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ABOUT:

Farmington School Reporter is a publication of Farmington Area Public Schools, ISD 192. Please direct comments or questions to the district office at (651) 463-5013.

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Real-World Learning and Academic Rigor Prepare Students for What's Next

Before they ever step onto a college campus, Farmington High School (FHS) students are gaining real-world experience, building professional skills and discovering their future paths.

For Abigail Olson, a senior at FHS, that journey has taken her into the healthcare field. Through the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program, she worked directly with patients and gained hands-on experience in the familiar environment of FHS.

Earning her CNA license for free was also a factor. "I couldn't pass it up," Olson said. "It opened many doors for me and confirmed my passion for nursing, reassuring me that I'm on the right path."

For senior Ben Kelly, the impact looks different but just as meaningful. Through the Marketing & Entrepreneurship pathway, he has applied his learning directly to his own exterior cleaning business.

Initially attracted by the opportunity to earn college credit while at FHS, Kelly has used his own business for class projects, developing marketing strategies, handling licensing and setting realistic goals. "I'm learning things that I actually use in real life."

These experiences reflect a deliberate effort to expand access to rigorous coursework earlier and closer to home.

"We've focused on creating high-interest opportunities where students can earn college credit and certifications," said Principal Ryan Meyer. "If students can't find that here, they'll find it somewhere else."

When off-campus partnerships became too costly, district leaders brought career pathway opportunities in-house, removing barriers such as transportation.

As a result, FHS students as young as grade 9 now have access to an expanded menu of concurrent enrollment and Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Enrollment in these college-level classes, taught by FHS teachers, has nearly tripled in recent years.

Unlike postsecondary enrollment options (PSEO), FHS students can earn college credit while staying connected to their teachers, peers and school community.

The impact is significant. Farmington students are projected to save more than \$1.2 million in college tuition next year while gaining the experience, direction and confidence to succeed beyond high school.



REAL IMPACT FOR FHS STUDENTS



FINANCIAL

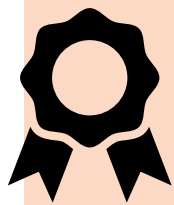
\$1.2+ Million in projected college tuition savings



RIGOR

More students taking advanced classes

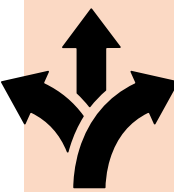
- **704 AP Courses** (↑ nearly 50%)
- **415 Concurrent Enrollment** (↑ over 55%)



ACHIEVEMENT

More students earning national AP recognition

- **32 AP Scholars** (+14 over last year)
- **22 AP Scholars with Honors** (+14 over last year)
- **5 AP Scholars with Distinction** (+1 over last year)



CAREER PATHWAYS

More students exploring career-focused programs

- **CNA (Healthcare):** 33 → 60
- **Marketing & Entrepreneurship:** 24 → 28
- **Early Childhood Education:** 19 (new program)

A MESSAGE FROM
SUPERINTENDENT
JASON BERG:

Seeing the Whole Picture



In Farmington Area Public Schools, we often talk about preparing every student for what comes next. That work is not defined by a single program, grade level, or moment in time. It is the result of a connected system designed to support students from their earliest experiences through graduation and beyond.

When that system is working well, the impact is visible in the confidence of a young reader, in the support a student receives during adolescence, and the diverse opportunities available to high school students as they explore their future. It is reflected in the relationships students build, the sense of belonging they feel, and the skills they develop along the way.

“When students feel seen and supported, they are more likely to engage, achieve and believe in their future.”

Our role as a district is to ensure these experiences are not isolated but aligned, so that students are supported, staff are equipped, and resources are strengthened across the system as a whole.

Farmington Area Public Schools is a community that values strong schools and meaningful connection. I am proud of the progress we are making together and grateful for the partnership that makes it possible.



Wired to Belong: How Connection Drives Learning in Farmington Middle Schools

In Farmington Area Public Schools, middle school is where academic growth and personal development go hand in hand.

These “bridge years” are a critical time for learning. Research shows the early adolescent years represent a “second window of opportunity” for brain development – second only to the first five years of life – when students’ brains are rapidly rewiring and highly responsive to relationships and experiences.

That is why belonging is not separate from academics at Boeckman and Dodge middle schools. It drives them.

“When students feel like they belong, they are more willing to take academic risks, and that’s where real learning happens,” said Chris Bussman, Director of Secondary Learning.

