



Flushing Community Schools

From the ECC family to yours, have a wonderful holiday season full of warmth, love, kindness, and joy!

SEE PAGE 4



Preparing Learners Today for Opportunities Tomorrow.



CANDLEWALK THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE THIS A WONDERFUL EVENT!



Thank you to the Flushing Area Chamber of Commerce and all of the organizations who joined in the fun and provided a welcoming atmosphere for the community. We would like to give a special shout out to all of the students that volunteered their time and energy to light the candles that provided a beautiful entry in the downtown area. Thank you to the Transportation Department for their help in getting people where they needed to go. The entire event was the perfect start to the holiday season.



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Flushing Raider Families

With our two week break now upon us, I want to wish all of you the happiest of holiday seasons, as we all look forward to an even more fulfilling and rewarding 2026. This year has thankfully been a very positive one for Flushing Community Schools, and I know 2026 promises to be even better. As we review the last four months of this school year, we are very grateful that our schools remain a flurry of positive activity, with an abundance of after-school programs for our students. Whether it be our latest play, concert, or this week's "Holiday Collage," student talent in the arts continues to be on full display. Our gyms and athletic venues have been full of activity with basketball, competitive cheer, wrestling, hockey, bowling and skiing well into their seasons. Knowing how much these extra-curricular activities add to the school experience for our students, the high engagement level is so positive to see.

With this current year flying by, our students have two short weeks left in the first semester when they get back from break, with final exams being January 15th and 16th for our secondary students. If you have or know of a student that is struggling academically or could use a little more support, I urge you to reach out to their building principal. It is important that our students finish the semester strong academically. There are resources available to help all of our students. Please continue to connect with your child's teacher and principal in regards to the best support services available to them to make sure they have every opportunity to thrive academically as well as mentally.

Knowing the major role that a student's social and emotional well-being plays in being able to thrive in school, our district has continued to look for creative resources to help

all of our students, families, and the community. With that in mind, the district made the decision to incorporate the use of therapy dogs in all of our buildings during the 2025-2026 school year. I am happy to share that three of our dogs are completing their extensive training programs and they will arrive at the Early Childhood Center, Elms, and Springview at some point in January. The other puppies are continuing their training with hopes of joining their buildings later in the school year. Our dogs recently visited each of our buildings. At the ECC, within 5 minutes you heard students express, "this is the best day ever" and "I am so happy, I am going to cry," as they got to meet and pet Birdie for the first time. It was one of the more heartwarming things I have seen in a long time. Based on the research that supports the positive impact of therapy dogs on social emotional health as well as academics, the district is proud to take this step in support of all our students. More and more schools, as well as hospitals, funeral homes, prisons, and nursing homes have successfully used dogs to make a positive impact in people's lives on a daily basis, and we look forward to the positive impact they will make in all of our school buildings going forward.



Matt Shanafelt



While I have provided it the last couple of years, I once again wanted to share an underutilized series of free webinars available to families at parentguidance.org. You will see a link to these resources on our website. Topics include: mental health, depression, suicide, self-worth, self-harm, grief, fatigue, self-talk, social media impact, technologies contributing to depression and anxiety, and other subjects impacting our children. This webinar resource is available to you for free. We are also continuing to grow our partnership with Genesee Health System, which provides a 24 hour mental health crisis line (810-257-3740), as well as other mental health resources. Our students' needs are growing and private, professional support can be hard to access in a timely fashion, so we will continue to explore these types of resources. We look forward to continuing to partner with you as we work together to be what our children need to live the happy, positive, carefree, fulfilling, and meaningful lives that they all deserve.

Last but not least, a huge thank you to all of you that reach out to our teachers, principals, and other staff members when you have a question regarding something that pertains to school, and I encourage you to keep doing that. We take a great deal of pride in being able to answer and provide clarity directly to you as parents and stakeholders, working collaboratively to solve any problem that may arise so that our students have the best school experience. You will find the most accurate and helpful information from staff in our buildings as opposed to social media. If helpful answers are what you seek, our buildings are the best places to start.

