

Over the Fence



OCTOBER 2019 | DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Superintendent Carrie Wozniak | carrie.wozniak@fraserk12.org



Building a Chain of Kindness



This year, the Mark Twain Elementary 6th-grade team is focusing on building good character. Using the principles of restorative practices,

students start each day with a morning circle.

In these circles each student has an opportunity to share, and together they learn, discuss, set goals and demonstrate different character traits. They have started the year with a focus on kindness. This month, the students were challenged to create a chain of kindness.

Each time someone witnesses an act of kindness, that person writes it down on a paper link and together they add it to the chain. Throughout the year they will be focusing on integrity, empathy, perseverance and grit.

The students are learning that together we are a community of kind, considerate and hardworking 6th graders.



Each time someone witnesses an act of kindness, that person writes it down on a paper link and together they add it to the chain.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fraser Families,



As you know, the 6 C's of our Portrait of a Graduate represent the key traits that our community felt were important to all students who walk across the stage and earn a Fraser High School diploma.

Our Portrait was the result of a tremendous team effort among staff, students, parents, our community and our leadership team. I know these traits have been embedded in classroom lessons and school activities, and celebrated by our teachers and staff, all along.

When you read through this newsletter, you will see stories that highlight one or more of the 6 C's: character, citizenship, creativity, critical thinking, collaboration and communication.

During this school year, we will be mindful to call out specific traits when they are at the center of a lesson or story we share. You will see on the following pages the gold icons associated with each trait at the beginning of each story.

One of the best parts of my job is visiting our classrooms and seeing first hand the culture of learning. So far, in the schools I have visited, I see so much great work happening around the 6 C's and using the principles of Universal Design for Learning to help all students succeed. I know as I continue to visit every school in our district, I will continue to see this work.

Our school and district staff are a group of hardworking professionals committed to helping all of our students succeed. And, when that is paired with our parent and family support, I know our students are in good hands.

With Fraser Pride,
Carrie Wozniak

CURRICULUM CORNER

ANALYZING STATEWIDE ASSESSMENTS

Students in Fraser Public Schools continue to outperform their peers in Macomb County and Michigan on the statewide M-STEP assessment. The district received the data from the assessment that all students in grades 3–8 and 11 took this past April and May.

When ranked by the percentage who earned a score of proficient or higher, FPS students were in the top 10 in grades 3–7 for math and grades 5–7 for English language arts (ELA).

“We are starting to see some positive results from our focus on math in recent years,” said Dr. Donna Anderson, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction. “As we look at the data, we look for trends. This year, we noticed as students move up through the grades, Fraser’s rank in the county also moves up.”

MATHEMATICS

Grade	County Rank	Percent Proficient
3	8	48.8
4	9	42.8
5	8	41.0
6	8	43.4
7	4	47.3

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Grade	County Rank	Percent Proficient
3	15	38.5
4	15	46.1
5	9	51.4
6	3	50.9
7	2	55.8

Of note, the 7th-grade average was the fourth highest in the county for math. The 47.3 percent of 7th-grade students proficient on the math assessment was more than 11

percentage points higher than the state and county average.

In ELA, Fraser 7th-grade students also performed extremely well: 55.8 percent were proficient — about 13 percentage points higher than their peers.

“Once we receive our district data, we compare it to previous years, as well as to the state and county. This year, we are seeing that our students are gaining on their peers in the county. We believe our comprehensive multi-tiered systems of support process is allowing us to identify students in need and implement research-based programs to support them and help close the gaps.”

Fraser 3rd-grade students’ average percent proficient ranked 15th in the county for ELA. But, by 7th grade, that ranking increased to second.

The data also provides an opportunity for the district to identify areas of focus and those which need improvement. The district is working with the MISD to support teacher development in the area of K–6 literacy.

“We know that our Tier 1 reading instruction is a priority for us. We have scheduled professional learning opportunities related to literacy for our staff. This is very important with the Read by Grade Three law in effect this year,” said Dr. Anderson.

At Richards Middle School, 8th-grade students took the PSAT last year. This test provides a baseline for students as they prepare for the SAT in 11th grade. Fraser students outperformed the county and state. RMS had 66.4 percent of students proficient or advanced on the evidence-based reading and writing portion of the test, and 43.8 percent in math. Both scores are about 3 percentage points higher than the county average.

Finally, in Fraser High School, students took the SAT this past April. The average score was 984.3, which was more than 9 points higher than the county average of 975.

