

# Over the Fence



JANUARY 2020 | DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Superintendent Carrie Wozniak | [carrie.wozniak@fraserk12.org](mailto:carrie.wozniak@fraserk12.org)

## THANK YOU, BOARD OF EDUCATION!



Our school board members are just ordinary citizens — your friends and neighbors — with extraordinary dedication to our community and our Fraser family. They provide a vital service in our community that deserves recognition.

The job of a school board member is tough, the hours long, and the thanks few and far between. Too often, we forget about the personal sacrifices school board members make. They spend hours in meetings and on committees, and advocating for our students and schools.

Their time and effort does not go unnoticed. January is School Board Recognition Month and all of our staff and students took time to let their appreciation be known.



At the regular board meeting on January 13, Board members were met with posters from our elementary schools and the Dooley Center, in addition to a **collaborative video** from all of our schools.

Please join us in thanking our Board for ensuring Fraser Public Schools is always doing "what's best for kids."

### SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Fraser Families,



Welcome to the beginning of a new decade and the start of the second half of the school year. The days are already getting longer, and before we know it, warmer weather will be here.

January is often a time for new goals and a fresh start. As I visit classrooms throughout the district, I feel a renewed sense of excitement from both students and staff around the work in our district.

From the elementary schools through the high school, students are taking time to set academic and personal goals, and teachers are ensuring they have the means to achieve them.

Our schools are also incorporating the 6Cs from our Portrait of a Graduate in an explicit way and celebrating the key traits that our community identified as important for our students to have.

Restorative practices and Universal Design for Learning are supporting our teachers' focus on building classroom and school cultures that include every student. I can feel the climate shifting in a positive direction.

Throughout all of this, it is important to take a moment and honor the team that ultimately makes this work possible.

January is celebrated as Board Recognition Month, and the seven members of our Board of Education are dedicated to each of the 4,963 students in our Fraser Family. These seven members are the connection between the community and the classrooms. They give of their time, make personal sacrifices, and put their hearts into making the best choices for our students.

On behalf of everyone in Fraser Public Schools, I want to say thank you to our Board of Education.

With Fraser Pride,  
Ms. Wozniak



### At the January 13 meeting, the Board elected new officers:

- President Laura Edghill
- Vice President Jim Birko
- Treasurer Scott Wallace
- Secretary Linda Corbat
- Trustee Ron DeVillano
- Trustee Todd Koch
- Trustee Dan Stawinski



# PLANNING AHEAD

## JANUARY 31

**Play – Cinderella**

Fraser Performing Arts Center, 7:00 p.m.

## FEBRUARY 1

**Play – Cinderella**

Fraser Performing Arts Center, 7:00 p.m.

## FEBRUARY 6

**8th-Grade Parent Night**

FHS Auditorium, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

For parents and current 8th-grade students.

## FEBRUARY 7

**Play – Cinderella**

Fraser Performing Arts Center, 7:00 p.m.

## FEBRUARY 8

**Play – Cinderella**

Fraser Performing Arts Center, 2:00 p.m.

## FEBRUARY 12

**Count Day**

The State of Michigan uses attendance records from today to determine funding for our schools.

Please plan on sending your child to school today.

## FEBRUARY 17 – 19

**Mid-Winter Break – All Schools Closed**

## FEBRUARY 20

**School Resumes**

## FEBRUARY 25

**Dooley Center Open House**

9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. and 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

## FEBRUARY 25

**6th-Grade Parent Night**

RMS Gym, 6:00 p.m.

For parents and current 6th-grade students.

## FEBRUARY 25

**Empty Bowls**

RMS Media Center

Before and after 6th-grade parent night.

## FEBRUARY 26

**Early Release – All Levels**

## FEBRUARY 26

**Elementary Open House, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

See information on this page.

# Rethinking SMART Hour



The time of day known as SMART hour at Fraser High School has been through several changes over the years.

The newest changes, which we continue to refine, are designed to best benefit all students.

“We wanted to make the time more meaningful for students,” said Assistant Principal Jason Ohrt. “We want students to maintain their academics, while being reflective and deliberate.”

