

Over the Fence



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fraser Families,

As I have said before, this year our district is even more focused on the learning process.

One of the things we are working on that I am excited to share is to design model classrooms and develop expert learners through the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). What that means is to create a learning environment within our classrooms where all students can thrive and participate.

We have developed a calendar of professional learning opportunities for our staff so we can ensure that everyone across our district has a voice in what our next steps are.

Several years ago, we created 21st Century teaching positions in all our schools. In addition to teaching students, these positions also coach other teachers and staff. This year, our 21st Century team will coach staff on viewing their classrooms and students through the UDL lens.

They will take several design elements into consideration, including classroom and environmental design, culturally responsive design and designing for executive function.

A great example of this work in action can be found in the article "Designing Learning for All Students" on page 3 of this newsletter.

We have a goal of all students feeling safe, supported, and in an environment where there is no fear of failure. The UDL principles tie in with the growth mindset work we have implemented in our schools.

I look forward to watching this process unfold and am eager to share with you, our Fraser Family, along the way.

Sincerely,
Ms. Wozniak



Kindergarten Enrollment Up in Fraser Public Schools

This year's kindergarten class is one of the largest cohorts Fraser has seen in the last five years. The Class of 2031 currently has 373 students across our six elementary schools. That's a large jump when compared to last year's kindergarten class, which had 290 students at the fall count.

"As students registered throughout the summer, we realized kindergarten enrollment was trending higher than in the past several years," said Dr. Donna Anderson, assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction. "We are excited to see so many families choose to start their children's education in Fraser Public Schools."

When it became apparent in August just how many incoming students to expect, two additional kindergarten sections were added. This year, Fraser has 14 sections of kindergarten across the district.

The new students are a mix of both in-district residents and schools of choice students. The

reasons for the enrollment increase could be due to several factors.

Last year, enrollment in programs for 4-year-olds at the Dooley Center was higher than it had been in several years. Typically, about 90 percent of the students from Dooley stay in Fraser for kindergarten and beyond.

Additionally, the students in kindergarten this year were born in 2013 when the Great Recession was coming to end. This could indicate a slight increase in the birth rate as people had more stability with employment and housing.

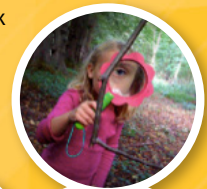
Overall, enrollment in our district this fall is down slightly — 16 students when compared to the fall count of 2017.

"We will continue to work with our community to share our story and are cautiously optimistic that our enrollment may be stabilizing," said Dr. Anderson.

ACCESS
Multiple Means
of Representation

ENGAGE
Multiple Means
of Engagement

EXPRESS
Multiple Means
of Expression
and Action



CURRICULUM CORNER

DISTRICT-WIDE M-STEP AND SAT RESULTS RELEASED

Fraser students in grades 3–7 are continuing to outperform other students in Macomb County and the state of Michigan in math and English language arts on the M-STEP assessment.

All students in grades 3–8 and 11 took the M-STEP this past April and May. The assessment expects students to show problem solving and critical thinking skills in an age-appropriate way.

The average scores of Fraser 3rd-grade students were the 4th-highest of any public school district in Macomb County. In 7th grade math and ELA, the average scores of Fraser students ranked 4th and 2nd in the county among public school districts. There are 21 public school districts in Macomb County.

“We are excited to see our elementary and 7th grade students continue to outperform

their peers in the county and state on the math and ELA assessments,” said Dr. Donna Anderson, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction. “But we know that there is always room for improvement.”

“Our teachers, principals, counselors and administrators have been working together to develop a plan to help our students continue to succeed,” said Dr. Anderson. “We have several existing and new programs and initiatives to support early literacy in DK through second grade. This is crucial so students will have solid foundational reading skills by the time they take the M-STEP in third grade.”

At Richards Middle School, 8th-grade students made strides to close the gap among Fraser, the county and the state. In math, the number of 8th-grade students who were proficient or advanced improved

4 percentage points. And, in social studies, 8th-grade average scores improved by 5 percentage points while state and county averages declined.

Fraser High School juniors are assessed on both the M-STEP and SAT. On the M-STEP social studies assessment, 45 percent of students met or exceeded proficiency. This is a four percentage point improvement over last year, and six percentage points higher than 2016.

The average SAT score at FHS was 991.2, which is both above the Macomb County average of 989.4, as well as the 8th-highest public school district average score in the county. Additionally, the evidence-based reading average score of 508.6 was above both the county (498.1) and state (505.3) average scores.