FHS teachers and administrators worked with students and used PSAT data to help them prepare for the SAT. When comparing the 2018 PSAT 10 data with the 2019 SAT data, the average FHS score jumped 91 points while the statewide data saw an increase of 65 points.

“We understand that this is summative data that represents achievement on one specific assessment day,” Dr. Anderson said. “In Fraser, we pride ourselves on looking at multiple data points which include analyzing our local benchmark scores and various student evidence.”

	Fraser Average	State Average	National Average
PSAT 10 (2018)	893	919	930
SAT (2019)	984	984	973

Space and Environment Design at Eisenhower



As students and teachers settle into the school year, the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) model classrooms are starting to take root. At

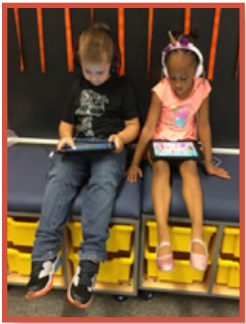
Eisenhower Elementary, the kindergarten and 2nd-grade teachers received in-depth UDL training last year in order to better leverage classroom space and support all learners.

Both kindergarten and 2nd-grade students especially love using the new flexible seating. They are able to find their own space and have room to spread out. Seating options offer a variety of ways for children to feel

comfortable. In addition, the new seating options can be arranged quickly and easily to meet classroom needs depending on the type of work students are doing — including individual, small groups or whole groups.

The model classrooms will be used as we continue our UDL journey. Teachers will be sharing what works in order to help their colleagues and the district with future furniture decisions.

This school year, the 4th-grade team at Eisenhower, along with teams at every school, are continuing our UDL transformation.



Spreading Joy and Kindness



This year, 4th-grade students at Edison Elementary are teaming up to spread joy, kindness and appreciation

throughout their building and community with kindness projects. Each week, the students meet to reflect on past projects, brainstorm for the future and execute new ideas.

To date, they have created an appreciation jar for their principal, Mrs. Wiegand, and filled it with handwritten notes for her.

When asked how she felt creating the kindness project for Mrs. Wiegand, student Leah Domenicucci said, "I was really happy because I was doing something nice for someone and also excited about what she would think and say when she reads them!"

The 4th-grade students also decorated bookmarks for 3rd-grade students. Students are given homework each week to help them develop important skills like gratitude and kindness at home.

"I feel really good when I do kindness projects, because it makes other people happy," said student Matthew Loder.

Kindness projects will be continuing all year in 4th grade at Edison Elementary. Currently, they are working on a new project for the custodians and brainstorming what will come next. The students hope to reach everyone in the building throughout the school year and then spread to the community.



MINDFULNESS AND THE BRAIN



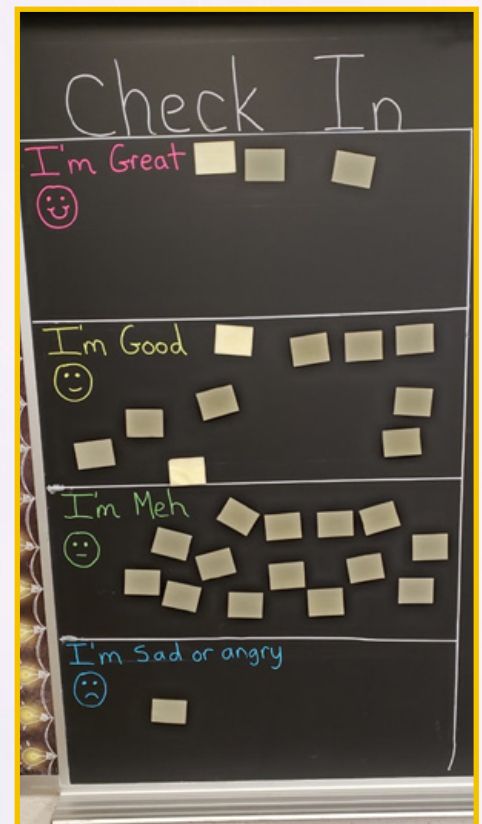
All 5th-grade students at Emerson Elementary were recently trained on the importance of mindfulness.

District Intervention

Mentor Mrs. Laura Purdy led the training on Mindfulness and the Brain, and taught students to understand the connection between their brain, emotions and learning. Giving students a basic understanding of how the brain works and how emotions and feelings impact the brain and learning creates the opportunity for better emotional regulation.

Mindfulness is essentially the practice of being present in each moment, creating a relaxed and aware state of mind. It's about noticing and observing emotions and thoughts without judgement and viewing yourself from a place of compassion.

