

# Over the FENCE

## Welcome New Administrator

**James Baker, Assistant Principal, Fraser High School**

*Mr. Baker joins us from Austin Catholic High School, where he was Assistant Principal and Athletic Director for the last six years.*

Prior to that, he spent 11 years teaching social studies at several high schools, most



recently Pershing and Denby high schools in the Detroit Public Schools Community District. He was also an instructional coach at Denby High School.

Mr. Baker has a strong background in curriculum development and alignment, as well as in scheduling.

"I wanted to join Fraser Public Schools because of its commitment to providing quality education and fostering a supportive

community," he said. "As an administrator at Fraser High School, my goal is to enhance student learning outcomes, promote collaboration among staff, and ensure a safe and inclusive environment for all students while preparing them for a successful future."

Mr. Baker earned his bachelor's degree in history from Alma College and his masters in education with a concentration in curriculum design, instruction, and assessment from Marygrove College.

Please join us in welcoming Mr. Baker to Fraser Public Schools!

### SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Fraser Families,  
This year is all about building a strong climate and culture in our schools and across our district. We are always

looking for ways to celebrate successes and support our families.

In September, our Board of Education voted to waive all pay to play athletic fees for Fraser High School and Richards Middle School students for the entire school year. The district realizes the important role extracurricular opportunities play in the lives of our students, and we want to encourage a high level of participation. We hope that the elimination of athletic fees for this school year will provide some financial relief to our families.

We will also continue our partnership with Gleaners Community Food Bank to offer a free drive thru food pantry twice a month at Fraser High School. They will be set up in the Klein Road parking lot every other Thursday, from 9 to 11 a.m. beginning October 5. You can find all of the pantry dates on our **website**.

In a few weeks, we will host our fall student-led conferences. During these meetings, students will have an opportunity to share their learning with their families. These conferences provide students a chance to take ownership of their learning and play an active role in the educational process.

I also want to take a moment and recognize our Career Technical Education department and Ms. Stacie

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## COUNT DAY

October 4, 2023, is Count Day for the State of Michigan. Please plan on sending your student to school on this day. The state uses attendance records from this day to determine funding for our school district. If your student is ill, please call the attendance office at your school for an excused absence.



# CURRICULUM CORNER

SELF-REGULATION

**“The ability to self-regulate—to strategically modulate one’s emotional reactions or states to be more effective at coping and engaging with the environment—is a critical aspect of human development.” (CAST, Inc., 2023)**

We believe it is important for our students to develop their ability to monitor their emotions and motivations. This skill will continue to guide them through challenges and tasks and better prepare them for life after graduation. Despite this being an ability developed over time through repeated attempts at tasks or observation of others, it can be further nurtured by routines and experiences provided to an individual.

In Fraser Public Schools, we support students’ development of self-regulation by focusing on three areas:

**Promoting expectations and beliefs that optimize motivation** – Our staff works hard to provide students with as many

options as possible to help them work on tasks in a way that is motivating. We encourage students to be creative and take ownership in aspects of this learning.

**Facilitating personal coping skills and strategies** – Our staff uses the learning management system, Canvas, as well as rubrics, models, and reminders to give students references and strategies for accomplishing a task. Discussions occur about how to best stay on task, avoid distractions, and reach out for assistance when needed. At the secondary level, some flexibility with timelines is provided to assist with learner variability. Further, our counseling staff is prepared to work with students who get anxious and need strategies for overcoming that emotion.

**Developing self-assessment and reflection** – Our staff strive to give timely feedback to students. In many cases, students are asked to reflect on the feedback or their current status on a task

to determine their progress thus far or determine their next course of action.

As self-regulation is a pivotal skill for everyone, it's important continue to nurture it as often as possible. Some ways to grow this trait at home are the following:

1. Have conversations about what motivates you and your child.
2. Provide choices when possible.
3. Model setting goals and organizing your work toward those goals.
4. Discuss setting goals with your child and work with them to monitor their progress.
5. Have conversations reflecting on progress toward each of your goals and model what it means to evaluate and adjust.
6. Be your child’s cheerleader, and have them be yours!

