

# Over the Fence

## Academics and Athletics WORK TOGETHER

Teachers, coaches and administrators at Fraser High School are working together to ensure the transition to high school and playing sports results in academic success for freshmen athletes. They created Academic Workout Wednesday (AWW), which will take place every Wednesday after school. The 30-minute weekly study time is required for all freshman athletes, but all freshmen are encouraged to attend.

Coaches agreed to not hold practice during AWW. The program allows students to meet with their teachers and receive extra support and help. They can also work quietly or in small groups. The additional support time is designed to give students time to focus on schoolwork, so they have time later to focus on their sport.

"The decision to begin AWW came about after looking at our academic trends," said Dr. Michael Lonze, principal at FHS. "Our freshmen struggle the most academically, and within that group our freshmen athletes struggle also."

Students become academically ineligible for athletics if they have two or more failing grades. Currently, there are 89 freshmen athletes. Each student is paired with a school administrator for the season to act as a mentor and point person.

"Hopefully getting on the right track now prevents our athletes from having issues as sophomores, juniors and seniors," said Shane Redshaw, FHS athletic director. The program will continue throughout the school year and all sports seasons.



### SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Fraser Family!



As we start to get back into the routine of the school year, I wanted to take a moment and thank our students, parents and community for the tremendous support we have experienced as we started this school year. I would also like to remind everyone of just how far we have come as a school district. We began our digital transformation several years ago under the leadership of Dr. Rick Repicky with the implementation of Promethean boards, installation of wireless access in our schools, issuing iPads to our students, and the deployment of our learning management systems to allow students to move through their learning at their own pace. During this past summer we had Rose Colby, a national leader in competency-based education, spend two days working with our building and district leaders to ensure our work was being done with fidelity and driven by improving student achievement. Then in September, Lisette Casey, a representative from Modern Teacher joined us to help us outline our progress and future path toward digital convergence.

Sometimes the day-to-day business can keep us so busy we forget to step back and see the bigger picture. The work we have done as a community and staff has positioned Fraser Public Schools as a national leader in the transformation of our schools and classrooms. While there is still work to be done, the amount of work already completed by our staff and teachers should be commended. Furthermore, none of the success we have had in this process would be possible without the support of our parents and students.

With Fraser Pride,  
**Dr. Richards**

# CURRICULUM CORNER

## TRANSITIONING TO THE M-STEP AND SAT ASSESSMENTS

Fraser students, like all students in Michigan, have transitioned to new standardized assessments in the last two years. The M-STEP assessment replaced the MEAP test in the 2014–2015 school year for students in 3rd–8th and 11th grades. The SAT assessment replaced the ACT last year in Michigan as well for students in 11th grade.

### M-STEP

Students received their score reports for the challenging M-STEP assessment in September and, overall, Fraser Public Schools improved over last year. Additionally, FPS had higher levels of proficiency in most categories when compared to Macomb County and the State of Michigan.

The M-STEP assessment was given to all students in grades 3–8 and 11 in April and

May of this year. When the MEAP test was administered, score reports were not made available to students or the District until much later the following year. Receiving the reports in September allows the District more time to adjust preparation and individualize focus areas for students before the assessment the following spring.

Our District averages are above the county in 3rd–7th grade math and English language arts. Of particular note are our 5th- and 6th-grade math proficiencies. In 5th grade, math proficiency is 11 percentage points higher than the Macomb County average, and showed a gain of 10 percentage points when compared to our results from last year. Our 6th-grade students' proficiency rate also rose 10 percentage points when compared to last year, and is 14 percentage points higher than the county.

### SAT

Students in 11th grade also took the SAT exam last spring. After years of requiring Michigan's high school juniors to take the ACT, this past year the State transitioned to the SAT.

Fraser's average SAT score of 989.5 was in line with the rest of Macomb County.

In reading and writing, nearly two-thirds of the juniors were considered college and career ready. Fraser High School graduates also have the second-highest college acceptance rate in Macomb County.

