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ABOUT:

Farmington School Reporter is a publication of Farmington Area Public Schools, ISD 192. Please direct comments or questions to Sally McConnaughey at (651)463-5079 or smcconnaughey@farmington.k12.mn.us

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District residents to vote on new operating levy

The Farmington Area Public Schools Board recently voted to schedule a referendum election for Tuesday, November 5, 2024. The proposal on the ballot will ask voters to revoke the district's existing operating levy of \$696.15 per pupil and replace it with a new levy of \$1,556.15 per pupil. The new levy will provide approximately \$11 million (\$5 million from previous levy and \$6 million from new levy) per year for 10 years.

The decision by the school board to schedule the operating levy election came after months of consideration and discussion. The district has realigned the budget for the past 4 years, including reductions and the use of fund balance dollars, to meet the requirement of having a balanced budget. The amount of reductions and realignments for each year are listed below:

- 2021-2022 - \$700,000
- 2022-2023 - \$1,050,000
- 2023-2024 - \$2,400,000

A total of \$4.1 million in reductions.

- 2024-2025 - \$2,700,000 (a one-time realignment from the assigned fund balance)

Along with these reductions, the district is projecting a budget deficit of approximately \$4-5 million for the 2025-2026 school year. Because of past reductions and projected deficit, it was important to offer district residents the opportunity to consider increasing funding for the district rather than facing additional reductions in the next few years.

If the operating levy is approved the additional levy dollars will bolster the district's financial stability, maintain programs and experiences, and allow us to make the following investments:

- Decrease learner to staff ratio (lower class size)
- Learner Achievement
  - Literacy
  - Math
  - Elementary Enrichment

If the operating levy is not approved significant budget reductions will be needed to offset the projected deficit for the 2025-2026 school year. These reductions are likely to include, but not limited to:

LEVY FOR LEARNING  
VOTE NOV. 5, 2024

- Reduce non-classroom support
- Increase learner/staff ratio resulting in larger class sizes
- Eliminate FHS MNCAPS experiences
- Eliminate FHS DCTC/ 917 CTE experiences
- Reduce middle school elective opportunities and team planning through a schedule change
- Eliminate 5th grade band experience
- Increase athletics/ activities fees and reduce non-conference travel
- Limit user group rental of ISD 192 spaces and increase rental fee

The district will also need to address the lost revenue from the 2015 levy, which will expire after the 2025-2026 school year. As noted above, the district is currently projecting a budget deficit of \$4-5 million for 2025-2026.

More detailed information about the operating levy referendum is included on page 6 and on the district website at: <https://www.farmington.k12.mn.us/referendum>.

One public information session was held on September 18 and two more public information sessions will be held on Thursday, October 3, 2024 at 7 p.m. at Farmington Elementary School and on Monday, October 21 at 7 p.m. at Farmington High School.

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Congrats to the 2024 FHS Bilingual Seal Recipients!

The Minnesota Department of Education's Bilingual Seals program is an accreditation that multilingual learners may earn by taking an assessment which covers the four domains of language - speaking, reading, listening, and writing. If a learner passes the language exam they not only receive a seal that is on their transcript, but they also receive college credit that is accepted at all MNSCU colleges and universities, as well as other post secondary institutions across the country. More information can be found on the MDE Bilingual Seal Program website.

At Farmington High School, 32 11th and 12th graders earned college credit through the Bilingual Seal Program during the 2023-24 school year. Learners gain college credit by the level at which they pass: Certificate - 2 credits; Gold - 3 credits; Platinum - 4 credits.

The class of 2024, collectively earned 7 Gold Seals and 9 World Language Certificates of Proficiency resulting in a whopping 39 college credits over the past two years. The class of 2025 has already earned 36 college credits (4 Gold Seals and 12 World Language

Certificates). Those who took the assessment as 11th graders may take the assessment again as 12th graders in an attempt to improve their score. It is also important to note that the Bilingual Seals program requires a learner to demonstrate capacity across all 4 modalities (speaking, listening, reading, and writing) to receive an award.