## TEACHER INPUT

Teachers are embracing the changes and working with building leadership to make sure the changes make sense. At the beginning of the year, travel was restricted on Mondays and Fridays, so students could set goals and reflect on their progress. The idea behind the change was for students to continue owning their learning and have dedicated time to create, implement and reflect on the status of their work.

The updates to SMART could not be possible without teachers’ input, Ohrt said. The feedback given by teachers through surveys and meetings helped the administrators decide to open traveling up on Fridays.

## EXECUTIVE FUNCTION AND SETTING GOALS

To make sure the time on Monday is impactful, teachers are working together to develop a goal sheet template for students to use. This sheet helps students stay on the right track and prompts them to incorporate the 6Cs from the Portrait of a Graduate into their work.

Mondays are also used to reinforce executive functioning skills. Students will outline their week and reach out to teachers to schedule a time to make up any missing work or get extra help.

“It was important to the FHS administrators and staff that students take advantage of the SMART period time to catch-up, maintain or improve their grades,” said FHS Principal Ryan Sines.

## TESTING CENTER

Once students began scheduling their week, especially to complete missed tests and quizzes during SMART hour, the need became clear for a testing center. Media Center Coordinator Anne Cooke created a testing center within the FHS media center for this purpose.

“The testing center frees up space in classrooms so teachers can now do more remediation in the classroom,” said Mr. Ohrt.

The testing center is limited to 30 students per day. Students initiate the process with their teachers, and then work with Mrs. Cook to schedule a day to take the assessment. Not all retakes are able to be held in the testing center, but so far, it has been very well-received.

## MOVING FORWARD

Mr. Ohrt, Mr. Sines and the rest of the administration staff are working with teachers to finalize a goal-setting template.

Additionally, juniors and seniors who meet the requirements and have permission will still be allowed to flex their time and leave campus early.

# District Open Houses

It’s time to start planning for 2020-2021! Did you know our current families are the #1 reason new families choose Fraser? We have open house events coming up. Please share with a friend or relative.

## DOOLEY CENTER PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

February 25, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. and 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

16170 Canberra, Roseville

## ELEMENTARY OPEN HOUSE

February 26, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**District Residents:** Salk Elementary School, 17601 15 Mile Road, Clinton Township

**Schools of Choice:** Eisenhower Elementary, 31275 Eveningside, Fraser

## RICHARDS MIDDLE SCHOOL 6TH GRADE PARENT NIGHT

February 25, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

33500 Garfield Road, Fraser

## FRASER HIGH SCHOOL 8TH GRADE PARENT NIGHT

February 6, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

34270 Garfield Road, Fraser



# Carnival, Curriculum and Creativity



Third-grade students at Disney Elementary celebrated their hard work during the first trimester at their first Kid Carnival of the year.

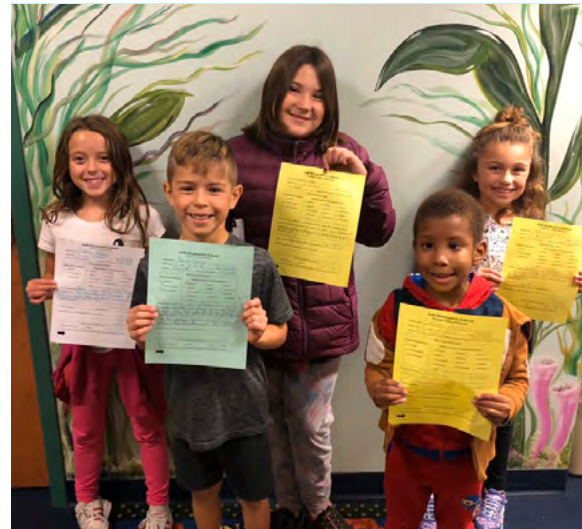
The carnival offered new experiences and engaging activities for the students. Students rotated through four stations: the carnival store, an art/creative room, a Motown music room, and a movement room. There they learned about karate, building lighthouses, and experimenting with instruments to Motown music.



Leading up to the event, students could earn points in ClassDojo for being safe, respectful and responsible. The points were used as carnival cash.

Third-grade teachers Mrs. Andrea Filip and Mrs. Christine Hamilton are always excited to provide their students with engaging experiences that build a community and opportunities to be creative. They choose activities that reinforce the 3rd-grade curriculum.

Students are now looking forward to their next carnival in March.