Thank you all for your ongoing support of Flushing Community Schools and I wish all of you a very "Happy New Year" as we look forward to a wonderful 2026 for all of our students and families.

IMPORTANT DATES

December 22nd - January 2nd

Winter Break

January 5th

School Resumes

January 15th- January 16th

FHS/FMS Exams

January 16th

Last Day of 1st Semester

January 19th

No School - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 21st

Early Dismissal

DISTRICT CONTACTS

- SAVE FOR FUTURE USE -

Superintendent

Matt Shanafelt – 591-1180

Deputy Superintendent

Jason Melynychek – 591-1184

Exec. Dir. Curriculum

Michelle Barrett – 591-1187

Director of Finance

Jackie Read – 591-1193

Exec. Dir. of Special Services

Alex Keesling – 591-2321

High School

Kevin Foltz – 591-3770

Middle School

Elizabeth Endicott – 591-2800

Central Elementary

Rob Steinhaus – 591-1901

Early Childhood Center

Heidi Donaldson – 591-2326

Elms Elementary

John Hagens Jr – 591-7350

Seymour Elementary

Steve Groulx – 591-5150

Springview Elementary

Stacey Mesarosh – 591-8550

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Thank you for your continued support of our students, staff, and community.



Salvatore Ausiello
Vice President



Terry Bate
Trustee



Eddie Dolgan
Trustee



Megan LeCureux
Treasurer



Steve Sheldon
President



Kim Strnad
Secretary



Janice Winkiel
Trustee

The following are highlights of the Flushing Board of Education meetings held on October 14, 2025, October 29, 2025, November 11, 2025, and December 2, 2025:

- Recognized the success of many students, as well as the RVA program, as a whole.
- Recognized Board Member Salvatore Ausiello for achieving the prestigious President's Award from MASB.
- Recognized the FMS Robotics Teams 55615A and 55615B, as well as Scott Roy and Derek Parks.
- Recognized Elizabeth Oele for going above and beyond for all her students, as well as recently starting the Math Olympiad Club at FMS.

- Heard a presentation on the financial audit for the 2024-2025 school year.
- Accepted the 2024-2025 Audit Report as presented by Yeo & Yeo.
- Approved the bids for the 2024 Bond Phase 2 and 3 School Improvement Projects, as recommended by Wolgast.
- Approved the out-of-state/overnight field trip request for the FHS Band Winterguard to participate in the Winterguard Regional Championships in Chicago, Illinois on February 27, 2026 – March 1, 2026.
- Approved the out-of-state/overnight field trip request for the FHS Band to attend the Bands of America Grand National Championships in Indianapolis, Indiana on November 15-16, 2025.

- Approved the purchase of soccer shelters and benches.
- Approved the Resolution to Opt-In to Receive Section 31AA Funds on a conditional basis.
- Heard reports from student board representatives Burba and Coleman on recent activities at FHS.
- Heard a report on the most recent curriculum updates.
- Heard a report on the status of the district's budgets.
- Heard a report on the most recent legislative updates.
- Heard an update on personnel.
- Heard an update on facilities.
- Heard an update on the bond project.
- Heard reports on the state of the schools.

CHILD NUTRITION

Did you know that Flushing Community Schools offers breakfast daily at all buildings?

Join us for a free breakfast to help jumpstart your day!

Elementary

8:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. in the cafeteria

High School and Middle School

7:30 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. in the cafeteria

Please call Sonia Shortz at 810-591-2791 if you have any questions regarding the breakfast program.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



United Way
of Genesee County
Serving Genesee & Shiawassee Counties

Flushing Community Schools and the United Way have a long history of working together to impact the lives of residents in Genesee County and right here in Flushing.

