Over the FENCE

Public Schools
FRASER
INNOVATE • LEARN • LEAD

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 2026



Physical Education **Holistic Approach**

At Richards Middle School, so much happens each month that helps students learn, grow, and become the best version of themselves.

This year, RMS is excited to highlight the great work happening throughout its building. Each month, a different RMS subject area will share a special happening, classroom experience, student achievement, or initiative that showcases the learning taking place in that department.

For the month of October, RMS is kicking things off with the Physical Education Department! Ms. DeCumen and Mr. Winkler play an important role in helping students develop not only physical skills and healthy habits, but also teamwork, perseverance, communication, and personal responsibility. Through this monthly spotlight, RMS looks forward to giving families a closer look at the experiences their students are having in P.E. and the ways in which the school helps students make their mark beyond the classroom.

So far this semester, all P.E. students have finished their fitness gram testing and are into the Flag Football and Soccer Units. In sports-based units, students learn the rules of the game, how to develop the skills necessary to successfully play the game, and how teamwork, sportsmanship, and responsible decisions make an impact on their experience.

In addition, RMS students have been working hard to develop warm-up routines, sprinting, and doing pushups and sit-ups. RMS Physical Education takes a holistic approach to physical fitness, providing students with opportunities to learn about a variety of sports, fitness activities, and healthy lifestyle choices. RMS looks forward to another exciting year in P.E., and staff are excited for the opportunities that are to come for the students!

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Fraser Families,

What a great start to the school year! Our buildings are full of energy, and it has been wonderful to see our students and staff back together. Thank you for helping make the first few weeks such a positive start.

Fall is always an exciting time in Fraser, and we are especially looking forward to Homecoming on October 9. We hope you will join us for the Homecoming parade, football game, and all the festivities surrounding this Fraser tradition.

Our elementary and middle schools have also been busy with their fall fundraisers. These events provide important support for our PTOs and help fund activities and experiences for our students throughout the year. Thank you to everyone who has participated, volunteered, or contributed. Your generosity makes a difference in our schools.

I am also excited to share a professional opportunity that I am honored to be part of this year. I am one of 13 educators serving on the Lead for Learners Steering Committee, a national network facilitated by KnowledgeWorks. The committee brings together educational leaders from 11 states who are working to advance personalized and competency-based learning.

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Superintendent Carrie Wozniak, Ph.D.
carrie.wozniak@fraserk12.org

CURRICULUM CORNER

ENHANCING LARGE INSTRUCTION SPACE

Fraser Public Schools is excited to announce the completion of significant enhancements to the Large Group Instruction (LGI) room at Fraser High School.

This reflects the district's ongoing commitment to providing innovative, flexible, and welcoming environments for students, staff, and the community. With updated technology, new furniture, and a fresh coat of paint, the LGI room has been transformed into a modern, multifunctional space.

The LGI room has long served as an important place within FHS. Its ability to accommodate more than 100 people makes it an ideal location for a wide variety of educational activities, meetings, and community events. The updates create an inviting environment that encourages collaboration while providing the flexibility needed to support different types of instruction and meetings.

The renovated room is also the new location for Board of Education meetings. Hosting school board meetings within FHS provides an opportunity for the community to gather in a space that reflects the district's commitment to education.

One of the most significant enhancements to the LGI room is the updated technology. The changes support teachers as they incorporate digital resources into their lessons, facilitate presentations, and provide students with opportunities to share their learning. The updated technology also enhances the room's ability to accommodate guest speakers, staff meetings, and school board meetings.

Additionally, new furniture provides greater flexibility in how the room can be utilized. The LGI room is designed to accommodate a variety of instructional approaches. Teachers can bring multiple classes together to collaborate on projects, engage in interdisciplinary learning opportunities, or participate in activities that encourage communication, critical thinking, and teamwork.

A particularly valuable feature of the LGI room is its four breakout areas. These dedicated spaces allow teachers to implement station rotations, facilitate small-group instruction, and organize small group activities. Teachers can also use the breakout areas to differentiate instruction, provide targeted support, or create opportunities for students to engage in hands-on learning experiences. This flexibility allows the LGI room to function as an extension of the traditional classroom while supporting instructional practices that promote active student participation.

Fraser is proud to provide these improvements to a space that serves so many members of our community. From collaborative student projects and engaging classroom activities to staff meetings, guest presentations, and school board meetings, the enhanced LGI room will continue to play an important role in bringing people together.