## CENTERING ON THE 6 CS

Salk Elementary is focusing on building strong character and continuing to make positive relationships with families through a school-wide positive behavior incentive system, or PBIS.

Each month the staff and students focus on a character trait through restorative circles, monthly lunches and other activities. The traits align with the 6Cs of the Portrait of a Graduate.

Since the beginning of the school year, staff have focused on Character and Communication. Staff have implemented positive office referrals for students who go above and beyond, and demonstrate the positive character traits.

Additionally, members of the staff are writing postcards home to past and present students, as well their families, acknowledging hard work, effort or general positive news. They have sent more than 100 positive office referrals and postcards to families in the first trimester alone.



## RMS STUDENTS PRESENT AT STUDENT TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE IN LANSING



Four Richards Middle School students recently shared with lawmakers and business leaders the role technology plays in student learning here in Fraser.

Eighth-grade students Emily Kanne, Loralai Logan, Joey Hofman and Hunter Black made the trip to Lansing with Mrs. Lori Wetzel for the Student Technology Showcase.



The showcase was a day-long event held in the Michigan State Capitol building that allowed lawmakers, business leaders and other citizens to see first-hand how technology is used in classrooms. The students demonstrated best practices of how technology can enhance teaching and learning for the success of Michigan students.

At the Showcase, the RMS students shared the work they have done in Swift Playgrounds in their coding classes.

State Sen. Paul Wojno (D-Warren) and State Rep. Bill Sowerby (D-Clinton Township) both stopped by and talked with the students. Sen. Wojno also presented each student with a certificate.



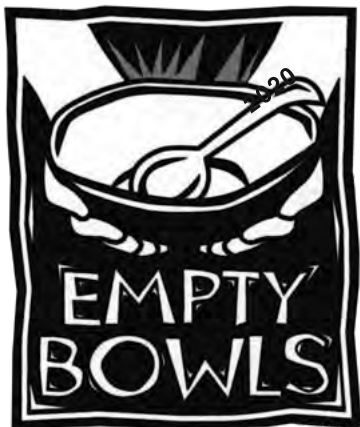
## GIVING TREE FUND

LEARNING  
PARTNERSHIPS

Thanks to the generosity of the Fraser Public Schools staff, FHS super shoppers Nancy Scopas and Amy Jager were able to purchase food for 10 families to receive a box of food. These boxes helped our students and their families during the holiday break.



13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL



TO BENEFIT MACOMB  
FEEDING THE NEED

Join us to support the  
hungry in our community.

**February 25, 2020**

4:45 – 5:45 p.m. & 7:05 – 7:30 p.m.

Before and After 6th-Grade Parent Night!

Richards Middle School Media Center

**\$10 per person, \$25 per family**

Includes a student-made ceramic bowl and  
a coupon for soup at a local restaurant.

SPONSORED BY  
Fraser Public Schools  
K–12 Art Department

## Community Partnership Benefits Twain Families

LEARNING  
PARTNERSHIPS

The Woods Church in Warren has worked with Mark Twain Elementary during the past few years to find ways to support their students and community. Their partnership has continued to grow, and they are supporting the Twain community in many ways this year:

- The church community donated \$1,000 to cover the bus costs for 6th-grade students to go to camp in October. Thanks to their generous donation, overall trip costs were reduced, allowing more students to attend.
- They are partnering with Twain's intervention team to provide volunteers for the Read Naturally program with some of Twain's 4th–6th grade students. These volunteers attended training and have been reading with students four afternoons a week.
- During the Fall Fun Festival, they provided Twain with several inflatables for the students to play on at no cost, and they brought their own volunteers to staff them all.
- They provided Christmas baskets of non-perishable food items to many families over the long Winter Break. For the second year in



a row, about 45 Twain families received this generous gift!

- A group from the Woods Church is currently raising money to fund a Sensory Path to give the students a way to wiggle and move throughout the day to release energy, soothe anxiety, and provide a sensory outlet to those who need it.

The Mark Twain community is so grateful for this partnership with the Woods Church and their commitment to supporting students and families in so many ways!

## Keeping Our Community Warm

CITIZENSHIP

The Richards Middle School STATIC Club's fall community service project was a collection drive for the Macomb County Warming Center. This center provides temporary shelter during the cold weather months at various churches around the county.