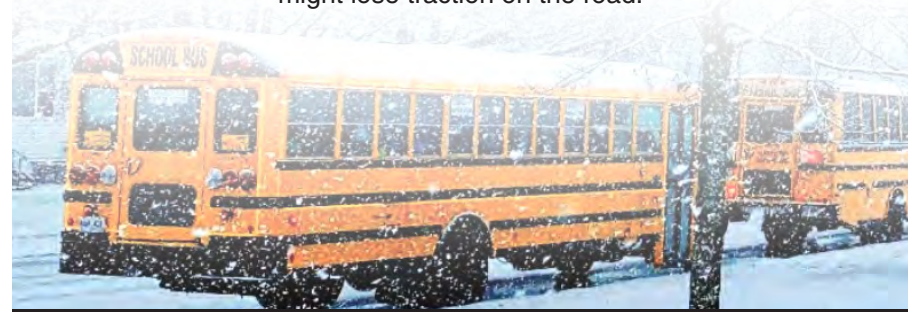
**ONCE AGAIN OUR RAIDER FAMILY WAS VERY GENEROUS!
THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED**

WEATHER RELATED SCHOOL CLOSINGS

If Flushing Community Schools closes due to inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances, information will be posted on the district website (www.flushingschools.org), and on social media. Notifications will also be sent out through School Messenger.

**TV CHANNELS 5, 12, AND 66 WILL ALSO BE NOTIFIED.
IF YOU HAVE DOWNLOADED THE FLUSHING COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
MOBILE APP, YOU WILL ALSO RECEIVE A NOTIFICATION
THROUGH THE APP.**

Please note — on wintry days, our buses need to slow down to ensure everyone's safety. Please be sure that your child is dressed appropriately to stay warm and dry while they wait. Please also have your child stand back from the curb so that they are safe from any vehicle that might lose traction on the road.



EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

KINDERGARTEN AND DK



FEELING THANKFUL, SPREADING CHEER

Thank you to everyone for the incredible collection of cereal boxes donated to the Flushing Christian Outreach Center. Students and staff collected over 350 boxes of cereal! Thank you to the amazing sponsors who helped raise over \$11,000 as part of the Turkey Trot to support the PTO and the events they put on for the ECC students and staff to enjoy.



CELEBRATING 50 DAYS OF SCHOOL!

Jr. Raiders have been reciting the Pledge of Allegiance during Friday morning announcements with Mrs. Donaldson. In November, students honored Veterans and also celebrated the 50th day of school.



MACY'S DAY BALLOON PARADE

Students had fun doing their version of the Macy's Day balloon parade, making pumpkin pie, learning how to set their table, and using manners during a Thanksgiving feast.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

November has been filled with learning, smiling, and being thankful. We have kicked off December full of spreading cheer, and we look forward to spending quality time with family and friends. From the ECC family to yours, have a wonderful holiday season full of warmth, love, kindness, and joy!

Thank you kindly, Heidi Donaldson

**“SPREAD A
LITTLE SPARKLE
WHEREVER
YOU GO!”**



EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

PRESCHOOL NEWS



Preschool joined in on the fun for the Annual Turkey Trot!



Thank you to Officer Marshall for spending time with preschool students and teaching them about safety!

2 + 1 ADULT/CHILD PRESCHOOL INFORMATION

2 + 1 is a 12 week program with plenty of activities geared towards getting ready for preschool.

This class is attended by a toddler and parent or another adult caregiver. It's a great way to become familiar with the Early Childhood Center (ECC), preschool classroom and preschool staff. Activities include singing, dancing, arts and crafts, and story time, all which help to improve fine and gross motor skills, sensory awareness, and social development.

Contact katelyn.torrey@flushingschools.org for enrollment and any questions.

New session coming in the New Year.
January 15th/16th – Save your spot now!
\$150 per session

Thursday evenings: 6:00-7:00 p.m.
or Friday afternoons: 1:00-2:00 p.m.

JR. RAIDER LATCHKEY



The Latchkey program is still accepting registrations for the 2025-2026 school year. Registration forms are located on the district website, under the "Departments" tab. Please allow 24 hours for processing new registrations. Latchkey follows the district calendar for all school closings and will be closed during the upcoming winter break.