PLANNING AHEAD

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---|----------------|--|
| NOV. 1 | End of RMS 1st Card Marking | NOV. 26 | School Resumes |
| NOV. 4 | Daylight Savings
Set your clocks back one hour | NOV. 26 | Disney Vocal Music Concert
Fraser Performing Arts Center, 7:00 p.m. |
| NOV. 5 | School Board Meeting
Emerson Elementary | NOV. 27 | Emerson Vocal Music Concert
Fraser Performing Arts Center, 7:00 p.m. |
| NOV. 6 | Election Day — No school ALL levels | NOV. 28 | Edison Vocal Music Concert
Fraser Performing Arts Center, 7:00 p.m. |
| NOV. 14 | Marching Band Banquet
Century Banquet Center, Sterling Heights | NOV. 29 | Elementary/DK/ECSE Half Day
Elementary and DK, 8:35 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
ECSE AM has class, no PM class for ECSE |
| NOV. 15 | FHS Half Day — Conferences
Students dismissed at 10:46 a.m.
Conferences, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. | NOV. 29 | Salk Vocal Music Concert
Fraser Performing Arts Center, 7:00 p.m. |
| NOV. 19 | School Board Meeting
RMS Idea Lab | NOV. 30 | Elementary/DK/ECSE Half Day
Elementary and DK, 8:35 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
ECSE AM has class, no PM class for ECSE |
| NOV. 21–23 | Thanksgiving Break | | |

All events are listed on the building calendars. Click on the event title for further details.

GET TO KNOW YOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education plays a vital role in our school district. The seven-member board is made up of parents of both current and former students who volunteer their time to lead the district.

Three of the board positions are on the November 6 ballot. To help inform voters, as well as all parents, we have shared their background information on our [website](#).

The Board determines policies for the management, care and control of the district’s schools, then delegates authority to the superintendent and administrative staff to operate the schools according to these policies. Members are elected to serve six-year terms and spend countless hours a year attending meetings, workshops, professional development and district events.

The Board regularly meets the second and fourth Mondays of the month at the Idea Lab inside Richards Middle School. All meetings are open to the public.



Designing Learning for All Students

Disney Elementary 5th-grade students and teachers are taking learning to the next level.

Principal Aaron Sutherland explained recently to the Board of Education that the 5th-grade team is leveraging a universal design for learning where all students can feel safe to make, learn and reflect. He said they're doing this through three ways:

- Creating a ready-to-learn environment in the classroom
- Extending rigor and high-level thinking (adding reflection corner to eureka dialogue session of core lesson)
- Design to the edges.

Teachers introduced highs and lows time, where students share a high point from the last day and a low point. It can be about anything in their lives.

"You're setting the tone for learning in your classroom. You're creating a relaxed state," Mr. Sutherland said. "If the students have something on their mind, you want them to get that out so they can focus on the lesson."

During math time, teachers are taking the Eureka Math discussion to the next level with a literal reflection corner in the classroom. In this corner, students discuss the day's key concept and share their thinking with the class.

Students also add to the ongoing math dialogue with table discussions, partner talk and, via their iPads, in the Padlet app, which allows students to submit anonymous comments, which are projected on the Smart Panel to the class.



"The students are excited about our Math Reflection Corner and daily discussions," said Mrs. Nina Gumm, one of the 5th-grade teachers. "This has become a process that students look forward to at the end of each math lesson!"

The anonymous aspect of Padlet allows even introverted students to participate in the discussion.

"It's a way to allow kids to safely discuss learning and cement those concepts," Mr. Sutherland said.

Disney teachers are also designing to the edges, which means they are reaching every student at their level. This year they're leveraging Newsela, which delivers the same content to students that is customized to their reading and learning level. Students take quizzes, which helps the platform gauge their understanding and deliver appropriate content in the future. Teachers can also make adjustments for individual students to increase the rigor.



FHS Student Hired as a Free Press Intern

Fraser High School student Olivia King spent the summer before her senior year as an intern at the *Detroit Free Press*. There she wrote her own articles, as well as assisted other reporters. Three of her articles were published in the online version of the paper.

Olivia believes her journalism experience at FHS helped the *Free Press* see her as a valuable contender for the position, and feels that without it she may have been overlooked.

At FHS, Olivia is the editor-in-chief of *The Flash* and has been part of the publication since her freshman year. She is also president of the journalism honor society, Quill & Scroll.

