

Over the Fence



MAY 2020 | DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Superintendent Carrie Wozniak | carrie.wozniak@fraserk12.org

Learning is Flourishing in Fraser



Our buildings are closed, but the eagerness to learn is being met with open hearts and open minds in Fraser Public Schools.

From preschool through high school, our students, staff and families are working together and embracing extended online learning.

The students love any opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge in creative ways.

Several elementary teachers are seeing an influx in video recorded assignment submissions where students explain their new learning. They agreed that these make the grading process much more fun! It's great to see the students and hear what they have to say.

Students also seem to enjoy assignments in which they can draw pictures and diagrams or use household materials in creative ways in order to demonstrate learning. This experience has challenged staff, students and parents to utilize technology in new ways and leverage our digital ecosystem.

Fraser Public Schools was in a unique position to make the transition to extended online learning. Students were already familiar and comfortable with our learning management



systems — itslearning and Blackboard. And our supportive community helped create our 1:1 device environment many years ago. These tools, paired with GoToMeeting as a platform to connect, meant our district was able to quickly adapt to delivering all of our learning online.

Even our preschool families are connecting virtually. Teachers are hosting GoToMeetings where students can do show and tell, hear their teacher read a story, and participate in rhyming games and scavenger hunts while connecting with each other. Preschool families have also been receiving activity ideas to do during the week. Parents can use these activities with their children when time permits.

"We have been planning such fun and creative activities during this time at home and throughout the year!" said one parent whose child is in Mrs. Kari Pigula's preschool class.

Not only are kindergarten students sharing pictures for a Google scrapbook, but also they have been participating in hands-on science lessons. The children were connected to videos, a digital magazine and activities through Scholastic to learn all about the life cycle of a butterfly. Some went above and beyond to create the final activity of a life cycle using their fingerprints as the artwork!

Teachers in the district are benefiting from online learning as well.

"During the past eight weeks, I have enjoyed getting to know families on a whole new level," said Kelly Widmer, a 1st-grade teacher at

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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Fraser Families,



It is hard to believe that we have not seen each other face-to-face in two months. In that time, we have hosted three district-wide training sessions and transitioned to an entirely virtual learning environment. Our Fraser Family has also come together to provide food, social and emotional support, teaching and learning and, most importantly, comfort and stability in a time of tremendous uncertainty. I also know this would not be possible without the support from you at home.

I am so proud and thankful to be part of such a special team. We work together and, in doing so, our team lives the qualities we believe are so important to instill in our students: Character, Citizenship, Collaboration, Communication, Creativity and Critical Thinking.

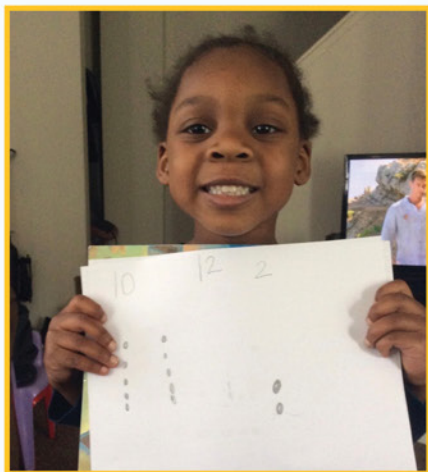
Like all good teams, we have great players that support and believe in one another. Leadership matters, and I am thankful for all of the leaders on our Fraser Team — our teachers, principals, district administrators, food service, technology, operations and maintenance, support staff, Board of Education, and you, our parents and caretakers. Each of you is a critical part of our Fraser Family.

As the school year comes to a close, I want to take a moment to honor this year's Senior Class. The Class of 2020 will always hold a special place in our heart. They have experienced a time in history like no other, and it has had a profound impact on major milestones in their lives — end of the year senior events and graduation. We are so proud of their class, leadership and flexibility during this incredibly challenging time. This class has shown tremendous character.

We know these are unprecedented times and now, more than ever, we need to work together and continue to be kind and flexible.

Remember, we are all in this together.

With Fraser Pride,
Ms. Wozniak



CURRICULUM CORNER

SUMMER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

At Fraser Public Schools, we are committed to keeping our students learning throughout the summer. We are excited to offer a variety of virtual learning opportunities.

"We understand that students may have some gaps in their learning, and we also understand that children will need activities to keep busy since many summer camps will not be an option," said Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Donna Anderson.

All students will be keeping their district-issued device during the summer to help facilitate learning.