For additional information, contact the Latchkey office by calling 810-591-1297, or emailing

Kathy.mcmahan@flushingschools.org.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

ELEMENTARY NEWS

CENTRAL ELEMENTARY

SUPES EXOTIC JUNGLE ASSEMBLY

Supes Exotic Jungle Assembly was the grand finale of Central Elementary's Kindness Fundraiser incentives! Supes wowed students with their amazing and incredible animals. Students were able to get up close and hands-on with everything from a skunk and blue-tongued skink, to a wallaby, and even a giant cockroach! A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Kindness Fundraiser — experiences like this wouldn't be possible without it!



GRANDPARENTS IN THE GARDEN

Over 320 grandparents and loved ones attended Grandparents in the Garden. During this event, 500 flower bulbs were planted in the front of the school that will bloom this spring as a sweet reminder of the love and memories made on this day. Students and grandparents enjoyed some lemonade and coffee when they were done planting.



ELMS ELEMENTARY



FALL FEST

Fall Fest was a great evening where students and families came together to enjoy hayrides, bounce houses, games, and much more! It was a phenomenal event led by Elms PTA and volunteers.



ANNUAL COLOR RUN

Elms Elementary had its annual Color Run this fall. This fundraiser was a success and students were rewarded for their efforts with a DJ at recess, a glow lunch, and a pizza and ice cream lunch! Thank you to the PTA and staff for your support!



DONUTS WITH DUDES

Elms held its annual Donuts with Dudes to celebrate male role models. Students and their guests enjoyed a donut, cider, and a fun atmosphere before school. It was a great turnout!



VETERAN'S DAY

All Elementary buildings held a wonderful performance for veterans in honor of Veterans Day.

ELEMENTARY NEWS

SEYMOUR ELEMENTARY



BASE CAMP

Students from both Seymour and Central's Student Councils took part in Base Camp Challenge Center. They participated in various team-building exercises, such as puzzle-solving, jump roping in unison, and passing balls through tunnels. It's exciting to see the collaboration between the two schools, promoting encouragement and support for one another.



NOVEMBER: WORLD KINDNESS

Seymour's Peer to Peer students worked together in celebration of World Kindness month by linking gratitude and kindness across the school.

WALK FOR THE WIN ASSEMBLY

Seymour Elementary wrapped up its Walk for the Win fundraiser with a fun, schoolwide assembly celebrating students' hard work. We recognized all of the winners and celebrated the outstanding participation across every grade. The highlight of the event came when the top fundraisers got to silly string a teacher—filling the gym with laughter and excitement. Thank you to families and the community for your incredible support. Your generosity helps create more opportunities and experiences for students throughout the year.



NFL FAMILY LITERACY NIGHT

Many Seymour Elementary families came out for the Title 1 NFL (Night of Family Literacy) Night! Students and their families jumped into fun-filled activities centered around math and reading fluency. Smiles, laughter, and learning were everywhere.

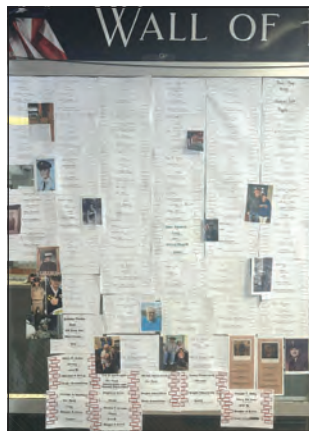
SPRINGVIEW ELEMENTARY

VETERAN'S DAY CELEBRATION

We honored and celebrated Veteran's Day with our Wall of Honor in the Springview lobby. Students brought in photographs of family members who have served in the Armed Forces.

We also enjoyed a wonderful Fourth Grade Veteran's Day Musical. During the program, students presented each veteran in the audience with a flower as a gesture of gratitude for their service.

It was a meaningful celebration and a heartfelt way to show appreciation for the veterans in their lives and the sacrifices they have made.



PEER TO PEER

Springview Peer to Peer is excited to celebrate its second year! According to Grand Valley State University, the Peer-to-Peer program "intentionally connects students with and without disabilities across the school day to promote belonging for all students."

This year, 53 students are part of the program which is led by special education teachers, Victoria Hopkins, Stacey Willyerd and the school social worker, Josh Winkel. Students meet twice a month, with kindness as the year-long focus. Through fun games and activities, students are building teamwork, communication, leadership, and empathy skills.