Third Grade Sets Sail



Emerson's third grade kicked off Module 1 of their new Wit & Wisdom curriculum by "setting sail" into their first theme: the sea! Students created their own portholes and imagined what they might see as they explore the ocean. They are excited to dive into great texts, thoughtful discussions, and lots of learning along the way. Bon voyage, third grade!

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

... Continued from front page

It has been a wonderful opportunity to learn from educators across the country and share the great work happening here in Fraser. I look forward to bringing those experiences and new ideas back to our district and sharing them with our staff.

Thank you for your continued support of our students, staff, and schools. We have a lot to look forward to this year, and I am excited for all that is ahead!

With Fraser Pride,
Dr. Wozniak

EXCITING GROWTH AT THE DOOLEY CENTER

There is a lot to be excited about at the Dooley Center as they begin the 2026-27 school year!

Dooley continues to grow and evolve, allowing it to welcome even more of Fraser's youngest learners while providing families with additional early childhood opportunities.

One of Dooley's most exciting additions this year is Strong Beginnings, a state-funded preschool program designed specifically for eligible three-year-old children. They are incredibly proud to bring this additional early learning opportunity to families in our community.

Dooley has also expanded its Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) with two additional classrooms this year. With its growing GSRP program, Strong Beginnings, tuition preschool, ECSE, and early childhood care programs, Dooley continues to be a busy place, filled with learning, laughter, and lots of little feet!

The growth isn't only happening inside the building! Over the summer, Dooley's parking lot was expanded, providing additional parking and helping improve the arrival and dismissal experience for their growing number of students, families, and staff. It is exciting to see improvements being made throughout Dooley's building and grounds to support the school's continued growth.

With that growth also comes new faces. The staff is thrilled to welcome several new staff members to the Dooley family. Their team has been busy preparing classrooms, completing training, welcoming families through Meet the Teacher and home visits, and making sure Dooley's youngest learners have an amazing start to their school year.



There is an incredible energy at Dooley right now, and they are proud of how much our early childhood community continues to grow. Most importantly, they are excited to provide a place where Fraser's youngest learners can build friendships, discover a love of learning, and begin their educational journey.

Big things are happening with our littlest learners at Dooley – because in Fraser, #TraditionStartsHere!

Raising Monarch Butterflies

Eisenhower Young 5s students are excited to be learning about the amazing life cycle of monarch butterflies!



The students have been carefully observing monarch caterpillars as they eat, grow, and change each day.

Through hands-on experiences, they are learning how caterpillars eventually form a chrysalis before emerging as beautiful butterflies. The children enjoy checking on their caterpillars and talking about the changes they notice. This experience has encouraged curiosity, patience, and a greater appreciation for the natural world.

Students are also learning about the importance of caring for living things and providing them with a safe environment to grow.

Watching the caterpillars develop has made science exciting and meaningful for our youngest learners. They can't wait to see their monarch butterflies emerge and celebrate this incredible transformation together!

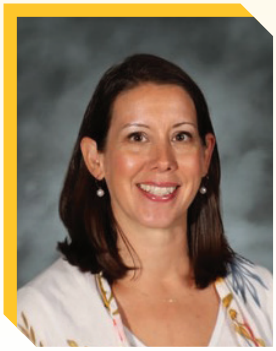
Welcome New **ADMINISTRATORS**



Bridget Murawski,
Special Education Director

Mrs. Bridget Murawski was promoted to Director of Special Education in July after serving as the Special Education Supervisor for the previous six years.

Throughout her 22 years in Fraser, she has served as a Special Education Teacher and District Consultant. She has built strong relationships with our students, families, and staff while consistently demonstrating a deep commitment to ensuring that every student receives the support they need to be successful.



Jessica Kapanka,
Principal, Eisenhower Elementary

Mrs. Jessica Kapanka was named Principal at Eisenhower Elementary in August.

Mrs. Kapanka brings a wealth of experience to Eisenhower, along with a demonstrated ability to foster positive, connected school communities. She has been part of the Fraser Family for more than 20 years, serving as a classroom teacher at Emerson Elementary and most recently as the Title I/MTSS Lead at Edison Elementary.



Jennifer Kelley,
Principal, Edison Elementary

Mrs. Jennifer Kelley was named Principal at Edison Elementary, after serving the last four years as principal at Eisenhower Elementary.

Throughout her time as principal at Eisenhower Elementary, she led with compassion, high expectations, and an unwavering focus on doing what is best for children. Mrs. Kelley has been with our district for 14 years. Before becoming a principal, she served as the Title I Coordinator and classroom teacher at Eisenhower.