## FHS Teacher Wins Grant for Future Teachers Program



*The Future Teachers program at Fraser High School continues to grow and now has \$1,000 in grant funding to purchase educational materials.*

Ms. Sonja Bozinovski applied for and received the grant from the Michigan After-School Partnership. It will provide support materials to students as they work toward earning a Child Development Associate (CDA) or Michigan Youth Development Associate (MI-YDA) credential through the Future Teacher program.

### SUPERINTENDENT’S MESSAGE

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Yokhana. Ms. Yokhana was named a #proudMeducator by the Michigan Department of Education. This initiative features educators and supporters of Michigan educators who share their passion for education. **Click here** to watch the video celebrating Ms. Yokhana’s accomplishments.

In closing, we are proud of our entire team. As Helen Keller shared, “Alone we can do so little; together, we can do so much.” It is through our collective efforts that we are able to make a positive difference for all of our students.

With Fraser Pride,  
**Dr. Wozniak**

# Edison Teacher Wins \$1,000 Grant

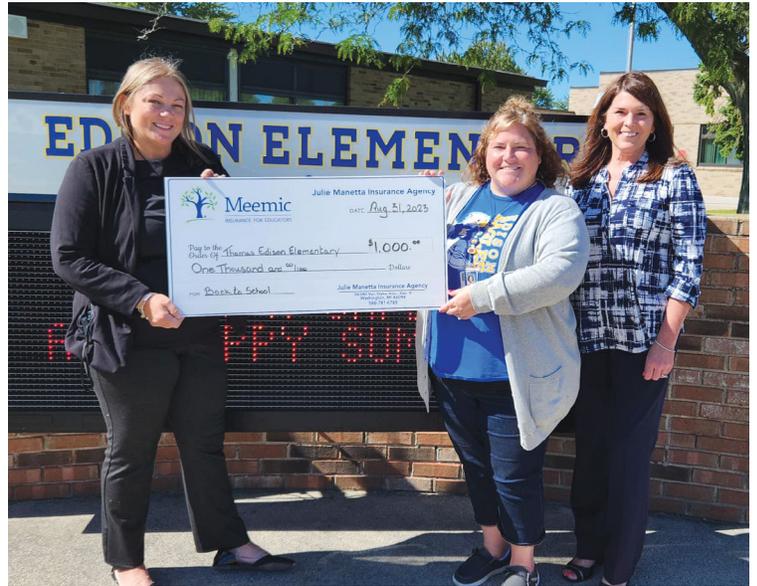
*The start of the school year can be a whirlwind, especially with a surprise \$1,000 to spend.*

Edison Elementary teacher Nicole Parenteau was surprised to find out during the first week of school that she'd won a grant from the Meemic Foundation.

Meemic Insurance Agent Julie Manetta surprised Ms. Parenteau with a giant check in her classroom.

"We want this to benefit all involved at Edison and create a positive atmosphere," said Ms. Parenteau.

After brainstorming with Principal Kristy Wiegand, Ms. Parenteau says she will use the grant to purchase staff shirts that support Edison's PBIS theme of building strong teams, as well as to purchase PBIS rewards for students.



# Guardian Caps Offer Another Layer of Protection for Student Athletes

The Fraser Athletic Department, along with Fraser Public Schools, is proud to announce that together, they have taken a step forward in providing another level of safety for student athletes who participate in the football program.

The district recently purchased the Guardian Cap for all student athletes who participate in football at both Richards Middle School and Fraser High School. These Guardian Caps have recently been mandated by the NFL for specific players to wear during practice sessions.

The Guardian Cap is a soft-shell helmet cover engineered to reduce impact by up to 33%. It brings a padded, soft-shell layer to the outside of the decades-old hard-shell football helmet. The most recent independent studies [from Biocore Labs and Stanford University] show that Guardian Caps deliver, on average,



a 10%-25% reduction in HARM [head acceleration response metric].