Grade-level appropriate activities will be posted on our website for all students currently in grades DK-6. These optional activities will focus on both core academic areas, as well as our special areas. Parents will need to facilitate these opportunities with their children.

We will also be inviting qualified current students to register for summer support in the following virtual programs. All of these opportunities will be virtual.

REMOTE SUMMER SCHOOL

Current K-6 students

We are excited to also offer identified, at-risk students a virtual remote summer school opportunity. Parents will be sent the information directly if their student qualifies.

Students will meet with a teacher 30 minutes a day, four days a week for 16 days. This program will focus on reading, writing, and math concepts.

MATH MINDSET

Current 3-7 students

In collaboration with the MISD, we will be offering a 20 day academic program to qualified students

that will consist of mathematical mindset messages, number talks to develop computational fluency, virtual classroom activities, along with several technology components. This program integrates engaging activities with interactive software to help correct students' misconceptions in mathematics and help develop a conceptual understanding of concepts needed to be successful in mathematics.

ALGEBRA READINESS

Current 7-8 students

Richards Middle School will offer the Algebra Readiness program to qualified students.

CREDIT RECOVERY

Current 9-11 students

Fraser High School will offer credit recovery in English, Social Studies, Science and Math.

LEARNING IS FLOURISHING IN FRASER

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Mark Twain Elementary. "Supporting parents and students through FaceTime, phone calls, text messages, video messages and virtual conferences has allowed us to work together to teach their kids the best that we can. The support that I am getting from my families is nothing short of amazing!"

The district continues to host professional development opportunities for all staff, from monthly district meetings to building and grade- or subject-level meetings more frequently.



May 11, 2020

Mam

Mrs. Lentine

Amamiye This is a candle. It has 4 sides and 4 angles. I picked it because of the shape.

Mrs. Lentine I like that you recognized that the face of the candle is a rectangle. You learned just what sides and angles are, Amamiye!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TEACHERS of the YEAR



Amy Laidlaw, 2nd Grade – Eisenhower Elementary

Mrs. Laidlaw greets students warmly each morning with handshakes, high fives or hugs. She regularly hosts restorative circles and has embraced UDL principles in her classroom. She reimagines her classroom space so students are excited to learn. Mrs. Laidlaw also searches for community resources to enhance classroom learning – from walking tours to local places to Mystery Skypes with classrooms across the country!



Pam Czartoryski, 8th Grade Math – Richards Middle School

Mrs. Czartoryski's ability to connect with our students in and out of the classroom boosts everyone's engagement. She uses different strategies to make sure everyone is engaged and challenged academically and socially. She is also an active participant in the RMS Climate and Culture Committee; working with the student council to recognize students for various achievements.



Stephanie Zary, English – Fraser High School

Ms. Zary spends countless hours every week working to engage her students and collaborate with the staff. No matter what is thrown at her, she keeps her love for her students as number one, always making sure that what we are doing is best for the education of our students. Ms. Zary attends every play, Homecoming Week event, and fundraiser the school puts on. Her enthusiasm for bettering the Fraser community is unmatched and done with grace and humility.

Celebrating the CLASS OF 2020

The Fraser High School seniors have demonstrated tremendous class and great compassion during an extremely difficult time in history. All traditional senior events held in the spring have been affected by the restrictions on large gatherings and social distancing. The Fraser team – made up of principals, teachers, administrators and parents – are working together to celebrate the 318 seniors of the Class of 2020.

LAWN SIGNS

First, the high school provided every senior a Class of 2020 Graduate lawn sign. These signs were picked up in early May.

SENIOR CRUISE: MAY 19–21

The three-day cruise was an opportunity for our seniors and their families to celebrate as an alternative to the traditional Senior Walk. Students cruised to stations around FHS, turning in their MacBook and other items and picking up their cap and gown. Students were able to take pictures in front of the FHS banner and sign the Class of 2020 banner.

GRADUATION: JUNE 6

We do not expect social distancing guidelines to change before our originally scheduled commencement ceremony, nor do we want to keep postponing this event. That is why we will move forward with holding an event on June 6 in two parts.

Part One: Speeches and Graduate Introductions, 3:00 p.m.

The first part of the graduation ceremony will be pre-recorded and broadcast. It will include the traditional speeches and reading of all the seniors' names. We will share the viewing instructions with all of our Fraser families.



Part Two: Drive-Thru Graduation, 7:00 p.m.