Emily Birkenshaw,
School Resource Officer

Officer Emily Birkenshaw from the Fraser Department of Public Safety will serve as the School Resource Officer for the district through the 2028-29 school year. She has an office at Fraser High School but will support all schools throughout the district.

She has been with FDPS for six years, and is certified as a firearms instructor, field training officer, drone operator, car seat technician, radar instructor, accident investigator, and phone analyst.

"I am a mom of two, and I feel that the biggest thing kids need nowadays is to feel like they have a voice. I want the kids to be comfortable enough to come to me with any issues, but also the parents be comfortable enough to know that I will do my best to keep the kids protected," she said.

GREAT START IN **P.E.**

Edison Eagles are off to a great start in Physical Education! Our Young 5s through 2nd-grade students have been practicing gym rules and procedures while building confidence with important locomotor skills like walking, running, hopping, skipping, and galloping. Students in grades 3-6 have focused on learning gym expectations, working together, communicating, and completing team-building challenges. We are proud of the respect, responsibility, and positive effort students have shown in the gym so far. Physical Education is a place for every Eagle to be active, have fun, grow their skills, and encourage others. We look forward to a fun, safe, and active school year in P.E.!



Creating a **Supportive Environment**

At Disney Elementary, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) play an important role in creating a safe, respectful, and supportive environment where students can thrive. PBIS focuses on proactively teaching, modeling, and reinforcing positive behavior while building a strong school culture.

At Disney, school-wide expectations are centered around being a Disney STAR: Show kindness, Take responsibility, Always be safe, and Respect others.

To kick off the year, students participated in a school-wide PBIS Circuit Training, traveling to stations throughout the building to learn and practice what STAR behavior looks like in classrooms, hallways, bathrooms, the lunchroom, playground, and during arrival and dismissal. This hands-on experience helps create clear and consistent expectations for all students.

Throughout the year, students are recognized when they are "caught being a STAR." Individual students earn STAR tickets and chances to visit the Disney Store, while classes work together to earn Shining Stars and classroom celebrations. STAR tickets also fill the school-wide STAR Tower, with the entire school working toward special rewards. Students who go above and beyond demonstrating STAR



expectations and their monthly character trait are also recognized as Superstars with a special donut breakfast.

PBIS is about more than rewards – it's about building relationships, reinforcing positive choices, and helping students develop lifelong skills. Disney's staff is proud of the way their students have embraced what it means to be a Disney STAR and are excited for another year of learning, growing, and shining together!

New Language Arts Curriculum



Third graders at Mark Twain are enjoying the introductory module to their new Language Arts curriculum: Wit & Wisdom. While exploring the heartwarming book "Thank You, Mr. Falker," students are learning key Wit & Wisdom routines that will be used throughout the year, such as Think-Pair-Share, Chalk Talk, Tableau, Mix and Mingle, and more. Students are enjoying these collaborative routines that help them think more deeply about what they are reading. Here is what students had to say about our new routines:

WHICH ROUTINE ARE YOU MOST EXCITED TO TRY AGAIN? WHY?

"The Chalk Talk, because I really like it because we can go in groups and move around the room instead of staying in our seat." – **Willow**

"Mix and Mingle, because it was really fun to talk to a lot of my friends and show them what I learned. It's kinda a challenge because you want to see how many partners you can share with, and it's fun that way." – **Ella**

"I like Think-Pair-Share because it's calm and quiet, but you still get to talk to your friends." – **Aiden B.**

"I like Chalk Talk because it makes your writing skills way better and the room is all quiet and you can agree with people." – **Maya**



1ST GRADE LOVES **PETE THE CAT**

The first-grade classes at Eisenhower read "Pete the Cat and His Magic Sunglasses" by James Dean.

Students learned how having a positive attitude can help turn a bad day around.

To reinforce this lesson, students received their own "magic" sunglasses as a reminder that when things don't seem to be going their way, they can put on their sunglasses, shift their perspective, and see things in a whole new way!



CREATING LASTING **MEMORIES**

Disney Elementary sixth-grade students recently traded the classroom for the great outdoors during an incredible day at Camp Howell!

The experience gave students an opportunity to learn, grow, and connect with one another through hands-on activities and new challenges.

Throughout the day, students stepped outside their comfort zones as they canoed, soared through the air on the zip line, worked together during the wolf team-building challenge, and explored fascinating woodland mammals during a skins-and-skulls experience. Each activity provided students with opportunities to try something new while building confidence, independence, and perseverance.