"This accomplishment speaks loudly to [the learners'] determination, perseverance, and awesome language skills. Major shout-outs and gratitude to the educators and family/ community members who

have supported, cared for, and encouraged them throughout their school careers! The ability to speak multiple languages and communicate across cultures is a gift, and it's one we are proud to nurture and honor in Farmington," ISD 192 Equity Coordinator Mauri Deer said in an email sharing the news.





# Boeckman Middle School named PBIS Exemplar School by the Minnesota Department of Education!

## PBIS EXEMPLAR SCHOOL 2024

BOECKMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL  
DISTRICT 192



We are thrilled to announce that Boeckman Middle School has been recognized by the Minnesota Department of Education for our sustained commitment to Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS)!

This honor reflects the hard work and dedication of our entire school community in creating a positive, supportive, and inclusive learning environment. Through PBIS, we've been able to enhance our school climate, engage our community, and improve student achievement.

PBIS is an evidence-based framework that focuses on teaching and reinforcing positive behaviors and supporting the social, emotional, and behavioral needs of all learners. By fostering a positive school culture, we've seen remarkable improvements in student outcomes and engagement!

We're incredibly proud of our staff, students, and families for their commitment to making Boeckman Middle School a place where everyone can succeed.

# Introducing Tiger Preschool: A New Chapter in Early Childhood Education

As we settle into the 2024-2025 school year, we're excited to announce the official launch of Tiger Preschool! Offered through Farmington Community Education, this program is a significant step forward in our commitment to providing high-quality early childhood education in Farmington. With the merger of the Wee

Tigers and Stepping Stones programs, Tiger Preschool now stands as our unified offering, designed to nurture every child's unique growth and development.

Why Tiger Preschool? At Tiger Preschool, we believe that every child is unique, and our curriculum is tailored to meet the diverse needs of our

students. Our program closely aligns with kindergarten readiness skills, ensuring that your child is well-prepared for their educational journey ahead. Whether you choose half-day or full-day options, available 2, 3, or 5 days per week, you can trust that your child will be engaged in a rich learning environment.

We are proud to hold a Four Star Parent Aware Rating, a testament to our commitment to quality early childhood education. This rating signifies that our program uses research-based best practices to prepare children for school and life. Our staff goes above and beyond, participating in extra training and professional development to ensure the highest standards of care and education.

Tiger Preschool's curriculum is built on the Minnesota Early Childhood Indicators of Progress and uses Creative Curriculum. This approach fosters kindergarten readiness and supports the whole child through research-based and field-proven methods. Our curriculum covers key areas of development, including social and emotional growth, literacy, mathematics,



science, social studies, the arts, technology, and essential process skills like problem-solving and communication.

We are thrilled to offer Tiger Preschool at several convenient locations, including the Tiger Legacy & Learning Center, Meadowview Elementary, North Trail Elementary, and Riverview Elementary. Additionally, we offer before and after care through our Kid Connection program, making it easier for busy families to find the right fit

for their schedules.

We invite you to be part of this new chapter in early childhood education in Farmington. With Tiger Preschool, your child will not only be prepared for kindergarten but will also build a foundation of skills that will serve them throughout their lives!

For more information, visit our website <https://www.farmingtonce.com/preschool> or email [askCE192@farmington.k12.mn.us](mailto:askCE192@farmington.k12.mn.us) with any questions you may have.





# FHS Musical “Joseph” Wins Awards, Appears in Spotlight Showcase

The 2024 Farmington High School spring musical “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” was a community hit, seen by over 5,000 audience members and selling out all performances. The show was also a critical success, as results of the Spotlight Education program were shared. Spotlight, a division of Hennepin Theater Trust, serves schools throughout Minnesota with production assessments, workshops, arts journalism, and scholarship programs.