These caps have now been recognized as part of the uniform and can be worn during games. The RMS football teams will wear these caps during all practice sessions and contests. The FHS student athletes wear the caps during all practice sessions and have the option of wearing them during games, as well.



"I am in great support of these helmet shells and very thankful that the district supported and funded this purchase," said Athletic Director Shane Redshaw. "Having the opportunity to provide this added level of protection at all levels, to all student athletes playing football, is just another way the district is showing its support of student athlete safety."

## ESTABLISHING ROOTS



The RMS Castle Crew started the year strong by establishing “roots” to grow this year! The Knights participated in these First Four Castle Crew reviews that allowed students opportunities to be heard, experience success criteria, and learn about building procedures and processes.

Students began their first day by creating a leaf displaying their name, interests, and goals. These leaves are displayed throughout the building in showcases and serve as a reminder of all the ways they will grow this year. The intentionality and implementation of their Positive Behavior Intervention supports set the course for a promising start. The Knights will continue to review expectations throughout the year and will be honored weekly for putting monthly traits into action and monthly as Star Students.

A goal for RMS this year is to celebrate and recognize their Knights and promote the amazing things that happen as their Knights Honor the Castle.

# HOSA Travels to International Leadership Conference

While most RMS and FHS staff and students were just beginning their summer break last June, seven high school and three middle school HOSA members headed to Dallas, Texas, for the 2023 HOSA-Future Health Professionals International Leadership Conference (ILC).

These students – and their advisors and chaperones – were mostly focused on competition, but they did have time to check out some seminar speakers and vendor displays at the HOSA Expo, as well as a few sights around Dallas.

All these students were medalists at both the regional and state levels, which earned them the opportunity to compete at the ILC. With over 30 people/teams in each of their events, the competition was tough. At the Grand Awards ceremony, both the MRC Partnership team (consisting of Piper Morrison, Paityn Kosorski, and Ashley Sisk) and the Mental Health Promotion team (Ava Le, Raymond Pavlov, Nouri Hollins, and Jeani Lemire) found themselves on stage as Top 10 teams. In fact, the Mental Health Promotion team finished just out of the medal range in 4th place.

“It was so much fun,” stated Raymond Pavlov. “Knowing that we placed 4th in the



world was amazing. The hard work we put into the project all year long really paid off.”

Nouri Hollins thought it interesting to see the cultural differences between competitors. “It was neat to see how teams from different states, and even China, viewed mental health and how that affected their presentations.”

Also on stage was Paityn Kosorski, who was recognized with the Barbara James Service Award for her volunteer hours, and Jeani Lemire, who accepted a HOSA Service Project recognition award for the Fraser chapter.

The following students also competed: Jessica Mina in Medical Spelling; middle schoolers Vera Long and Juliana Johnson in Life Threatening Situations; and middle schooler Mariam Bebawi in Math for Medical Careers.

## Opt In to Receive Virtual Library Card

*Fraser Public Schools has teamed up with the Fraser, Clinton-Macomb, and Roseville public libraries to offer all our students a virtual library card.*

Virtual library cards provide students access to a variety of free resources, including:

**Tutor.com** – Free individualized tutoring

**OverDrive** – Free eBooks and eAudiobooks

**Ancestry** – Free genealogy research

Families must opt in to participate in this free program. Please **complete this form** by October 20. Families will receive an email with login information in November.

Virtual cards can also be upgraded to a full library card at your home library for more borrowing privileges.



# Interactive Reading in Elementary

*This year, all Young 5's through 6th-grade classrooms received Interactive Read-Aloud Kits.*

Students in sixth grade at Mark Twain are benefiting from these new, interactive, shared-reading and guided-reading materials. Each day, students start their Language Arts block with a high-interest shared reading. Their first unit was based on kindness and compassion. It was a perfect way to start the year. Together, they read four great mentor texts that helped students understand the importance of accepting differences and having compassion for one another. It was a wonderful way to start the year by building a classroom community and a culture around kindness.