The guests of these warming centers are provided a warm dinner, place to sleep and breakfast the next morning. During the daytime hours, these individuals are often traveling about, trying



to find a warm and dry place to stay. They are exposed to the cold and, most times, don't have the resources to purchase necessary items that we often take for granted.

The RMS STATIC club collected items to donate to these individuals to hopefully make their days a little easier. These items included toiletries, socks, gloves, winter hats, scarves and hand warmers.

At the end of the collection drive, more than 60 bags were donated to the Warming Center.



# Wonderful Watch DOGS



The father figures of Edison Elementary students are stepping up, in a big way, when it comes to their presence in and around the building! Edison Elementary recently implemented Watch DOGS — a program where dads and father figures volunteer almost every day in the school.

They work directly with students in different classrooms during their visits and build relationships with all students. They also help during lunch as an extra set of eyes and ears on the playground and in the lunchroom. They can regularly be seen reading with students or practicing math, organizing games at recess, eating lunch with their own children's classes, and high-fiving students in the hallway.

These men really strive to be role models for all students and their presence sends an important message about the value of education to our Edison students.



## Reading Buddies



On Friday afternoons at Emerson Elementary, Ms. Katie Stenger's kindergarten students pair up with 6th-grade students for Reading Buddies. During this time, the students work together on helping the kindergarten students become more proficient and fluent readers.

The Buddies work together on one-to-one correspondence, sight word recognition, book handling skills, and concepts of print. The relationship and friendship that form from these connections benefit both students.

"Both students get so much out of this experience and we look forward to seeing our Buddies and working together each week," said Ms. Stenger.



## Cranbrook Visits Eisenhower



Eisenhower Elementary Title One Team and the PTO hosted a Family Science Night presented by the Cranbrook Institute of Science. Students and parents investigated the scientific world together during this engaging, hands-on evening.

The school was bustling with more than 150 people interacting with 14 different science stations. Stations included: paleontology (featuring a t-rex femur), racetrack design challenge, circuits, marble run physics, and many more.

By far, everyone's favorite was the Powerful Proteins with edible insects! Have you ever eaten a BBQ mealworm or roasted cricket? Well, many of the Eisenhower Families can now say, "Yes!"



## POWER HOUR



The 5th-grade classes at Mark Twain Elementary are collaborating, problem solving, communicating and investigating during their daily Power Hour.

Each day after lunch, the students head to the Media Center where they are presented with new science concepts. There, they work in teams to explore the concepts and connect them to their everyday lives. The teams have had the opportunity to design and construct geosphere bases that limit the amount of erosion that can take place. They have also become experts on various landforms and shared their expertise with the rest of the class during presentations.

One favorite activity was designing and building the tallest towers possible out of notecards. Students were very creative with their designs and learned a great deal through trial and error. They had to have a growth mindset to create their designs.

"The students are fully engaged in these lessons and activities. It's really great to watch!" said Media Specialist Jean Khoury.

When asked about Power Hour, many students say it is the best part of their day. They enjoy working in a new space and on hands-on activities.

They are using the Cereal City Science lessons and adding in related STEM activities. Students are also utilizing their iPads to research or do BrainPop lessons that connect to the science curriculum.





# FRASER SHOUT-OUT

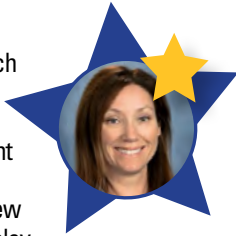


*Fraser Shout-Out recognizes staff members who go above and beyond for their students, colleagues and the community. As a principal or administrator becomes aware of an extra effort by a staff member, he or she will submit that member for a Fraser Shout-Out.*

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE JANUARY FPS SHOUT-OUT RECIPIENTS!

### MEGAN BUSEN

Megan has been the speech and language pathologist at Dooley for a number of years and has been a constant with our little learners during that time. She has assisted new special education staff at Dooley, and is one of the first people that families see and talk to when requesting services. Her experience is invaluable when sharing those service options with our parents. Megan is also a team player, collaborates with co-workers, and is productive in all facets of her position. We are lucky to have Megan at Dooley and her hard work does not go unnoticed. *Submitted by Denis Metty*



friendly and positive in her interactions with all staff members, making her a joy to work with. More importantly, she manages to build strong rapport with our students by remembering their names, striking conversations with them, and servicing them with a smile...everyday! The students clearly adore her and look forward to her little greetings at the front of the lunch line each day. It's pretty evident that Crystal adores our students, too!