One of the core components of the Spotlight program is a series of production assessments, in which theater professionals attend dress rehearsals and performances of school musicals. Results of these evaluations are shared with directors and students following the completion of each production. In addition to extensive written feedback, the shows are also adjudicated in 11 different categories. Evaluators

assign ratings to aspects of a production including the student orchestra, stage crew, and the cast’s acting, dancing, and singing performance.

Farmington’s production of “Joseph” swept the honors, receiving marks of Outstanding (the highest possible rating) in all 11 categories. The show was recognized as an Outstanding Achievement in Musical Theater and the show was selected to take part in the prestigious Spotlight Showcase at the State Theater in Minneapolis on Tuesday, June 11.

Four theater professionals attended “Joseph” on four separate occasions to evaluate the various aspects of the show. One of the evaluators wrote: “This was one of the best productions I have seen of Joseph in my lifetime. I was incredibly impressed by the technical elements and the performance aspects. Everyone had very clear intentions in their



characters, excellent vocals, and great energy. There are very few times I see high school students performing basically at a professional level.”

“Joseph” was directed by FHS Band Director Bradley Mariska. The last FHS musical to be selected for the Spotlight Showcase was the 2014 production of “Urinetown.”



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FDIC

**180+ Summer Activities Engage Over 2,000 Farmington Youth**

It was a busy summer for youth in Farmington. More than 2,000 youth participated in over 180 camps and classes offered through Community Education! Each summer, Farmington Community Ed offers a wide variety of programs to youth, ages 3 to 18, in academics, health, safety, arts, STEM, sports, music, and more. Youth can choose from 4 day camps, 1-2 day adventures, or multi-week programming, offered in the morning, afternoon, or evenings. Camps take place at the district’s elementary, middle, and high schools.

Community Education partners with different businesses and district staff to lead these opportunities. FHS Varsity Coaches offered Tiger Athletic

Camps, elementary and middle school Band Teachers offered Band Lessons and Pops and Jazz Band, FHS Tiger News Advisor offered a Movie and Film Production Camp, and a Kid Connection staff ran a new Kendama Competition event. One of the FFA Advisors ran a new camp called Intro to Floral Design. Participants in this camp learned how to dye and cut flowers to create their own floral arrangements! Other camp highlights include Wish and Wonka Musical Theater Camps, Sports and Fitness Camps, Self-Defense, Robotics, Culinary Arts, and Slime, Foam and Potions!

To learn more about after school, evening, and weekend enrichment offerings, please visit [www.farmingtonCE.com](http://www.farmingtonCE.com).

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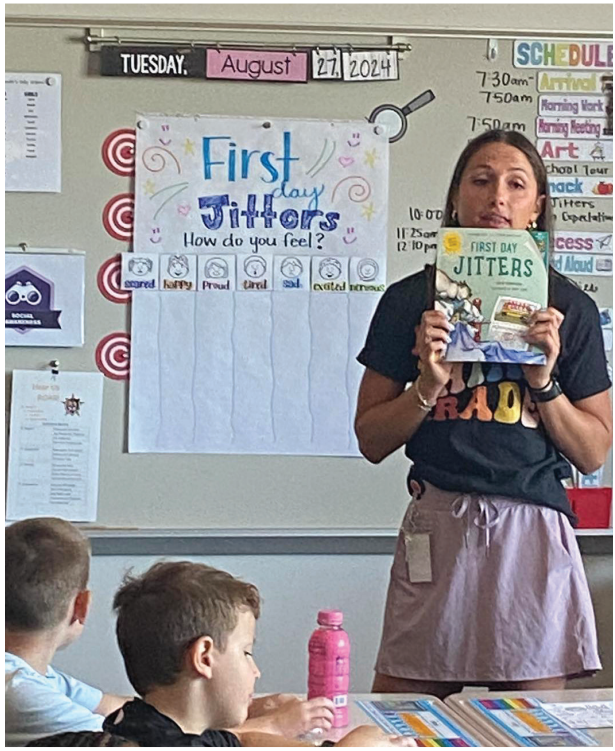
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# 2024 Back-to-School Highlights