The second part will be what we will call our Fraser Drive-Thru Graduation Ceremony, held on the football field at Fraser High School. This will be a new experience for us all, but it will allow for the Class of 2020 to come back home to FHS. Seniors will be allowed to exit their cars and receive their diplomas. This event will be recorded and shared with all of our Fraser families.

SENIOR GIFT

The Senior All Night Party Committee has transitioned from planning an event after the graduation ceremony to purchasing gifts for every senior. Since many of their fundraising events are not possible right now, they have created a GoFundMe to raise money online. Gifts will be passed out at graduation.

SENIOR ALL NIGHT PARTY FUNDRAISERS

It is a tradition at Fraser High School to host a Senior All Night Party the night of the graduation ceremony. But, because of the restrictions on large gatherings, this year's event had to be cancelled. The committee of parents that were organizing the event is now planning to purchase every senior a gift.

The committee raises money through various fundraisers, but the stay-at-home order also means most of those are not possible. Gifts will be passed out at graduation on June 6.

ONLINE FUNDRAISER

The committee organized an online fundraiser, which has raised more than \$12,000. An anonymous FHS alumnus also donated an additional \$3,000 to the committee.

If you are interested in donating, you can find the fundraiser by [clicking here](#).

BASKET RAFFLE

Before the schools closed, the committee was organizing a basket raffle and had several baskets donated. They will be hosting a raffle for the baskets in the rear parking lot of the Infinity Hall on May 29 and 30. Please see **Page 4** for more information.

PLANNING AHEAD

MAY 27

No School, All Levels – Memorial Day

JUNE 6

Virtual Graduation Ceremony, 3:00 p.m.
Drive-Thru Graduation Ceremony,
FHS Football Field, 7:00 p.m.

JUNE 12

Last Day of School

TWO STUDENTS EARN NATIONAL ART AWARD

The tradition of excellence in the Fraser High School art department continues this year, with two students receiving national recognition from the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards.

Sophomore Chelsea Achatz and Junior Sydney Lenn each won a national silver medal. Chelsea won for her photograph, *"Not Written by Steven King."* Sydney won for her mixed media submission, *"On the Edge."*



"Not Written by Steven King" by Chelsea Achatz



"On the Edge" by Sydney Lenn

Scholarship Winners Announced

Each year, Fraser High School seniors are awarded a variety of local scholarships. These awards are announced at the Honors Convocation in May, and come as a surprise to the students and their parents. Since we were unable to host the Honors Convocation this year, we want to congratulate the following students!

Scholarship recipients should contact Carol Trush at Carol.Trush@fraserk12.org for more information on their awards.

Carole Bannister Scholarship for Performing and Creative Arts – Shelby James

Clinton Valley Kiwanis – Justin Babbitt

Gerald de Bono Memorial – Justin Babbitt and Kailey Mangold

Tony and Pauline DelVillano Family – Sydney Nummer

Walt Disney Elementary – Corrine Hinson and Caitlin Kelly

Thomas A. Edison Elementary – Alexander Hoppe, Kailey Mangold and Abigail Stone

Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary – Audrey Braun and Cheyne Middleton

Ralph Waldo Emerson Elementary – Jeremy Russo and Sarah Wallace

Fraser Band Booster Club – Matthew Cole

Fraser Goodfellows – Ella Baranski and Brendan Cairney

Fraser Lions Club – Sean Rooney

Allison Guzik Memorial Scholarship – Tiffany Ingram, Shelby James and Kailey Mangold

Rachel Kao Scholarship – Shelby James

Macomb All-Academic Team – Victoria Kovac and Sean Rooney

Richard and Carol Mox – Brooke Arnold

Metropolitan Detroit Chorale – Sydney Nummer and Sarah Wallace

PULSE – Justin Babbitt and Rachel Jensen

Dr. Rick Repicky – Caitlin Kelly and Sarah Wallace

Dr. Jonas E. Salk Elementary – Brianna Daley and Sean Rooney

Bert and Joan Sampson Scholarship – Brendan Cairney

Social Studies – Jack Waters

St. Clair Shores Community Chorus – Brooke Arnold and Cheyne Middleton

Daniel J. Stawinski State Farm Agency Scholarship – Sarah Wallace

Student Council – Justin Babbitt

Mark Twain Elementary – Jadah Brown

Henry Wong – Sawsan Elhady and Elaine Stumpf

FRASER YOUTH SOCCER AWARD

Cynthia Dumm Memorial – Abigail Stone

Kenneth Kilgo Memorial – Nikolas Agostini

WORLD LANGUAGE

French – Rachel McMenamin

Spanish – Caitlin Kelly

Fraser 2020 Seniors Basket Raffle



Friday May 29, 2020 5-8 PM
Saturday May 30, 2020 4-8 PM
Infinity Side Bar - Rear Parking Lot
16650 E 14 Mile Road
Fraser, MI 48026

All proceeds go
to the seniors
at graduation!!!!