More importantly, the day was about strengthening relationships and learning how to work together. Students encouraged their classmates, communicated through challenges, solved problems as a team, and celebrated one another's successes. These shared experiences helped strengthen relational capacity and gave students an opportunity to practice important skills, such as collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and character in a setting beyond the classroom.

Camp Howell was much more than a field trip; it was an opportunity for the sixth graders to build confidence, strengthen friendships, and create lasting memories together as they begin their final year at Disney Elementary!

Salk Students Dive into **Wit & Wisdom**

There is a lot of excitement around reading and learning at Salk Elementary as students and teachers dive into their new English Language Arts curriculum, Wit & Wisdom!



Salk teachers have been working incredibly hard to learn and implement the new curriculum, creating meaningful learning experiences that challenge students to think deeply, engage with high-quality texts, and share their ideas with others. Wit & Wisdom builds students' knowledge while strengthening important reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills.

One exciting component of the curriculum is the use of Socratic Circles. During a Socratic Circle, students engage in a structured, student-centered discussion about a text or topic they have been studying. Rather than simply answering questions from the teacher, students listen carefully to one another, build upon their classmates' ideas, refer to evidence from the text, ask thoughtful questions, and explain their own thinking.

These conversations give students an opportunity to take ownership of their learning while developing critical-thinking and communication skills. They also reinforce that learning is not just about finding the "right" answer – it is about listening to different perspectives, supporting ideas with evidence, and learning from one another.

The accompanying photo shows Ms. Kowalkowski's third-grade students participating in a Socratic Circle as part of their Wit & Wisdom learning. It is exciting to see Salk's Seahawks embracing new ways to read, think, discuss, and learn together!

We are proud of the hard work our teachers are putting into implementing Wit & Wisdom and even more excited to see our students engaging so enthusiastically with their new ELA curriculum.

Third Grade Puts **PBIS into Practice at Recess!**

Eisenhower third-grade students have been doing a wonderful job practicing PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) during outside recess!

Students are learning that being respectful, responsible, and safe doesn't just apply to the classroom – it's important everywhere at school.

During recess, students are practicing positive behaviors such as taking turns, including others in games, using kind words, following playground expectations, and solving problems respectfully. We are proud to see our third graders encouraging one another and making positive choices while having fun outdoors!

Keep up the great work, third grade! Your positive choices help make recess a safe, welcoming, and enjoyable time for everyone!



PLANNING **AHEAD**

OCTOBER 5
Powderpuff Football
FHS Stadium, 6:30 p.m.

OCTOBER 7
Count Day

OCTOBER 9
FHS and RMS Early Release – District-Provided Professional Development
RMS: 8:05 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
FHS: 7:30 – 11:44 a.m.

OCTOBER 9
Homecoming Parade
Garfield & Klein, 6:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 9
Homecoming Game
FHS Stadium, 7:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 10
Homecoming Dance
FHS, 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 12
School Board Meeting
FHS LGI Room, 7:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 12
Mark Twain Vocal Music Concert
Fraser Performing Arts Center, 7:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 13
Edison Vocal Music Concert
Fraser Performing Arts Center, 7:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 15
RMS Half Day – Conferences
Afternoon, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Evening, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 17
Athletic Booster Craft Show
FHS, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 22
FHS Half Day – Conferences
Afternoon, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Evening, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

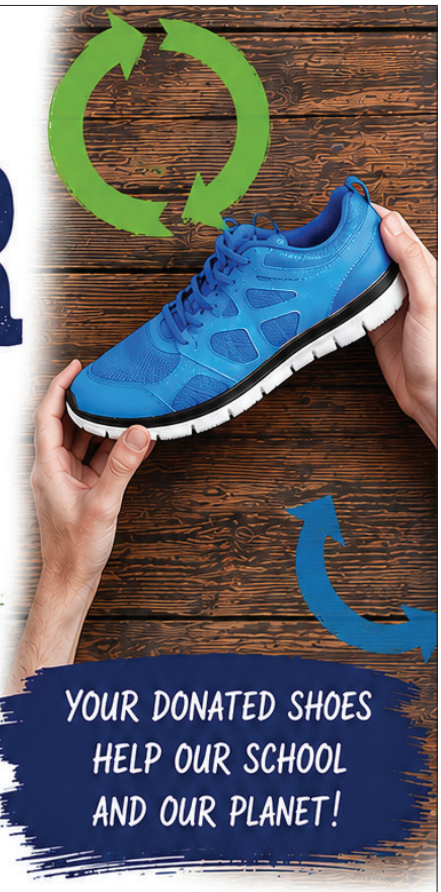
OCTOBER 26
School Board Meeting
FHS LGI Room, 7:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 29
Elementary Half Day – Conferences
Afternoon, 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Evening, 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
ECSE AM Only – No ECSE PM Classes