Boeckman Middle School Principal Joe Sage and Dodge Middle School Principal Andy Nelson see that connection every day. Simple, intentional practices such as greeting students by name, creating space for student voice and establishing consistent classroom routines, help students feel safe enough to engage deeply in their learning.

“When students feel connected and safe, they are more likely to participate, ask questions and push themselves academically,” Nelson said.

Staff also focus on clarity and consistency in classrooms so students know what is expected and can focus on learning, not uncertainty. At both schools, these practices are part of a continued focus on building strong, supportive learning environments through consistent expectations and ongoing staff development.

The impact shows up in classrooms and beyond. Educators are seeing stronger engagement, increased participation and more students willing to challenge themselves with rigorous coursework.

Middle school is more than preparation for high school. It is where students build the confidence and skills to succeed.

“When students know they matter,” Sage said, “it changes how they learn and what they believe they can achieve.”



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From Learning to Read and Write to Deeper Thinking



Reading and writing are fundamental skills for young learners, but true literacy goes beyond decoding words. It includes understanding, interpreting, and effectively communicating ideas. In Farmington Area Public Schools, a focused investment in research-based literacy instruction is helping students build these skills from the start.

After nearly two years of professional learning, educators are seeing the impact. Students are reading more complex texts, thinking more deeply about what they read, and expressing their ideas with greater clarity and confidence.

To support this growth, teachers intentionally develop vocabulary, language structure and reasoning alongside foundational skills like phonics and fluency. Using high-quality resources such as University of Florida Literacy Institute (UFLI), Wit & Wisdom, and practices grounded in the Science of Reading, teachers are strengthening both reading and writing instruction while building students’ background knowledge.

“I think that one of the strongest impacts of our literacy efforts this year has been the depth of student thinking we now see in the classroom,” said Meadowview Elementary Principal Rebecca Bican. “Students are engaging with more complex texts, and the impact is clear in how they talk about what they are learning. It has been so fun to see.”

Educators are also creating opportunities for students to apply literacy skills across subjects. At Akin Road Elementary, third grade teachers extended a literacy unit on space by partnering with Boeckman Middle School science teacher Todd Kohorst. This collaboration allowed students to deepen their understanding of the solar system while applying what they were learning in reading and writing lessons.

Teachers are also using data more intentionally to guide instruction and support each learner’s growth.

“With a deeper understanding of literacy development and the use of multiple data points, teachers are able to move beyond just ‘trying harder’ to confidently designing targeted instruction and interventions that better meets individual student needs,” said Riverview Elementary teacher and literacy coach Renee Schultz.

The results are evident. Students are not only improving in reading and writing, but also in how they think, question, discuss and use their voices.

Building on this foundation, the district will begin a similar, intentional focus on strengthening math instruction in the coming year.

WHAT LITERACY LOOKS LIKE TODAY



THEN	NOW
Learning to read	Reading to learn and think
Basic comprehension	Deep analysis and discussion
Writing sentences	Writing with evidence
Isolated subjects	Literacy across all subjects
One-size instruction	Targeted, data-informed support



EVERY TIGER HAS A STORY



Tiger Preschool

At Tiger Preschool, learners turn everyday objects into opportunities for discovery. During a recent “Box Study,” students explored how boxes can be used, transformed, and reimagined, designing everything from creative builds to leprechaun traps. Through hands-on exploration and collaboration, learners build early skills in problem-solving, creativity, and teamwork while connecting their learning to the world around them.

Akin Road Elementary

Akin Road learners stepped into the wild during their Wilderness Skills field trip to Dodge Nature Center, connecting hands-on learning to classroom reading. Learners explored what it really takes to survive in the wilderness by learning the difference between wants and needs, discussing shelter essentials, designing and building their own shelters from natural materials, and practicing teamwork.



Farmington Elementary

Farmington Elementary fifth graders brought music to life through two unique performance experiences. First they learned traditional Ghanaian drumming and dancing from local artist and entrepreneur Fatawu Sayibu. Later they joined fellow fifth grade band students from across the district at Farmington High School, where they were joined by eighth grade bands from Boeckman and Dodge Middle Schools, as well as the Farmington High School Wind Ensemble.

Meadowview Elementary

Meadowview third graders made quite a splash in their marine science learning unit where they learned all about squids, including a hands-on dissection lab with Mr. Yonker. This engaging experience helped learners connect classroom concepts to real-world applications while building curiosity and a deeper understanding of these fascinating sea creatures.