Currently, Olivia is in the Early College of Macomb program and is on track to receive an Associate of Arts degree six months after graduating from FHS. She plans on transferring to Oakland University to continue her education with bachelor's and master's degrees in journalism or communications.

"To any students looking to advance in any journalism aspect, you can't be afraid to take chances. I did not think I would be accepted into the program, but I am very thankful that I was. The staff at the *Detroit Free Press* loved a young perspective and is looking for fresh ideas. Even if your idea is turned down right away, keep researching and come back again with your idea even stronger," said Olivia.

She continued, "I would definitely recommend this apprenticeship to other students. I will not lie, it was intimidating at first to be treated like an adult and expected to turn in the same quality work as the employees at the *Free Press*. Our deadlines were very different from high school, and we were forced to adapt and really push ourselves."

LUNCH 'N LEARN SERIES OFFERS CODING TO MORE STUDENTS

Last year, Mrs. Lori Wetzel began a coding and robotics club at Richards Middle School. But because of other afterschool commitments, she wasn't able to continue the club this year. Earlier this month, she launched an alternative for interested students during the school day.

Lunch 'N Learn began in early October. During silent reading and when Mrs. Wetzel is available, students can come to the media center and learn about coding robots. The October Lunch 'N Learn sessions will focus on programming Dash robots, which respond to voice, navigate objects, dance and sing.

"I've actually been able to reach more students this way," Mrs. Wetzel said. "With the coding and robotics club, I had maybe 15 students. So far this program has attracted about 50 students."

The initial response has Mrs. Wetzel planning future sessions, including coding Sphero robots and learning 3D printing.



"I've actually been able to reach more students this way."

— Mrs. Lori Wetzel
Richards Middle School

MAPPING IT OUT

Students in Mrs. Deborah May's class at Edison Elementary have been studying landforms and maps while learning about our state in Social Studies.



To demonstrate their knowledge about maps, students created landform maps with salt dough. They had to locate the placement of lakes and different elevations in the state of Michigan.

This activity allowed the cartographers to learn about the various landforms across the state. The students had a great time creating the maps from salt dough, saying it felt like Play-Doh.

COLUMBUS DAY VOYAGERS

First-grade students at Mark Twain Elementary recently took a Columbus Day voyage. They learned about what an explorer does and read a map as they went on their journey. Students are currently learning about maps and globes in Social Studies.

The whole school participated in this fun event. Students from the other grades played the role of Native Americans and the 1st-grade students were explorers to the new world.

The 1st-grade explorers sailed throughout the school, trading trinkets such as gold, coins, jewels and bells for spices, cotton, popcorn, pumpkins and many more goodies.

"This annual Twain event is something students and teachers look forward to each October," said 1st-grade teacher Mrs. Mary Palus. "It was a fun learning adventure for everyone!"



Pilgrims for a Day

In preparation for an upcoming unit on the first Thanksgiving, Emerson Elementary 2nd-grade classes visited the Troy Historic Village to learn what it was like to live in the past.

Students learned what an artifact is, how to make candles and butter, and what it was like to learn in a one-room schoolhouse. The students will take what they learned and use their new knowledge as they start a Project Based Learning (PBL) unit on the first Thanksgiving.

"This field trip kicked off our PBL unit on the first Thanksgiving," said 2nd-grade teacher Mrs. Jessica Kapanka. "It provided students with a firsthand experience seeing artifacts from long ago and experiencing what it was like to live then. They will be able to take this experience and apply it to relating what it was like for the Pilgrims."

Twain Treasure Mystery...Still a Mystery

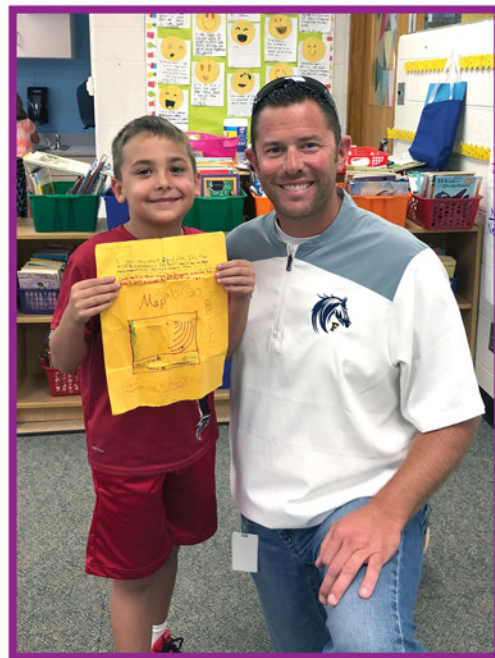
Mrs. Szeliga was shocked when her 2nd-grade student, Reese Warwick, brought a mysterious treasure map to share with the class. Reese explained that he found the map two years ago in kindergarten on the lower elementary playground. Since finding the map, he has been searching for the treasure.