"As we learn more about our District's results on these two newly implemented assessments, we will be able to make decisions that will help improve instruction," said Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Carrie Wozniak. "The scores will be used, as they always have been, to help improve our programs and our schools."

## District Kindergarten Students Receive Own iPads

Excited kindergarten students across the district couldn't wait to receive their iPads in September. In order to customize learning in early elementary grades, teachers requested a 1:1 deployment of iPads for kindergarten, 1st- and 2nd-grade students. The district purchased additional iPads last December so all students would be able to participate in individualized learning.

"There just weren't enough to go around," commented Troy Lindner, FPS director of technology. "This year, kindergarten students each have their own device instead of sharing a classroom set."



Edison kindergarten students were delighted to receive their own devices. "The class really loved exploring the apps and setting up our Dreambox avatars," said Mrs. Roose, Edison Elementary kindergarten teacher.



## Students Become Historians

Eighth-grade students at Richards Middle School don't remember the tragic events of September 11, 2001, but, through their social studies classes, they were able to gather information and become historians.

Teachers created stations with different media sources, including newspapers, magazines, news broadcasts, memoirs and factual accounts. Students rotated through the stations and analyzed the different sources, deciding which were primary or secondary sources, as well as listing the pros and cons of each type.

"After getting acclimated with these sources and with the events of that day, our students officially became historians," said Tara Fugate, social studies teacher at RMS. "They collected their own original primary sources by conducting an interview with a parent, a neighbor or a teacher and recording their memories of that day."

Students then collaborated to create encyclopedia entries detailing and analyzing the events of September 11, 2001.



# REIMAGINING THE SCHOOL DAY SEMINAR



When school started at Fraser High School this fall, students noticed a difference in Seminar — it is now at the end of the school day. This move has many reasons behind it. First, it supports the District strategic plan to allow for customized and personalized learning, as well as the option for flexibility in the school day. Second, it provides students who are successful in their classes the privilege of leaving the campus early while, at the same time, allowing students who need more help opportunities to get that help.

The privilege of leaving campus early will be rolled out this month to FHS hybrid students. Dr. Michael Lonze, principal at FHS, hosted a parent information meeting in September. Below are the commonly asked questions and answers from that meeting.

## WHO QUALIFIES TO LEAVE CAMPUS EARLY?

- ➔ Students must meet several qualifying points before being allowed to leave campus.
  - Initially, only hybrid students will be allowed to leave, followed by seniors and juniors.
  - Students MUST have a signed permission slip from their parent or guardian on file.
  - Students must have a minimum grade of 80 percent in all classes.
  - Students must not have any discipline issues.

## HOW WILL LEAVING CAMPUS WORK?

- ➔ All students will report to Seminar at 1:28 p.m. for attendance, announcements, and checking their grades in PowerSchool. Beginning at 1:36 p.m., students who qualify to leave campus will travel to the designated door, scan their Student ID card, and either receive a green light (allowed to leave) or red light (not allowed to leave) designation. Students who have a green light will be able to leave campus. Red light students will remain on campus.

## WILL TRANSPORTATION BE PROVIDED TO STUDENTS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE TO LEAVE CAMPUS?

- ➔ At this time, no transportation will be provided. Students who do not have their own transportation have the option to walk, ride with a friend who is also eligible to leave, or remain in Seminar on campus.

## HOW WILL I KNOW IF MY CHILD HAS LEFT THE BUILDING?

- ➔ The primary contact in PowerSchool will receive an auto-generated email when the student leaves the building.

## MY STUDENT HAS BAND/PRACTICE/ REHEARSAL AFTER SCHOOL. CAN HE OR SHE SIGN OUT TO LEAVE CAMPUS, BUT REMAIN IN THE BUILDING OR PARKING LOT?