Each day, students are not only hearing a fluent reader read to them, but they are collaborating with peers and having rich conversations. They are also writing about the topics they have discussed weekly. The students have really enjoyed the stories and look forward to starting class with them.

These books have helped to make their morning meetings more meaningful. The students have reported they really enjoy having language arts start this way each day, and that they liked the surprise ending in *The Banana Leaf Ball: How Play Can Change the World*. The message of the text is about finding creative outlets for dealing with big emotions. We can't wait to see what's next!

## PBIS to Support an Inclusive Learning Environment at Edison



This year, Edison Elementary is working to ensure that all students have a positive connection with one or more adults in the building, aside from their homeroom teacher. As such, Edison's staff is working hard to create "Eagles' nests" in which all students are

assigned to a "nest" that is led by an instructional staff member.

Each month, Edison will be holding an event in which all students meet with their "nest" to check in and complete a fun activity together. This will replace the traditional PBIS monthly reward time. The goal is to ensure that all students are included monthly and have opportunities to form meaningful bonds with other students and staff members.

Edison's staff knows that for optimal learning to occur, they must foster a positive, inclusive learning environment for all students, and they look forward to establishing positive connections with their Eagles throughout the year.

## SOFT STARTS



The first-grade team at Disney Elementary has placed priority on their routines and procedures the past three weeks. After a great deal of research, Mrs. Pozolo and Mrs. Sylvester have decided to implement "soft starts" using morning bins in place of worksheets as morning work. The bins rotate each day and are filled with different STEM activities for students to work with. This routine encourages collaboration, creativity, and independence.

The implementation of "soft starts" allows the students to gradually begin their day in the way that they choose. If they are not interested in their STEM materials, they have the option to draw, color, read, or just visit with the friends at their table while they eat breakfast. This allows our students to feel safe and in control of their day, which makes for an easier transition into more challenging tasks.

Students have been following the expectations, working hard as a team or independently, and smiling along the way. The staff loves to see the students creative wheels turn and the pride they have in their creations!

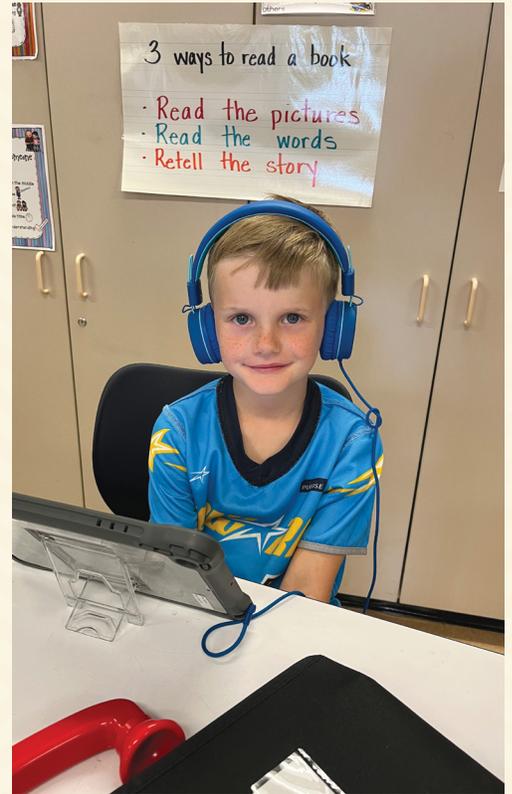


## Reading and Writing **EXCITEMENT**

*Since school began, Salk's second-grade students in Mrs. Sutter's, Mrs. Gallagher's, and Ms. Sally's classrooms have been excited about reading and writing.*

These classes are currently learning how to become independent readers and writers by understanding and practicing a process called the Daily 5. The Daily 5 Literacy Framework offers students choices. During Daily 5, students select from five authentic reading and writing choices, working independently toward personalized goals. As students are working, their teacher can meet individual student needs through whole-group and small-group instruction.