Reese was ready to resume his search when Mrs. Szeliga reminded him that the front playground was relocated during the summer. Twain now has a new and improved parking lot where the playground once was. She suggested that they email Mr. Dan Waters, Director of Operations and Maintenance for Fraser Public Schools, to inquire whether the treasure had been found this summer.

To the students' surprise, Mr. Waters showed up to their classroom to survey the map and meet Reese in person. Unfortunately, Mr. Waters informed them that the treasure was not found while constructing the new parking lot.

"We enjoyed having Mr. Waters visit the class. How amazing that he took the time to visit some of the youngest learners in our Fraser Family. Thanks again Mr. Waters!" commented Mrs. Szeliga.

But, for the time being, the Twain Treasure is still a mystery!





Time for Teambuilding

The 6th-grade classes at Emerson Elementary went on a fun adventure to the Howell Nature Center. Students learned teambuilding skills that will help them succeed throughout their education and beyond.

Working together and communicating with each other are some of the core skills taught throughout their education. During the field trip, students worked on team building, survival and communication skills through a variety of courses, which included high ropes and zip lining.

"It was exciting to see students using communication skills during the high ropes course," said 6th-grade teacher Ms. Jennifer Beavnier.

"It was exciting to see students using communication skills during the high ropes course."

— Ms. Jennifer Beavnier
6th-Grade Teacher,
Emerson Elementary

Marching Band Festival Results

Congratulations to the Class AA, 260-member Fraser High School "Rambler" marching band on its First Division rating in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association District 16 Marching Band Festival on October 10, held at Warren Mott High School.

This is the eighteenth straight year that the Fraser marching band has participated in the festival and earned a First Division rating. It is a weeklong event across the state, with a total of 38 bands participating from District 16, which includes bands from all of Macomb and St. Clair counties, as well as parts of Oakland County. This adds up to over 4,300 student musicians taking the field in competition.



For the thirteenth year in a row, the Ramblers are the largest marching band in District 16.

Three judges adjudicate the bands in the categories of music, marching and general effect showmanship. Ratings range from First Division, which is a superior rating equivalent to an "A" grade, to a Fifth Division. Our Ramblers earned straight First Division ratings with all A's and one B+ for a final overall rating of First Division.

CONSTRUCTING MEANING

October got off to a busy start in 2nd grade at Eisenhower Elementary. Students just finished their second math module on measurement.

Their culminating activity was a construction measurement day. Students rotated through different measurement-based stations during the morning. Students built LEGO and popsicle houses and then had to measure them. They measured plastic tools in a toolbox and they measured tools on paper using centimeter cubes, teddy bears manipulatives, linking cubes and a ruler.

Second grade teacher, Mrs. Michelle Goy, commented, "These hands-on activities helped engage students and put their new knowledge to use."



"These hands-on activities helped engage students and put their new knowledge to use."

— Mrs. Michelle Goy
2nd-Grade Teacher,
Eisenhower Elementary

PTOs AND PARENT CLUBS Kick Off Fundraising Year

Many of our elementary programs and special events could not happen without the support of the school PTOs and Parent Clubs. Each school hosted a walk-a-thon or fun run recently, which is typically the biggest fundraiser of the year. Among the six elementary schools, more than \$80,000 was raised. The money is used to pay for a variety of things, including field trips, student assemblies and much more during the year.

Emerson Elementary Walk-A-Thon



Eisenhower Elementary Fun Run



Twain Elementary Walk-A-Thon

Disney Elementary Walk-A-Thon



Edison Elementary Walk-A-Thon



Salk Elementary Seahawk Walk



All students from kindergarten through 6th grade benefit from the parent volunteers in the PTOs and Parent Clubs, as well as from the support of all parents with fundraisers and events.