Come out for a great time!!!
Help support our 2020 Seniors!!!

Drawing for all
baskets will be at
7pm on the 30th!!!

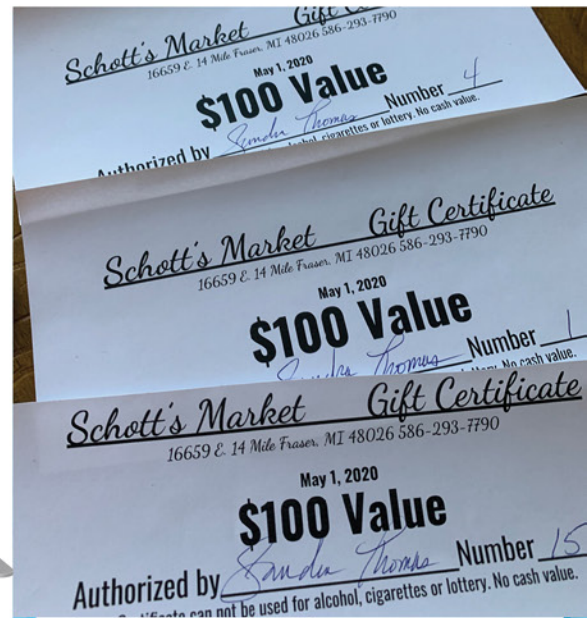
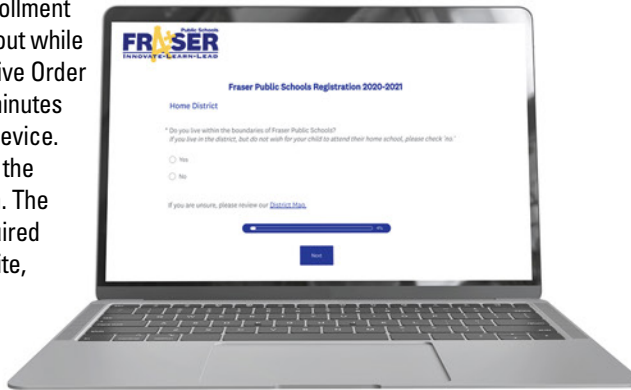
For more information contact Mark 586-549-5578 or Jenn 231-642-1206

District Launches Online New Student Registration

We are excited to offer a virtual enrollment packet for parents or guardians to fill out while our buildings are closed under Executive Order 2020-35. The process takes about 30 minutes to complete and can be done on any device. Parents or guardians may also upload the required documents to the online form. The online form and a complete list of required documents can be found on our website, www.GoToFraser.com.

During the closure, we have suspended the Brigrance Assessment for incoming DK/kindergarten students.

All registrations will be pending until all required documents are provided to Fraser Public Schools.



EMPLOYEE HONORED FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

On a sunny Friday in April, Dave Czanstke from the Operations and Maintenance Department celebrated 50 years of service with Fraser Public Schools. It was not a typical celebration — no fanfare, no balloons and, because of the coronavirus school closure, no coworkers there to celebrate with him.

Mr. Czanstke began his career with Fraser Public Schools in 1970 as an afternoon custodian at Fraser High School. Within a few years, he was promoted to Head Custodian at Salk Elementary. After 10 years at Salk, he was promoted to Head Custodian at Kennedy Junior High.

Within six months, Kennedy Junior High was closed and Mr. Czanstke and his crew moved to Richards Middle School. He and his crew spent the summer painting and moving furniture to the new school. David was moved to Eisenhower Elementary and worked there for approximately three months before he was awarded the Assistant Head Custodian position at Fraser High School, where he remained for 22 years.

Mr. Czanstke currently holds a skilled position in Operations and Maintenance. His hard work and efforts year after year are sincerely appreciated. Congratulations, Dave, on this service milestone, and we look forward to all the great things we know you will accomplish in the upcoming years. We want to take a moment to say “thank you” to Mr. Czanstke for being the first, and probably only, person to achieve this honor!



