

# UpDate

*Farmington*  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Fall

Quarterly News Update  
November 2023



## Farmington Public Schools seeks members to join Strategic Planning Initiatives Committees



During the spring of the 2022-23 school year, a variety of stakeholder groups provided

extensive feedback on the focus for the next three to five years to assist in prioritizing the strategic initiatives for Farmington Public Schools.

The themes that emerged from community feedback have been categorized and grouped into Strategic Initiatives.

These four initiatives include:

- Collaborative Professional Learning that Supports Equity and Innovation
- Culture of Equity and Innovation
- Health and Wellness through Social and Emotional Learning
- Innovation for Teaching and Learning

*continued on page 3*

## Tom and Cathy Neal named as Farmington Public Schools' 2023/2024 Senior Adult Extraordinaire Award winners



*Tom and Cathy Neal accept their award from Farmington Public School's Superintendent Christopher Delgado.*

On Thursday, October 26, 2023, Farmington Public Schools (FPS) honored Mr. and Mrs. Tom and Cathy Neal as the 2023-2024 Senior Adult Extraordinaire Award winners at the District's Annual Senior Adult Breakfast. Superintendent Dr. Christopher Delgado presented the Neals with the award at this year's breakfast.

Since 2006, FPS has been honoring distinguished senior adults that volunteer their time and talents to enhance educational activities for students in our District. Tom and Cathy have been volunteering with the District for more than 13 years and were nominated due to their work around many schools in the District.

Over the years, Tom and Cathy Neal have dedicated their time and energy into bringing optimism among students across the District. As longtime members of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Optimist Club, they have spearheaded many events and projects throughout their time volunteering with FPS including working with the Farmington PTA Council and local PTAs and PTSAs to implement the Jr. Optimist clubs in many of our schools.

"Both their ability to connect with younger minds and inspire them to lead and be optimist is matched to none," said nominator Trimman Jagdev, secretary at Hillside Elementary School.

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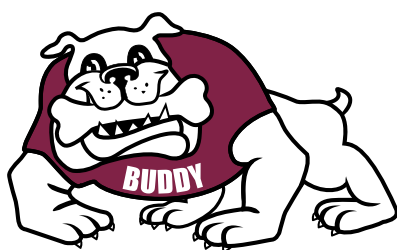
## Board of Education Meeting Dates

2023-24

|             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| November 21 | March 19 |
| December 5  | April 9  |
| December 19 | April 23 |
| January 9   | May 7    |
| January 23  | May 21   |
| February 6  | June 4   |
| March 5     | June 18  |

All meetings begin at 6 p.m. and are held at the Maxfield Education Center located at 32789 W. Ten Mile Rd., Farmington, Michigan.

Board Meetings are cablecast LIVE on TV-10 and streamed on the District's YouTube channel.



## Visions Unlimited

## The Buddy Shop and the James Gang SXI Microenterprise offers wonderful gift items

Visions Unlimited is a post-secondary program operated by Farmington Public Schools. The school serves young adults, 18 to 26 years old, who have physical and developmental disabilities. Their Production Shop is a micro-enterprise operation set up to provide the students with work related experiences. This micro-enterprise environment exposes students to real life work situations to help them follow instructions, build stamina, and increase dexterity. Students use their imagination to create their products. Because this program is student driven, products may take longer to produce and may have amazing imperfections.

**Our products are student made – thank you for your support! Browse products online:**

[farmington.revtrak.net/visions/#/f/visions-unlimited-the-buddy-shop](https://farmington.revtrak.net/visions/#/f/visions-unlimited-the-buddy-shop)



[farmington.revtrak.net/visions/#/f/james-gang-sxi-microenterprise-fall-winter-2023-24](https://farmington.revtrak.net/visions/#/f/james-gang-sxi-microenterprise-fall-winter-2023-24)



The government has made legal provisions to ensure that no person is discriminated against on the basis of race, color, natural origin, sex, age, or disability. In order to protect these rights and assure compliance, the Farmington Public Schools District has appointed Mr. Christopher O'Brien as Coordinator of Title IX and Section 504 and Mr. Greg Smith as Coordinator of Title VI, the Age Discrimination Act, and Title II. Inquiries concerning the application of, or grievances for, any of these regulations should be addressed to: [christopher.obrien@fpsk12.net](mailto:christopher.obrien@fpsk12.net) or [gregory.smith@fpsk12.net](mailto:gregory.smith@fpsk12.net).



## District makes slight changes to the 2023-2024 school calendar

In order to align the elementary and secondary school calendars, **Friday, January 19** will now be a **half day** for all elementary, middle, and high school students marking the end of the semester. Students will attend in the AM and it will be a Teacher Records Day in the PM.

In addition, **Friday, March 8** will be changed from a half day of school for elementary students to a full day of school for all elementary and secondary students.