ISD 192 staff was once again excited to welcome learners back to school this fall. Although the official first day for learners was September 3rd and 4th, by that time many learners were already back in buildings for athletics and activities as well as meet-the-teacher events, pictures, assessments and more. Thank you to everyone who made the first few weeks of the 2024-2025 school year a fun and exciting time for learners of all ages! It is a true community effort from the volunteers who help with everything from greeting students to directing them to classrooms, to the student-leaders who help younger learners transition to middle school and high school. Thank you to the custodians who worked throughout the summer to get our buildings and grounds ready, and the bus drivers, food service providers, nurses, paraprofessionals, teachers, and of course our learners and their families who all put in work and preparation to make the start of the school year fantastic!









2024 Back-to-School Highlights



November 5 referendum election voting information

The election will take place on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. You can find your polling place by visiting [pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us](https://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us) or scanning the QR code.

In Minnesota, voting by absentee ballot became available on Friday, September 20 and remains open until Monday, November 4. To vote by mail, request a ballot via the MN Secretary of State website: <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting>. You can request an absentee ballot online for federal, state, and county elections. To vote in person, visit Farmington City Hall or any of the three Dakota County Office locations.

You can vote by direct ballot beginning Friday, October 18, 2023. Locations are Farmington City Hall, Dakota County Western Service Center - Apple Valley, Dakota County Administration Center - Hastings, and Dakota County Northern Service Center - West St. Paul.

To vote you must:

- be at least 18 years old;
- be a citizen of the United States;
- be a resident of the school district and maintain residence in the district for 20 days immediately preceding the election.



Scan the QR code to find your polling place and additional voter information on the Minnesota Secretary of State website.

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Farmington’s revenue is lower than neighboring districts

When compared to eight other area school districts, the per student revenue amount received by Farmington Area Public Schools is between \$1,632 and \$3,834 less in annual revenue. In addition, Farmington is more than \$2,500 per student below the state average.

DISTRICT	PER STUDENT FUNDING
West St. Paul	\$16,968
Northfield	\$16,174
State-Wide Average	\$15,730
Rosemount - Apple Valley - Eagan	\$15,712
Lakeville	\$15,412
South St. Paul	\$15,404
Burnsville	\$15,219
Inver Grove Heights	\$15,078
Hastings	\$14,766
Farmington	\$13,134

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# A Summer of Adventure with Kid Connection

Kid Connection proved to be an exciting and enriching experience this summer for students and staff alike. The program saw participation from over 330 students, ranging from three-year-olds to incoming sixth graders. In addition, 65 dedicated staff members contributed to the success of the program. Staff members included high school students, school year paraprofessionals, college students on break, and our exceptional Kid Connection staff.

Participants engaged in a diverse range of activities designed to foster creativity, teamwork, and personal growth. Students explored various themes each week, including "Island Adventure," "Amazing Arctic," and "Desert Oasis," all part of our overarching theme of "Landscapes." Activities included art and science projects, team-building exercises, and health and wellness programs. Students also had the freedom to select their afternoon activities,

which led many to enjoy outdoor sports, while others preferred indoor arts and crafts or interactive games with friends.

A highlight of the summer was the return of off-site field trips. Students had the opportunity to visit popular destinations such as Hastings Water Park, the History Museum, and the Minnesota Zoo. Pre-K students particularly enjoyed trips to Good Times Park in Eagan and the Twist 'N' Tumble gym at the Tiger Legacy and Learning Center. Additionally, on-site field trips allowed students to engage in hands-on projects, including crafting birdhouses from scratch. These projects not only provided valuable learning experiences but also gave students the chance to proudly take home their creations.

Overall, the Kid Connection summer program offered a memorable and enjoyable experience, building lasting relationships and cherished memories for all involved.



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Please join us for an information meeting to learn about the upcoming operating levy referendum.

- **Thursday, October 3, 2024, 7 p.m. at Farmington Elementary School**
- **Monday, October 21, 2024 7 p.m. at Farmington High School**