The program has made a wonderful impact on school culture and inspired more parents and staff to get involved in START professional development. Springview is also now recognized as a Unified Sports School!

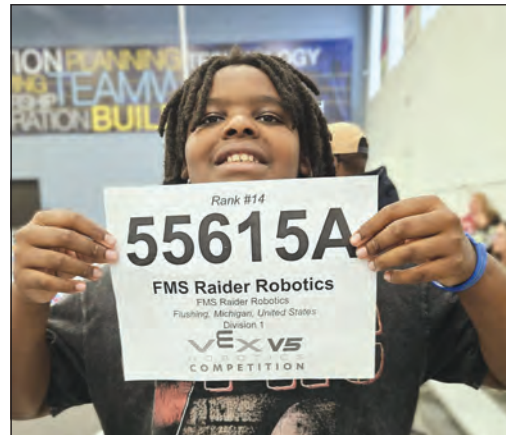


SPRINGVIEW STUDENT COUNCIL GIVES BACK THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Springview's Student Council has been spreading kindness by collecting non-perishable food items for families in need this holiday season. Each classroom has gathered donations, and the class that has collected the most will be rewarded with a celebratory class party.

Students and staff take great pride in supporting the community, and this initiative has been a wonderful example of their generosity and teamwork.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS



MIDDLE SCHOOL ROBOTICS

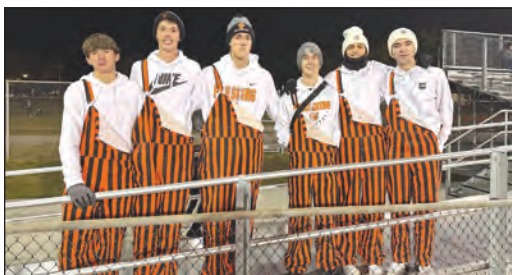
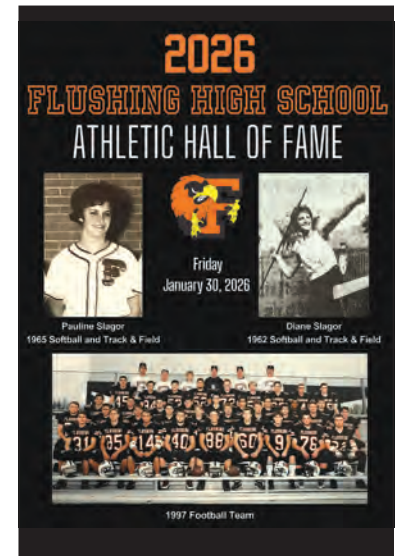
It is the inaugural season for Middle School Robotics. The FMS Robotics Team competed at Kettering University during three Saturdays in November and team members were able to put together and compete with TWO robots! Students had a great experience and look forward to more competitions next year. A big thank you goes out to our teachers Mr. Roy and Mr. Parks and to the team sponsors!

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS



SUPPORTING MADDIE

Flushing High School's junior, Maddie Walker, has been battling Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. Maddie had the opportunity to meet Aiden Hutchinson, Detroit Lions Defensive End and hear about his "House of Hutch" foundation. Aiden represented Maddie, during the November 9th Lions game by putting "Keep Fighting, Maddie" on his infamous water jug he carries into the stadium before each game. Students and staff at FHS have been rallying behind Maddie and showing tremendous support. They dedicated one Monday per month as, "Maddie Monday" by wearing green, in honor of Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma.



RAIDER SPIRIT

High school students showed their Raider Spirit and support for the football team this season!



MARCHING BAND EXCELLENCE

Flushing Raider Marching Band participated in the MCBA (Michigan Competing Band Association) State Finals at Ford Field in November. They had a wonderful performance, placing 6th with a score of 80.4 points!

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Flushing High School is proud to announce the Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2026. The Hall of Fame induction ceremony will take place on Friday, January 30, 2026, at approximately 8:15 p.m., during halftime of the boys' varsity basketball game versus Linden High School.