- ➔ No. Once a student receives a green light to leave campus, he or she must leave campus. Students are welcome to return after school dismisses at 2:18 p.m. for any practice or rehearsal they may have.

## WHY DID YOU MOVE SEMINAR TO THE END OF THE DAY?

- ➔ Seminar at the end of the day is not a new idea at Fraser High School. Several years ago, Seminar was in this time slot. That being said, there were two reasons for moving Seminar this year — academic and to make the flexibility option work. When Seminar was in the morning, students did not necessarily know what they needed to work on that day. Also, students would not benefit from the option to leave campus in the morning only to have to return for classes and lunch.

## DID YOU CONSIDER STUDENTS' OPINIONS ABOUT MOVING SEMINAR? WHAT IF THIS DOESN'T WORK?

- ➔ This move was well thought out. Five years ago, we began hybrid courses, which allowed students flexibility in their day. Three years ago, we introduced early final exams, where qualified students could potentially test early and have flexibility at the end of the semester. The privilege of leaving campus early at the end of the day was presented to and approved by the Michigan Department of Education, as well as our Board of Education. We will also survey students in several months for their feedback.



## Welcome New Students!

Starting at a new school can be an adjustment, but students new to Fraser this year were welcomed with open arms.

At Edison Elementary, Student Council invited their 39 new students in 1st–6th grades to a Welcome to Edison Pizza Luncheon. Students were introduced to staff, participated in several discussions about their new school, laughed and, most importantly, gobbled up some delicious pizza! The kids enjoyed meeting the other new students and comparing their first week of school adventures. It was a great start to a new tradition.

More than 40 new students began the school year at Eisenhower, and principal Mr. Metty took the opportunity to welcome them with lunch in the media center. Students were excited to talk about their new school and meet their principal, as well as make new friends.

Fraser Public Schools would like to welcome all new students and families to the District this year!

### ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB

# VENDOR SHOW

**OCTOBER 14, 2016**

at Fraser High School

**5:00 – 9:00 P.M.**

The presentation from the parent meeting can be found on the [high school webpage](#). If you have any additional questions regarding this topic, please contact Dr. Lonze at [michael.lonze@fraserk12.org](mailto:michael.lonze@fraserk12.org).

## Alumni Return for Softball Game

Former Fraser High School softball players gathered at the FHS field one more time for a friendly alumni game in September. Players representing the classes of 1992–2015 made up the teams, which were split depending on the players' original positions. A total of 21 players plus current coaches returned to the field.



## Morning Yoga in DK

DK students at the Dooley Center spend the first 20 minutes of each day doing morning yoga. Watching the Promethean board, they follow along with Cosmic Kids Yoga, a program designed especially for young children. The yoga movements are integrated into engaging adventure stories such as *Frozen*, *Harry Potter*, *Going to the Amazon*, *Star Wars* and many more.

Yoga for children enhances flexibility, refines balance and coordination, develops focus and concentration, boosts self-esteem and confidence, and strengthens the mind-body connection. Mrs. Schell, DK teacher at Dooley, has seen the students manage stress through breathing, awareness, meditation and healthy movement. "They are so focused," she said, "and they feel like part of a healthy non-competitive group."



## Future Ramblers Cheer at Football Game

Cheering at a high school football game is something typically reserved for students when they enter 9th grade. But, more than 90 elementary students in Fraser recently took to the field and performed for the crowd.

The performance was the result of the second annual Elementary Cheer Clinic. Students in grades 1–6 were invited to sign up for the three-day clinic. The high school cheer team worked with the younger girls and taught them a routine to perform at the September 23 game.

"It was a great experience for the high school team to work with the younger students and have a chance to coach and be mentors to these elementary students," said Shane Redshaw, athletic director.

Coaches said participation this year exceeded last year's, and they are already planning on hosting another clinic next year.

"Since we do not have a middle school program, this is something we want to do to interest the girls early on in cheerleading. And, hopefully when they get through middle school, we keep their interest high enough every year that they want to be a part of the cheer program," said Nicole Smith, FHS varsity cheer coach.