OCTOBER 30
All Levels Early Release – District-Provided Professional Development
Elementary: 8:35 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
RMS: 8:05 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
FHS: 7:30 – 11:44 a.m.

NEW AND USED SNEAKER DRIVE

FOR PEER TO PEER



YOUR DONATED SHOES HELP OUR SCHOOL AND OUR PLANET!

Peer to Peer earns more when your donated sneakers are clean, like new or gently used.

Fundraiser runs from
9/15 – 10/15

WE ACCEPT SHOES FROM ALL MAJOR BRANDS!

Nike, adidas, new balance, SKECHERS, PUMA, asics, UNDER ARMOUR, Reebok, CONVERSE

RECYCLE
Give old sneakers a new life and help reduce waste.

REUSE
Good sneakers go further when worn again.

MAKE AN IMPACT
Your donation makes a difference and supports our students.

WE ACCEPT:
- ✓ New & gently used sneakers
- ✓ All sizes – kids, teens & adults

DONATION BOXES ARE LOCATED:
- Main Entrance
- Klein Door Entrance
- Bus Door Entrance

CLEAN OUT. GIVE BACK. CHANGE LIVES. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

FRASER HIGH SCHOOL POWDERPUFF

OCTOBER 5, 2026
6:30PM - FHS STADIUM



CLASS OF 2027
VS
CLASS OF 2028

TICKETS ARE $5
(CHILDREN UNDER 5 ARE FREE)

THIS IS A FUNDRAISER, SO THERE IS NO FREE ENTRY WITH STUDENT ID


FRASER HIGH SCHOOL
NOW SHOWING:
HOMECOMING 2026
LIGHTS
SCHOOL
ACTION
FRASER
PRIDE
FOREVER
OCTOBER 5-10
MOVIE GENRES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5
POWDERPUFF • 6:30 PM
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9
PEP ASSEMBLY • 4:00 PM
PARADE • 6:00 PM
FOOTBALL GAME • 7:00 PM
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10
HOMECOMING DANCE • 7:00-10:00 PM
GO RAMBLERS!


FRASER HIGH SCHOOL
Athletic Booster Club
ANNUAL
Craft and Vendor
SHOW
SATURDAY
Oct. 17, 2026
10 AM – 4 PM
Fraser High School
34270 GARFIELD RD.
BETWEEN 14 & 15 MILE ROADS
ADMISSION: $3.00
CHILDREN 5 AND UNDER FREE
(no strollers please)
OVER 150 ARTISTS AND EXHIBITORS!
SHOP LOCAL
Handmade with

Fraser Performing Arts Center
presents:



BY AGATHA CHRISTIE

Friday, Nov. 6, 2026 – 7 PM
Saturday, Nov. 7, 2026 – 2 PM
Saturday, Nov. 7, 2026 –7 PM

Ticket Information
www.fraserperformingarts.org
(586) 439-7312

Fraser Performing Arts Center
Fraser High School
34270 Garfield Rd.
Fraser, MI

SCAN ME
To Learn More

Fraser Bands

10th Annual Mattress Fundraiser

@ Fraser High School

Saturday, Nov. 7th, 2026, 10:00AM - 4:00PM

Savings on mattresses from top brands!

Twin Mattresses from $259 | Full Mattresses from $389
Queen Mattresses from $459 | King Mattresses from $599

purple THERAPEDIC

Adjustable Bases
Mattresses
Protectors
Pillows

Benefits The Fraser Band

- All sizes & firmness levels available
- 25+ styles on display
- Brand new with full factory warranties
- Adjustable bases available
- Mattress protectors, premium pillows & more!
- Home delivery available
- All forms of payment accepted
- Financing available

Fraser Bands Mattress Fundraiser

Free Sheets with Any Mattress

Credit goes to: _____

Saturday, Nov. 7th, 2026, 10:00AM - 4:00PM @ Fraser High School | cfsbeds.com
Questions? Contact: mike.millard@cfsbeds.com