In a role with hundreds of kids passing through her line each day, Crystal has mastered the art of making each kid feel like an individual, which is inspiring to those around her. Thanks, Crystal, for all you do! *Submitted by Kristy Wiegand*

charisma, confidence, strong values and respect for others to make a huge difference in the world around her," said her nominator. "It has been my privilege to call her a colleague and friend for many years." *Submitted by Ryan Sines*

### JEAN KHOURY

Jean is an indispensable part of our Comets team. She is thoughtful and selfless, and takes care of everyone around her. Whether she is helping others to troubleshoot technology issues or assisting us in organizing various events or activities in the media center, she always has the best attitude and a servant's heart. She never thinks twice about jumping in to help whenever she sees a need. Jean is always pleasant and encouraging others, and we are all so thankful to have her here. She is committed to supporting our teachers as they support students, and she is such a valued member of our team. We truly appreciate all she does for our Mark Twain community each day! *Submitted by Laura Woods*



### KELLY ZOMBO

I would like to give a Shout Out to Kelly Zombo. Kelly is a 21st Century teacher and coach at Eisenhower Elementary. She meets with staff regularly to support them in regard to our LMS, Universal Design for Learning, or any concern regarding the implementation of technology. Being new to Fraser last year, I relied on my weekly meetings with Kelly to become familiar with many of the current systems in place. Much like our staff, I still enjoy these meetings and walk away a little more knowledgeable each week.



Kelly also helps oversee many extracurricular activities at Ike. She co-chairs the Broadcasting and Coding Club with peers. She also oversees our SHOUT Club (Students Helping Others Use Technology) and assists with planning our Cardboard Arcade each year. Kelly will do whatever she can to support our students and staff. She helps all of us SOAR! *Submitted by Keith Tonn*

### KAREN HAGERTY

Karen has been nominated for the LifeChanger of the Year award. Karen Hagerty was nominated by an anonymous colleague. It is difficult to exaggerate the significant influence Ms. Hagerty has on her school and the surrounding community. Her school and community service is motivated by a strong sense of social activism, which she informs through a nuanced, high-level understanding of the importance of leadership and engagement at all levels of education. She is one of the most caring, driven teachers one could ever work with.



Ms. Hagerty works with a passion not often seen. She leads by example, helping students who struggle and bringing a love of music to all of her students. She achieves this in such a delicate way that many students are inspired to keep playing the piano, either by taking her class several times or continuing with private lessons on their own. Ms. Hagerty also works with the musical theater students, as well as the middle school band and choir. Additionally, she plays for the district's honor elementary choir, so her inspiration is far-reaching.

"Karen believes passionately in social progress and working for the common good. She is a talented, intelligent musician with

### BRUCE SHOCK

Bruce Shock is an amazing custodian at Dooley. He not only keeps the building looking its best, but also is caring, clever and helpful. When at Dooley you may see Bruce outside working to keep the playground tidy. You will also see the children following him around wanting to play and talk to him. The children love having Bruce around. He even will help out children when they are upset. He is very thrifty, too. He finds ways to repurpose items that we think are no longer needed. We can always call on Bruce and he will be there for us. He doesn't hesitate to help out wherever he is needed. He truly is the Dooley Centers Batman! *Submitted by Katherine Moroney*



### CRYSTAL EMMONS

Crystal is in charge of Food Service at Edison — getting here bright and early every day to ensure that our students are fed! She is







## Searching for Letters



The students in Focus Four Preschool at the Dooley Center are working on recognizing letters and fine motor skills with a fun activity. The students are using tweezers and tongs to find letters hidden in colored rice.

They use the tweezers to take the letter out and put it on the alphabet card matching the correct letter. The children talk about which letters they are finding and the letter sound, and identify words that start with that letter.

Letter recognition, as well as letter sounds, are an important part of the early literacy program in preschool. Using the tweezers helps the students work the same muscles in the hand that they need for writing and cutting.