Positive You at RMS

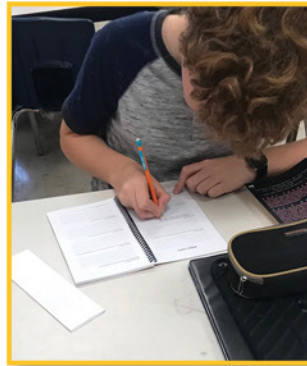
Richards Middle School has a monthly theme to support Honoring the Castle. October's theme is celebrating successes and achievement. One way the staff supports the Knights' (students') efforts is through teaching goal-setting skills.

One goal-setting model that principal Mr. Huston Julian shared with the students involves three steps. The first is to help students identify a goal. The goal should be exact, very clearly defined, and have some way that it can be measured.

The second step is to create and design an action plan for accomplishing the goal. This includes breaking their goal up into smaller steps and identifying what resources the students need in order to help them reach their goal.

The third step is to reflect upon if their goal was met or not. RMS staff will share with the students throughout the school year that goal setting is an important life-long skill to practice for school and at home.

Students also received a "Positive You" journal to keep track of their goals. RMS staff will be engaging the students in goal setting throughout the month.



Impressive Results for Cross Country Runners



Congratulations to Fraser High School junior Joey Tavalieri, the 2018 Macomb County Cross Country Champion! Joey is the first Individual County Cross Country champion in FHS history.

Junior Brendan Cairney placed 3rd at the meet, and the men's team finished in 6th place overall.

In the women's meet, freshman Emily Plouff finished in 26th place, the highest county meet finish for the Fraser women's team since 2010!

Tri-M Honor Society Welcomes LARGEST CLASS TO DATE

Congratulations to the 25 students inducted into the Tri-M music honor society at Fraser High School. This year's inductees represent the largest single group of students to join the society. To be considered for membership, candidates must submit an application, be part of at least five music ensembles or classes, and maintain a "B" average in their current music classes, as well as overall.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2018 INDUCTEES!



Taylor Aleo
Brooke Arnold
Justin Babbitt
Ella Baranski
Matthew Cole
Jenna Cotey
Joseph Cross
Savannah Danis
Zachary DuBay
Rachel Gielegem
Emma Guzman
Morgan Johnston
Caitlin Kelly

Megan Klepp
Cheyenne Middleton
McKenna Miele
Jakobe Neal
Sydney Nummer
Jacob Rodgers
Ryan St.Onge
Alyssa Stevenson
Elaine Stumpf
Marissa Valade
Sarah Wallace
Cathryn Ward

CUSTODIAN SHAVES HEAD FOR WORTHY CAUSE

Mr. Gary Mainhardt, custodian at Salk Elementary, participated in the St. Baldrick's Foundation event to cure childhood cancer. The students at Salk held a penny wars fundraiser and, together with other donations, Mr. Gary raised \$1,152!



Two 1st-grade students from Salk, Din and Shan Dulovic, received the honor of shaving Mr. Gary's head. Thank you to all who contributed — Ms. Jill Sutter, Ms. Kelli Provost and the Student Council — for their efforts, and to the staff and families who supported the event.

BOOK TASTING AT EISENHOWER

Fifth-grade students at Eisenhower Elementary enjoyed a visit to Bistro 103 in Mrs. Milene Farkas' reading class. Upon entering their classroom, "Chef" Farkas explained what menu items they would be experiencing during their first book tasting.

At each table, they got a taste of a book from six different genres in order to expand their reading horizons. The genres included mystery, historical fiction, poetry, nonfiction, fantasy and biography.

Student Nadya Krawchenko reviewed Bistro 103, stating, "It was a very enjoyable experience. The breadsticks and books tasted amazing. I would gladly come back again someday."

Another student, Emily Clark, commented, "The mystery table was quite fascinating."



"I had a lot of fun planning and getting into character to really add to the experience," said Mrs. Farkas. "The kids really enjoyed the experience!"

LIGHTS. CAMERA. ACTION.

Homecoming week was a huge success — from the Powderpuff game on Monday night to Spirit Week, the pep assembly, the parade and football game on Friday, and concluding with the dance on Saturday. The Ramblers played a great game against Roseville, but ultimately lost 31-7.

The seniors won the Powderpuff game against the juniors, as well as Spirit Week and the float contest with their Star Wars float. The students enjoyed the new air conditioning in the gym at Richards Middle School for the dance.



miXed Nuts



A Comedy By Simon J. Donoghue & Nancy Manera

Friday, November 9

7:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 10

2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

TICKET INFORMATION

www.frasertheater.org
(586) 439-7312

FRASER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Fraser High School
34270 Garfield Road
Fraser, MI

TICKETS NOW ON SALE