North Trail Elementary

At the school’s Science Fair, North Trail learners proudly showcased their understanding of the scientific method by developing their own hypotheses, designing experiments to test them, and then presenting their findings. Demonstrations included questions such as, “Which popcorn brand pops best?” “Which fruit will rot the fastest without any oxygen?” and “When dying flowers, which color shows up first?”

Riverview Elementary

Riverview kindergarteners explored what makes a strong story by studying characters and settings through *The Three Little Pigs*. Learners and their families then worked together to design and build sturdy houses, bringing literacy concepts to life through creativity, collaboration, and a little protection from the Big Bad Wolf.





Boeckman Middle School

Boeckman Middle School welcomed families for a Celebration of Learning, showcasing student experiences across academics and activities. From art projects and math games to shooting hoops and playing floor hockey, families joined in hands-on learning, with therapy dog Cash greeting guests and spreading “pawsitivity” throughout the evening.

Dodge Middle School

Dodge Middle School learners visited Porky’s Sugarbush, a seasonal culture camp near Maple Plain, Minnesota, dedicated to preserving the Anishnaabe traditions of maple sugaring. Students collected sap from sugar maple trees and boiled it over an open fire to create syrup. The experience also highlighted the teachings of Walter “Porky” White, a respected elder from the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, who has shared these traditions with generations of students.



Farmington High School

More than 300 learners and their families participated in the inaugural Farmington High School college fair. FHS welcomed more than 100 colleges and universities, allowing learners to explore a wide range of post-secondary options, connect directly with admissions representatives, and gather valuable information to help guide their future plans. The level of engagement, curiosity, and enthusiasm from our students made the evening especially meaningful.

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A Championship Season Built on Teamwork and Dedication

The Farmington High School Varsity Competition Cheer Team delivered a historic season, capturing two State Championships and earning a 2nd place national finish.

The team claimed state titles in both Traditional and Game Day divisions, showcasing precision, energy, and school pride. They then advanced to the National School Spirit Championships in Orlando, Florida, where they competed against top programs from across the country and placed among the nation's best.

Behind those accomplishments was months of dedication, teamwork, and growth.

"This season was a testament to the athletes' dedication and commitment," said Program Director Jen Kroshus. "Our athletes trained tirelessly and represented our school and community with pride."

Through practices, competitions, and training opportunities, students developed not only their athletic skills, but also

leadership, resilience, and a strong sense of connection to one another. Along the way, they learned what it takes to work toward a shared goal and proudly represent their school community.

The team's achievements were supported by a strong network of families and the broader community, including the FCCT Booster Club, Farmington Community Education, and FAHS administration.

Programs like competition cheer are part of a broader student experience in Farmington Area Public Schools, where students have opportunities to explore interests, build connections, and grow beyond the classroom.

As the team looks ahead, that foundation continues to guide their success both on and off the mat.



Creating Flexible, Family-Centered Learning

Farmington Community Education's Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) program is expanding opportunities for families to connect, learn, and grow together in ways that fit today's busy schedules.

This year, ECFE introduced a variety of new evening class options designed to better serve parents and caregivers who are unable to attend daytime programming. The response has been strong, with families embracing the opportunity to participate in meaningful learning experiences outside of traditional hours.

Programs like Pizza & Pajamas created a relaxed, welcoming environment where families could enjoy a meal while engaging in hands-on activities together. The Working Parents class offered a similar opportunity, helping families transition from the workday into quality time with their children.

More flexible options, such as the Join Us in the Gym drop-in program, have also been popular. This Friday night program allows children to move, play, and explore at their own pace while giving families the flexibility to attend during times that work best for them.



Through these expanded offerings, ECFE is helping strengthen connections between parents and children while making early childhood experiences more accessible and inclusive for families across the community.

As ECFE continues to listen and respond to family needs, these programs reflect a broader commitment in Farmington Area Public Schools to create opportunities for connection, learning, and growth beyond the classroom.

Board Update: Planning the Future Together



As Farmington Area Public Schools (ISD 192) continues to invest in student success, the School Board is also looking ahead, focusing on how the district can evolve to better meet the needs of students, staff, families, and the community.

In the coming months, the Board intends to begin a new phase of strategic planning discussions, building on the district’s strong foundation and shaping a clear, focused direction for the future. The Board’s Public Engagement Committee will help guide next steps, including how and when community input will be gathered.