FRASER FAMILY FOOD FUNDRAISER

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit the area, Fraser High School Class of 2010 graduate Sarah Politis wanted to do something to help. Though she now lives in California, she reached out the Fraser Educational Foundation (FEF) to create an online fundraiser for families in our district.

To date, the fundraiser has brought in more than \$4,200. The FEF has used that money to provide gift cards for local grocery stores to 17 families in our district.

There are still more families currently affected by the coronavirus. If you are in a position to help, please consider donating by [clicking here](#).





MUSIC PROGRAMS RECOGNIZED FOR NINTH YEAR IN A ROW

Fraser Public Schools is honored to again be a Best Community for Music Education. The award, given by the NAMM Foundation, is a national recognition for districts with outstanding commitment to music education at all levels.

"During this unprecedented time when many traditions have been challenged, revised or cancelled, it is with great pride that the Fraser Performing Arts Department continues to be recognized for its 'Tradition of Excellence!' This award is truly a testament to the dedication and commitment of the exemplary performing arts staff, the support of the administration and Board of Education, the spirit of the community, and the outstanding students that fill the classrooms!" said Jim Rodgers, music department chair and high school band director.

The application process for the recognition looks at opportunities for students within both the district and the community, including after school and summer enrichment. In Fraser, the opportunities are seemingly endless. Students are eligible to participate in band beginning in 5th grade, and by the time they reach middle school, have several options for instrumental music, including concert band, drum line and jazz. Fraser High School offers even more opportunities for large and small group ensembles. The recognition looks at more than instrumental music, however. The unique partnership in Fraser between vocal and instrumental is one of the qualities that helped the district earn this distinction. Another thing is the sheer amount of participation in music programs.

Michigan History Day AWARD CEREMONY

The Michigan History Day awards ceremony went on as planned, despite the inability to meet in person. The virtual event was live streamed on Saturday, May 9.

Participation among Fraser students continues to grow — this year 28 students competed at the state level. Students competed in categories related to the theme of Breaking Barriers. All of the work was done outside of the normal school day. This year, students from Edison Elementary, Richards Middle School and Fraser High School participated in the competition.

Overall, 13 students will move on to the national contest and seven more are national alternates. Additionally, three Fraser projects were picked for special awards.

Richards Middle School teacher Ms. Tara Fugate was also named Michigan's nominee for the national Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year award. Each of the 58 National History Day affiliates may nominate one middle school teacher for this award.

Every nominee is a teacher who demonstrates a commitment to engaging students in historical learning through innovative use of primary sources, implementation of active learning strategies to foster historical thinking skills, and participation in the National History Day Contest.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED, AND TO THE FOLLOWING AWARD WINNERS:

EDISON ELEMENTARY

- › **Katelyn Frazier, Nicolas Durnell, Madison Bushon and Aneko Nichol**
 - First Place for their exhibit, "Berry Gordy – Ain't No Mountain High Enough."
 - It's worth noting that these 6th graders competed in the middle school division and took FIRST PLACE!



RICHARDS MIDDLE SCHOOL

- › **Zackary Howey**
 - First Place for his documentary, "Black Angels: Breaking Down Barriers and Fighting for the Right to be Marines."
 - Zack's project also won a special award for Best Use of Oral History.
- › **Kirk Wohlfield and Lanie Shrum**
 - Second Place for their exhibit, "Pioneering the Prevention of Polio: Breaking Barriers of Modern Medicine."

- › **Yostena Akladyous, Kamryn Peppers-McCoy, Marik Muskovin, Emma Maurin and Remi Flanz**
 - Third Place for their performance, "The 1960s: A Decade of Change."
- › **Jack Schwab**
 - Special award for Best Project Showcasing Naval History.

FRASER HIGH SCHOOL

- › **Nolan Pieprzyk and Shannon McMenamin**
 - First Place for their performance, "Breaking Barriers Toward Fair Labor: General Motors and the Flint Sit-Down Strike."
- › **Faith Aloia, Vanessa Ellis, Alisha Gentz and Francesca Palazzolo**
 - First Place for their exhibit, "The Flint Sit-Down Strike: Breaking Bargaining Barriers."
 - This project also won a special award for Best Use of Oral History.
- › **Taylor Frazier**
 - Third Place for her exhibit, "Heroes Aren't Born, They're Made: How Stan Lee Broke Barriers."
- › **Mercedes Cross**
 - Third Place for her website, "The Barrier That Couldn't Be Broken: The Navajo Code."