Students learn that when they practice mindfulness, it can be a tool to calm down their brains and bodies and get them prepared to be better learners and less reactive and better people in general.



PLANNING AHEAD

OCTOBER – JANUARY

Yankee Candle Fundraiser for the Dooley Center

This fundraiser runs through January 8. Online orders can be placed [here](#)!

Group Number: 990058776 | Group Name: DOOLEY CENTER

OCTOBER 19

Athletic Booster Fall Craft/Vendor Show

Fraser High School, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 pm

\$3 Admission, No Strollers Please

OCTOBER 23

5th Grade Song Flute Concert

FHS Gym, 6:00 p.m.

5th Graders From Across the District Perform Together

OCTOBER 25

Blood Drive

FHS Aux Gym, 7:15 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

[Register Here](#) for an Appointment

OCTOBER 30

NHS Inductions

Fraser Performing Arts Center, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 31

Early Release All Levels – District Provided

Professional Development

DK/Elementary: 8:35 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

ECSE AM Classes: 8:45 – 10:15 a.m.

ECSE PM Classes: 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

RMS: 8:05 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

FHS: 7:30 – 11:44 a.m.

NOVEMBER 1

RMS End of First Card Marking

NOVEMBER 4

RMS First Day of Second Card Marking

NOVEMBER 5 (Election Day)

No School All Levels – District Provided

Professional Development

NOVEMBER 8

Fall Play "Harvey"

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

Purchase Tickets [Here](#)

NOVEMBER 9

Fall Play "Harvey"

Fraser Performing Arts Center, 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Purchase Tickets [Here](#)

Restorative Practices



Throughout the last year, the district has been committed to training staff on restorative practices. This approach

to building a stronger community within classrooms, schools and the district also helps minimize and resolve conflicts when they arise.

The Salk Elementary 5th-grade team is using these practices in their classrooms.



Ms. Ashley Fenech, Mr. Kerry Hitchings and Ms. Kelli Provost start their day with morning meetings and circle time. These meetings help the students learn how communication is an important part of everyday life.

Students "circle up" into two circles facing each other. The students are given a choice of a few different discussion prompts to talk about with the student facing them.

The inner circle then moves over a few spaces and uses another prompt to have a conversation with a new partner. This continues and allows students to talk with students they may not otherwise talk to.

The teachers use the circles to incorporate the importance of many character traits, including empathy, kindness, respect, honesty and compassion.

It is evident that students are excited about the circles, when the most asked question throughout the day is, "When are we going to be 'circling up' today?"

Mat Man



To prepare to learn to write, DK students at the Dooley Center are working on mastering important concepts which

will make writing easier. These concepts, or readiness skills, include size recognition, placement and sequencing skills.

As students listen to the directions in the song "Mat Man," they take turns using wooden pieces to create Mat Man. They name the parts of the body as they build him and learn sequencing. Other skills are simultaneously

promoted during this activity, including body awareness, socialization and sharing.

When the children learn to build Mat Man they can easily approach writing in the same way.



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 OCTOBER FPS SHOUT-OUT RECIPIENTS:

JEAN DEBRUYN

On top of Jean's consulting duties in the district, she has also taken on the role of running our CCRR classroom at Richards. This position is a long time coming at the middle school, as it is an extension of our two resource room programs at the elementary level, as well as a bridge to our work being done at the high school.

Jean still keeps her district ASD consulting duties, working closely with behavior consultant Bridget Murawski, and has already made immediate dividends at Richards. She is a valuable support resource for teachers and students and her knowledge base will assist staff in working with all students on a daily basis. *Submitted by Denis Metty*

JENNIFER KELLEY

Jennifer Kelley serves as Eisenhower's Title I Coordinator. As our MTSS Lead, Jennifer coordinates much of the support for our students in need.

She also works closely with teaching staff daily to ensure students are successful in the classroom. She greets them daily with a smile and a high-five because, "That's her thing!"

Mrs. Kelly also serves as Teacher-in-Charge and as a member of our School Improvement Team. As a new principal to Eisenhower last year, Mrs. Kelley was a huge support as I learned new systems.

In short, Eisenhower is a better place because she is there. She helps all of us SOAR on a regular basis! *Submitted by Keith Tonn*

MELODEE CHINOSKI

Mrs. Chinoski has done a great job as our SE department head, ensuring that the learning needs of our students and resources have been shared with our staff members in starting the school year.

Submitted by Huston Julian

"BEE"ING SUCCESSFUL IN FIRST GRADE



Staying attentive and focused can be difficult for younger students. That is why Emerson Elementary 1st-grade teacher Ms. Sharon Hass has a classroom

goal to 'Bee' attentive.