Board Chair Kyle Christensen noted that the Board is exploring how this planning process can build on the district’s current strategic framework while creating a clearer, more accessible plan that is easier for staff and the community to understand and use.

“Our work is strongest when it reflects the voices of our community,” he said. “We are committed to listening, learning and making thoughtful decisions that support students now and into the future.”

The goal is a plan that guides daily work, reflects community priorities and supports student success.

KEY PRIORITIES

Clarity and Focus

- Build on the current strategic framework
- Create a plan that is clear, practical and usable

Community Voice

- Input from students, staff, families and community
- Engagement guided by the Public Engagement Committee

Looking Ahead

- Strengthen governance and decision-making
- Communicate progress with transparency

Investing in What Matters Most for Students

This spring, Farmington Area Public Schools (ISD 192) is seeing the impact of a community investment and putting it into action for students.

“These enhancements reflect our continued focus on strengthening instruction and supporting student success,” said Superintendent Jason Berg.

WHERE THE INVESTMENT IS GOING



Strengthening Instruction

- 5 new elementary learning coaches
- Districtwide math specialist
- Focus on consistent, high-quality instruction



Supporting Student Needs

- Additional multilingual learner teacher
- Expanded support for growing student needs



Investing in Essential Resources

- Updated curriculum and assessments
- Enhanced digital tools
- Expanded communication with families

Focused investments in people, practices and resources are helping ensure every student has the support they need to succeed.

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERY SEASON

Quality care and engaging learning experiences year-round for students and families

Farmington Community Education provides programs that support families and keep students engaged beyond the school day and throughout the year.

KID CONNECTION

Summer Program

During the summer months, Kid Connection offers full-day programming for students entering PreK through grade 6. With three different sessions to choose from (June 10-July 2, July 6-24, and July 27-August 14), the program is available Monday through Friday, 6 a.m.-6 p.m. and offers a variety of activities to help students stay active and connected.

Before & After School Care

During the school year, Kid Connection provides high-quality before and after school care for elementary students, offering a safe, structured environment with engaging, choice-based activities. Students build friendships, explore interests, and stay active while families benefit from reliable, flexible care.

Register: FarmingtonCE.com/Childcare



TIGERS IN THE WILD (FREE FAMILY EVENTS)

Community Education invites your family to join us this summer for fun, themed activities at local elementary playgrounds — free to attend with fun activities, giveaways, and a snack cart!

9:30–11 a.m.

Local elementary school playgrounds

Event Schedule

- June 11: Move & Groove
North Trail Elementary
- July 8: Hometown Helpers
Akin Road Elementary
- July 28: Water Wonders
Farmington Elementary

BACK-TO-SCHOOL WITH COMMUNITY ED

Thursday, August 13, 2026

5:30–7:30 p.m.

Meadowview Elementary Playgrounds
6100 195th St. W.

Join us for fun activities, music, giveaways, food, and more!



Learn More: FarmingtonCE.com

SCREEN AT 3!

Minnesota requires all children to complete a free Early Childhood Screening before kindergarten. The screening checks developmental progress and school readiness.

Includes hearing and vision, height and weight, speech and development, and a health and immunization review.

Schedule today:

651-460-3200

bit.ly/FarmingtonECScreening

APRIL

- 27** No School Elementary (Staff Development Day); School Board meeting

MAY

- 11** School Board meeting
16 FHS Prom
25 No School (Holiday)

JUNE

- 3** Last Day of School/Early Release (Elementary)
5 Last Day of School/Early Release (Middle School/High School); FHS graduation
8 School Board meeting
19 District Closed (Holiday)
22 School Board meeting

AUGUST

- 31** First Day of School (Secondary)

SEPTEMBER

- 2** First Day of School (Elementary)

SPRING INTO KINDERGARTEN

Welcome events for 2026-27 kindergarteners and their families. Explore classrooms, meet teachers, and get excited to join the Tiger family.

Akin Road Elementary
Thursday, May 7
3:30-4:30 p.m.

Farmington Elementary
Tuesday, May 12
3:30-4:30 p.m.

Meadowview Elementary
Thursday, May 7
4-5 p.m.

North Trail Elementary
Tuesday, May 5
4:30-5:30 p.m.

Riverview Elementary
Tuesday, April 28
5-6 p.m.