The activity is engaging and motivating — so much so the students do not realize all of the skills that they are learning.

## Ever-Evolving Earth



Second-grade students at Disney Elementary are learning about the Earth in their science class.

Recently, they learned about different landforms on Earth and how they are changing now and have changed over time.

Students then chose a landform and created a 3D model. The students created projects that included volcanoes, valleys, lakes, hills and mountains.

The students love the opportunity to have a choice in how they express their learning.



FRASER  
HIGH  
SCHOOL



**Moonlight  
Madness  
AUCTION**

**Silent/Live Auction**

**Friday, February 21, 2020**

7:00 p.m. – Midnight

**Vintage House**

31816 Utica Road, Fraser

**\$30 per person**

*Includes dinner, drinks, & dancing.*

*Must be 21 and over to attend.*

*Auction prize payment is due the night of the auction (cash or check).*

**TICKETS ON  
SALE NOW!**

**Contact**

Megan Saputo

[megan.saputo@fraserk12.org](mailto:megan.saputo@fraserk12.org)

Lauren Smith

[lauren.smith@fraserk12.org](mailto:lauren.smith@fraserk12.org)

*Must be 21 or older*

*Benefits FHS Student  
Activities and the Classes  
of 2020–2023*

FRASER EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

MOM 2 MOM  
SALE

**MARCH 28, 2020 | 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**  
**FRASER HIGH SCHOOL GYM | 34270 GARFIELD ROAD**

**SHOP**

\$2 admission  
Strollers allowed  
Concessions available

**SELL**

125 tables  
Big Ticket Room  
Applications available at  
[www.Fraser.k12.mi.us/mom2mom](http://www.Fraser.k12.mi.us/mom2mom)

Proceeds benefit the Fraser Educational Foundation, which provides funding that enhances teacher creativity, student enrichment and community involvement through activities that go beyond the scope of normally funded school budgets and responsibilities.

For more information, visit [www.Fraser.k12.mi.us/mom2mom](http://www.Fraser.k12.mi.us/mom2mom) or contact [Michelle.Wenner@fraserk12.org](mailto:Michelle.Wenner@fraserk12.org)

**BAND BOOSTERS**

CRAFT & VENDOR  
SHOW SHOW

**MARCH 7, 2020**

AT FRASER HIGH SCHOOL

**10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.**

\$2 ENTRY FEE

**CRAFTERS NEEDED!**

[CLICK HERE FOR APPLICATION](#)

*No Strollers Please*



**March 10, 2020**

# **Macomb County Education Enhancement Millage**

**Macomb County residents will see a question on our ballot this March asking whether we want to increase funding for our school districts through a “regional enhancement millage.”**

- People choose Macomb County because of its strong public schools, and it is a great place to raise a family and grow a business.
- Macomb Schools have a long-standing reputation for providing quality programs, carefully serving as stewards of funds provided by state, federal, and local revenue sources.
- The enhancement millage gives our communities an opportunity to provide a stable source of funding that goes directly to our students and will attract and retain a talented workforce.
- All public schools - including public charter schools - would receive funds raised through the millage.
- According to the 2019 Macomb Equalization Report, the average Macomb County home is valued at close to \$200,000. The 1.9 enhancement millage would cost approximately \$190 per year on a home valued at \$200,000 or approximately \$95 per year on a home valued at \$100,000.
- A comparison of neighboring counties, utilizing MDE Bulletin 1014, demonstrates that Macomb County schools receive on average several hundred dollars less per student.

**100% of the money raised by the Education Enhancement Millage would go toward K-12 education!**

## **This proposal would:**

- ✓ Create a 1.9 mill, ten-year, countywide millage that would generate a dedicated source of funding of approximately \$55 million annually for all school districts in Macomb County.
- ✓ Provide dedicated resources that go directly to students and would allow each Macomb County district to determine how to best support the needs of their community's children, including retaining qualified teachers and keeping co-curricular activities.

## **How much money would the Education Enhancement Millage raise for our schools?**

Every district in Macomb County would receive over **\$400 per student in additional resources** - an investment in our students' success!

## **How would the money be distributed?**

Funds would be distributed on an equal, per-student basis to each individual school district and charter school in Macomb County.



Learn more at **[www.misd.net](http://www.misd.net)**