Through incorporating a fun game of 'BEE'havior Bingo, the journey to reaching this goal is much more fun. The students work collaboratively to earn the number draws twice each day.

Their behaviors are kept in check with a classroom management system. The students follow the classroom guidelines of: Bee Kind, Bee Attentive, Bee Respectful, Bee on Task, Bee Prepared, Bee Your Best and Bee Honest.

When the class earns a BINGO, the students can suggest reward ideas, including extra recess or a board game day.

"This has made a huge impact on our classroom climate. The students have clear guidelines and expectations," said Ms. Hass. "They encourage one another when they notice their classmates exhibiting our positive behaviors, and they give each other reminders to follow the guidelines when they notice others making poor choices. Their overall motivation to succeed is evident every day."



ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB

CRAFT & VENDOR SHOW

OCTOBER 19, 2019

AT FRASER HIGH SCHOOL

10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

\$3 ENTRY FEE

For more information, contact
fhcraftshow@yahoo.com

No Strollers Please

IN MEMORY OF SUE MARCOUX

Administrative Assistant at Fraser High School

In the early morning hours of September 16, longtime Fraser Public Schools employee Sue Marcoux unexpectedly passed away. Throughout her 24 years in Fraser, she touched the lives of many students and staff. Mrs. Marcoux was most recently the Administrative Assistant to Fraser High School Assistant Principal Mr. Kyle Ray. She began her career with Fraser in 1995, first working at the Einstein Center before moving to Richards Middle School and then FHS for the past 14 years.

We have collected the thoughts from some of the FHS staff in memoriam of Sue Marcoux.



Sue would decorate the office to the nines for every holiday. Not a couple decorations, the entire office was in celebration of the upcoming holiday. It always looked so festive and a great way to start the day was saying good morning to Sue.

– HEATHER MOSKAL

She was dedicated, kind, showed concern, and was always willing to assist anyone. Her 'Good Morning smile' was beautiful and her Friday smile even better.

– CINDY OHRT

Sue was a friend/coworker. She was a great person to talk to. I miss her. R.I.P Sue; we love you!!

– CHERYL SPARKS

Sue Marcoux was an absolute treasure.

– MATT CYPLIK

Sue was a true professional who enjoyed her job and was always focused on doing it the proper way. I never saw her get angry or upset. She handled everything calmly and reacted appropriately. I trusted her to make decisions independently, as I knew her attention to detail. Above being a tremendous assistant, she was also a great friend. I knew she was someone I could rely on. I am so fortunate to have been able to work with Sue and get to know her while I was first getting used to my new position as assistant principal. Working with Sue made my job enjoyable, as it did for many other staff who worked closely with her. She will truly be missed.

– KYLE RAY

I loved Sue's joyous personality! It was a privilege to have worked with her.

– MARY ANNE VOLLMER

Sue was one of kind. She was very hardworking, always willing to lend a hand, level-headed and kind. She always had the sweetest smile and was so honest. She will be missed so dearly.

– STACIE YOKHANA

Sue Marcoux and I have been co-workers, union co-chairs and, most importantly, good friends for many years. Sue helped train me in my job and, anytime I called her, she was always willing to do whatever was needed to help me. She was a caring, kind and very special person. Working two jobs, she was a very hard worker and very dedicated to each job. I will miss our conversations throughout the day and the laughter that we always shared. Sue had such a great sense of humor and I loved when I could get her really laughing; it made my day. I truly loved her, and I can't imagine what it will be like without her. I will miss her every day.

– POLLY GENTRY

HOMECOMING WRAP-UP

Homecoming week was a success across the district, with all of our schools participating in spirit week leading up to the game on September 27.

The senior girls came out victorious against the junior girls in the annual Powderpuff football game on Wednesday night. They received their trophy at the pep assembly.

The weather caused a last-minute cancellation of the parade on Friday night, but students made the best of it. The rain lightened up long enough for the Homecoming Court to be presented before the game. Jakobe Neal and Brooke Arnold were stunned to hear their names announced as king and queen.

The weather mostly cooperated for the game, and the Ramblers took on Henry Ford II.



FRASER

PERFORMING
ARTS



Friday, Nov. 8th – 7 PM
Saturday, Nov. 9th – 2 PM
Saturday, Nov. 9th – 7 PM

Ticket information:

www.frasertheater.org

(586) 439-7312

Fraser Performing Arts Center

Fraser High School

34270 Garfield Rd.

Fraser, MI