Friday Firebird Focus

February 13, 2026

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER



Kettering Middle School & Van Buren Middle School Unite for 'Better Together' Collaboration

Firebird Families and Staff –

Today marked a significant and exciting step forward for our middle school community as the staff from both Kettering Middle School (KMS) and Van Buren Middle School (VBMS) gathered at KMS for our inaugural "Better Together" collaborative event. With the upcoming merger of our two schools next year, the day was dedicated to bridge-building, shared learning, connection, and commencing the important work of becoming one unified team.

The event began with KMS and VBMS departmental teams working together to discuss the impact of learning spaces on instruction and student learning. Following these sessions, the Staff Connections Better Together Committee organized tours of the Kettering Middle School campus and facilitated Q&A for staff.

The afternoon featured lunch and spirited staff connection activities, including the lively Music Bingo hosted by the one-and-only DJ Ken Miller, which encouraged movement and tested song trivia knowledge. Generous community businesses also provided fantastic door prizes. A huge thank you is due to Submarine House for supplying a wonderful lunch, and to Big Sky Bread, Barry Bagels, Cheryl's Cookies, Dorothy Lane Market, Acco Brands (notebooks and planners), GMi Companies (white boards, erasers and markers) and Mary Drexler Mary Kay Products for donating raffle baskets.

With the fun complete, staff transitioned into focused work. Breakout sessions allowed teachers and specialists from both buildings to continue aligning curriculum and sharing best instructional practices. This collaborative effort ensures a unified vision and a seamless, supportive environment for our students when they come together as one middle school next year.

Our deepest gratitude goes to the Better Together Staff Connections Committee for organizing such a fun and impactful day! This is the first of many collaborative events as we transition from two proud traditions into a single, bright future.

We truly ARE Better Together! ***– Mindy McCarty-Stewart***





School and Community Events & Activities

Dor-wood Optimist Safety Village 2026 – Registration opens MARCH 1!

Fairmont Band Boosters –"Dine to Donate" – Marion's – Feb. 17 from 5 to 9 p.m.

Mark your calendars! Fairmont Band Boosters *Band on the Run* 5K is May 31!