Second-grade students are explicitly taught how to work within each component to achieve success. They enjoy the ability to make their own choices about how they will learn. This empowers the students by letting them choose how they will read, write, and organize their time. It also



builds their reading stamina, which is a crucial component of independent reading. "Students will become more independent readers and writers as the months go on," said Mrs. Sutter.

It's such an exciting time in second grade, and these little Seahawks are enjoying every moment.

## Building Reading Comprehension

Eisenhower students in CCRR are enjoying the story, "The Three Little Pigs." They are focusing on story elements and identifying the characters, the setting, and the problem. They are extending their learning by coloring the story elements and creating puppets to retell the story.

Retelling stories is an important skill for students, and it requires them to identify the major events and put them in the correct order. This involves understanding the story's flow, sequence, and structure, as well as being able to recall key details and retain the story.

## Dooley Students **Grow and Thrive**

The Dooley Center is starting school strong by focusing their energy into social-emotional learning. For most Dooley students, this is the first time they have been in a school environment. Whether they are starting in the Toddle Time classrooms (as young as 18 months) or turning 5 in one of the preschool classes, all the students are learning how to coexist in this new environment.

Dooley's primary focus is on helping students to learn the day-to-day expectations that go along with coming to school, such as lining up, sharing, raising their hands, and cleaning up their messes. The students are creating their own independence outside of the home and in their new safe place. We cannot wait to see them grow and thrive as the year continues!



# SHOWING UP MATTERS

*Absenteeism during the first month of school can predict poor attendance for the remainder of the school year.*

Half the students who miss just two to four days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school by June.

Fraser Public Schools will soon begin contacting families of students who are showing signs of becoming chronically absent and working with them to improve attendance moving forward.



### What is Chronic Absence?

Chronic absence is defined as missing 10 percent or more of the school year, or about 18 days of school. It includes all absences, both excused and unexcused.

Starting as early as preschool and kindergarten, regular attendance is essential for students in gaining the academic and social skills they need to thrive. Research shows that when students are chronically absent, they are less likely to read proficiently by third grade, achieve in middle school and graduate from high school.

### How will Fraser Address Chronic Absence?

From now until the end of the school year, principals and building leaders will review attendance data every two weeks. Parents of students who have been absent 20 percent or more of the school year will receive a phone call at home. Such students may also have to complete an attendance success plan.

Schools will also begin recognizing students or grade levels with the best attendance and most improved attendance.



**Fraser High School**  
*Athletic Booster Club's Annual*

# Craft and Vendor Show

## Saturday

# October 21, 2023

## 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:**

## Fraser High School

**34270 Garfield Rd.**  
Between 14 & 15 Mile Roads

**ADMISSION:**

## \$3.00

**Children 5 and under are FREE**  
(no strollers please)

## OVER 150

### ARTISTS AND EXHIBITORS!

## PLANNING AHEAD

<p><b>OCTOBER 4</b> State of Michigan Count Day</p> <p><b>OCTOBER 9</b> Board of Education Meeting RMS Idea Lab, 7:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>OCTOBER 12</b> RMS Conferences RMS, 1:00-4:00 p.m. and 5:00-8:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>OCTOBER 19</b> FHS Conferences FHS, 1:00-4:00 p.m. and 5:00-8:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>OCTOBER 21</b> Athletic Booster Craft Show FHS, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>OCTOBER 23</b> Board of Education Meeting RMS Idea Lab, 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>OCTOBER 25</b> Elementary Evening Conferences 4:30-7:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>OCTOBER 26</b> Elementary Half Day – Conferences Afternoon: 1:00-3:30 p.m. Evening: 4:30-7:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>OCTOBER 28</b> Marching Band Extravaganza FHS, 1:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>OCTOBER 31</b> Early Release All Levels Elementary and 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.</p>
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JOIN US!



In support of the be  
NICE club!

You must present this  
flyer when ordering. 20%  
of tab will be donated!

DINE IN ONLY

FRASER BE NICE.

THURSDAY,  
OCTOBER 12TH  
FROM 6-9

Come out and support the  
be NICE club! This allows us  
to spread mental health  
awareness and challenge  
the stigma!