## STAY CONNECTED



Become a fan of Fraser Public Schools on Facebook and Twitter to keep up with the latest news and updates.



Don't forget to check out the District's website for a calendar of events at:

[www.Fraser.k12.mi.us](http://www.Fraser.k12.mi.us)

ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB

# CRAFT SHOW

**OCTOBER 15, 2016**  
at Fraser High School

**10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.**

**\$2 ENTRY FEE**

*No Strollers Please*

# Salk Electronic Recycling Event and Fall Clean Up Day



The Salk grounds crew team spent a few hours at Salk on Saturday, September 17. The students teamed up with Richards Middle School NJHS students to help with a community

electronic recycling event. They greeted drivers and helped them unload their old electronics. This was not an easy job in the rain. Salk accepted a \$5 donation per car. These funds will be used to help with the school's Green School activities,

such as endangered animal adoptions, new environmental reading materials, landscaping tools and environmental field trips.

Together, they unloaded 3,886 pounds of electronics into eight large boxes. Computer Recyclers of Michigan will break down and recycle these electronics and keep them out of landfills.

In between cars, the grounds crew team cleaned the planters from the Salk Green Day planting last May. There were 32 planter boxes, 12 large pots and 14 hanging planters that were cleaned up. By cleaning the planters and pots now, they will be able to reuse them next year. In fact, this is the third year that they have reused the same planters and pots. Soil from the pots was placed in an area on the school grounds



that has a lot of erosion, so even the soil was repurposed. It was a great team effort! This is the second year that Salk has done this recycling event, and they plan to do it again next fall.



## Smiling Selfies

The 4th-graders in Mrs. Albrecht's class created their own personal "selfies" for their Twain Meet the Teacher/ Curriculum Night. They attached their likenesses to their desks after adding some personal touches. The parents had a ball trying to identify their child's selfie and unique artwork around the classroom.

Mrs. Albrecht; the 4th-grade curriculum; homework policies; and the PBIS Behavior & Rewards System, Twain R.O.C.K.S.!

Fourth grade parents also had the opportunity to sign up for their December parent/teacher conference. So many of Mrs. Albrecht's parents and students commented on how inviting her classroom looked with students' adorable smiling faces greeting them.

Mrs. Albrecht will be hanging the artistic creations around the room and plans to keep them up for the entire school year, so that she and her class can welcome all of their guests with their "smiling selfies!"

## Who Took the Cookies from the Cookie Jar?

Dooley students took the cookies from the cookie jar! Mrs. Chesley's DK class had a delicious time learning their classmates' names. While reciting the rhyme, "Who Took the Cookie from the Cookie Jar," they baked name cookies using letter cookie cutters!

"I begin every year teaching students how to spell their names. We use magnetic letters, manipulatives, die cuts and paper letters to practice sequencing letters in names. This is a precursor to learning to write their names. To end the unit, we made our names out of cookies to accompany the chant 'Who Took the Cookie From the Cookie Jar,'" explained Mrs. Chesley.

The students practiced letter recognition, spelling their own names, sound recognition and teamwork while making these tasty treats. Dooley student Simone said, "I loved it, because it was so fun doing my name!"



## Pen Pals

Mrs. Stenger, 6th grade teacher at Disney Elementary, and Mrs. Frazier, 6th grade teacher at Edison Elementary, had a great idea to do some distance-based learning with their students this year. Since both teach math and science, they paired their students and assigned them their first activity of writing their Edison or Disney pen pal as a way of getting to know each other.

Through this initiative, students have a way to connect with a fellow 6th-grader in the District to play math games, work on math reviews, and conduct science experiments through FaceTime. "Not only does this offer them the opportunity to work with another student outside of their own building, but also it gives them the chance to make a connection and build a relationship with a student that they will then most likely see or have classes with next year at Richards," commented Mrs. Stenger.

