – 26 years

Edward Shaffer, Custodian – 31 years

Carol Trush, FHS Counselor – 20 years



Healthy food
to fuel your summer.

FREE MEALS CONTINUING THROUGH SUMMER

Fraser Public Schools is proud to continue serving free meals for all children up to age 18 throughout the summer.

Parents or guardians can pick up both meals at the same time from the following locations, Monday – Friday.

FRASER HIGH SCHOOL

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

McKINLEY PARK AND TWAIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.



Public Schools FRASER VIRTUAL K-12

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

In the fall of 2020, Fraser Public Schools will launch a virtual K-12 school option for all current and new students. The district wants to provide choices for families who may not be comfortable sending their children back to school in September and/or prefer a virtual learning environment. We have compiled some frequently asked questions about the virtual option. These will also be posted on our website, www.fraser.k12.mi.us/virtual and added to during the summer.

Before I make a decision, what will face-to-face learning look like in the fall? Will class sizes be smaller? Will students be required to wear masks?

Will students have to alternate days or have staggered start times?

We have nearly 100 district employees working on our return-to-school plan for the fall. The State is expected to release a plan at the end of June, and our plan will follow the guidelines set forth in the State's plan. At this time, we do not know what restrictions or changes will be necessary to keep everyone safe.

What will happen if coronavirus cases spike again and Michigan is put on another stay home order in the fall?

In the event coronavirus cases spike and the State restricts face-to-face learning, all students in Fraser Public Schools would be taught virtually. Once any restrictions are lifted, only students enrolled in Fraser Virtual would continue to be taught virtually.

Will Fraser Virtual offer the same rigor as the extended online learning that was offered from March through June?

Fraser Virtual will be on the same pace as face-to-face learning in Fraser. This will be a more rigorous experience than our Extended Online Learning was. Students in both learning environments will be working toward the same district competencies and State standards.

Who will be the teacher? Will my child be expected to learn on his or her own?

Fraser teachers will be teaching the virtual classes. While virtual students will need a teaching coach at home to help them stay on task, our teachers will be delivering the content and designing the lessons.

Will teachers be able to give my child personalized attention and instruction?

Yes. Elementary teachers in the virtual option will be teaching only virtual students. Some secondary teachers may teach a combination of in-class and virtual sections, similar to what they have been doing with our hybrid classes.

How will the district ensure that students are learning?

We anticipate bringing elementary students in a couple of times a month for assessments and small group learning. All students would also need to come in for standardized assessments like the M-STEP, SAT and PSAT.

My child attends RMS or FHS but wants to participate in band or choir or take a CTE class. How will that work?

They will have the opportunity to attend those classes during the day when they are regularly scheduled for all students.

If I enroll my child in the virtual option but realize it is not a fit for my family, will I have the option to switch?

Yes. Once the school year starts, parents/guardians will be able to switch from virtual to face-to-face (or vice versa) during the second semester window in December/January. Students would make the transition at the end of January. *Please note that elementary students may be placed in a different school if there is not space in their home school.*

My child has an IEP or 504 plan. How will this be accommodated if I want to enroll him or her in Virtual Fraser?

We are working closely with our Special Education Department to ensure that IEPs are followed for all students. If your student is in the virtual school, we will accommodate his or her IEP.

Do I need to hurry up and make a decision about which option is best for my family?

The enrollment window for Fraser Virtual is open through August 26. We have unlimited space, so there is no danger of it "filling up" before then.

How do I enroll my child(ren) in Fraser Virtual?

We have created a short **form** for our current parents/guardians to fill out and submit. Any new students entering the district this fall would be able to select this option on the enrollment packet.

I have a question not asked here. How can I get more information?

Superintendent Carrie Wozniak will host a webinar on July 15 to answer your questions. We have created a **form** for you to submit your questions in advance.

6TH GRADE CELEBRATIONS!

Completing elementary school is an achievement seven years in the making. With our schools closed, the traditional celebrations had to be altered. During the last week of school, each building hosted a drive-thru event for 6th-grade students and their families. **Congratulations to the 6th grade class of 2020, and best of luck at Richards Middle School!**