Testing Dates were also added in the calendar for:

**Tuesday, April 9** – PSAT Testing for all 8th Grade Students; Full Day of School for All Students.

**Thursday, April 11** – No school for Grades 9 and 12; Grades 10 and 11 Students AM only; PSAT and WorkKeys testing

**Tuesday, April 16** – No school for Grades 10 and 12; Grades 9 and 11 Students AM only; PSAT testing all 9th Grade students and SAT testing

## Farmington Public Schools 2023-2024 School Calendar (Updated)

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Monday, August 21          | No Students – Staff Meeting AM; Teacher Work Day PM  |
| Tuesday, August 22         | No Students – All Day Building Professional Development Day  |
| Wednesday, August 23       | No Students – All Day District Professional Development  |
| Thursday, August 24        | No Students – District Work Day AM; Teacher Work Day in Classrooms PM  |
| Friday, August 25          | No School for Students; Staff Non-Reporting Day – Virtual PD   |
| Monday, August 28          | First Day of School – All K-12 Students AM Only; District Work Day PM  |
| Friday, September 1        | No Students or Staff   |
| Monday, September 4        | No Students or Staff – Labor Day Holiday   |
| Wednesday, October 27      | All K-12 Students AM; Professional Development for FEA Staff PM  |
| Tuesday, November 7        | No Students – Full Day Professional Development for Staff (Election Day)   |
| Thursday, November 9       | Elementary Students AM; Elementary Parent Teacher Conferences PM and evening   |
| Tuesday, November 14       | Elementary Evening Conferences   |
| Friday, November 17        | All K-5 Students AM; K-5 Teacher Records Day PM – K-8 STEAM Records/PD; End of First Trimester   |
| Wed.-Fri., November 22-24  | No School – Thanksgiving Recess  |
| Monday, November 27        | School Reconvenes  |
| Mon., Dec 25 – Fri., Jan 5 | No School – Winter Vacation  |
| Monday, January 8          | School Reconvenes  |
| Friday, January 12         | All K-12 Students AM; Professional Development for FEA Staff PM  |
| Monday, January 15         | No School – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  |
| <b>Friday, January 19</b>  | <b>All K-12 Students AM; Teacher Records Day PM; End of Semester</b>   |
| Mon.-Fri., February 19-23  | No School – February Break   |
| Monday, February 26        | School Reconvenes  |
| Tuesday, March 12          | Elementary Evening Conferences   |
| Thursday, March 14         | Elementary Evening Conferences   |
| Mon.-Fri., March 25-29     | No School – Spring Recess  |
| Monday, April 1            | School Reconvenes  |
| <b>Tuesday, April 9</b>    | <b>PSAT Testing for All 8th Grade Students; Full Day of School for All Students</b>  |
| <b>Thursday, April 11</b>  | <b>No School for Grades 9 and 12; Grades 10 and 11 Students AM Only; PSAT Testing for All 10th Grade Students and WorkKeys Testing for All 11th Grade Students</b> |
| <b>Tuesday, April 16</b>   | <b>No School for Grades 10 and 12; Grades 9 and 11 Students AM Only; PSAT Testing for All 9th Grade Students and SAT Testing for All 11th Grade Students</b>       |
| Friday, May 24             | K-5 Students AM  |
| Monday, May 27             | No School – Memorial Day   |
| Tuesday, June 11           | Last Day of School – All Students AM; Teacher Records Day PM; End of Third Trimester   |
| Wednesday, June 12         | Teacher Work Day   |

*Note:* For calendar purposes, K-8 STEAM will follow the elementary schedule. **Items in red updated on November 2, 2023**  
For reference: Oakland County Common Calendar ([oakland.k12.mi.us/about/calendar/common-calendar](https://oakland.k12.mi.us/about/calendar/common-calendar))

The full calendar can also be found on the District's website:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oWf6KipcCN61N6F7T01kZ09vwr4QWZ694ql2qAxCywA/edit>

**Strategic Planning** *continued from page 1*

In August 2023, the District Leadership Team met to review the feedback themes in order to draft initiative statements. Using that information, the team worked with KnowledgeWorks facilitator, Ms. Laura Hilger, to identify key statements and target/focus areas that best describe the work over the course of this strategic plan.

Following are the strategic initiatives and the District's focus areas for each initiative statement:

**Collaborative Professional Learning that Supports Equity and Innovation**

We will become a system that works collaboratively, is constantly learning and adapting, is inclusive of all learners and voices through needs-driven professional learning that builds the capacity of ALL staff in supporting innovative and equitable practices.

**Culture of Equity and Innovation**

We will create sustainable, intentional systems to support equity and innovation through active engagement in creating a culture that expects and allows for equity and innovation without barriers.

**Health & Wellness through Social and Emotional Learning**

We will focus on the physical and emotional well-being of students, staff, and families,

recognizing the importance of staff caring for themselves, as well as expanding their awareness of individual student needs infused into daily practices.

**Innovation for Teaching and Learning**

We will partner with our community to create unique learning experiences within and beyond the classroom; embracing emerging technology, designing authentic, meaningful, and inclusive learning experiences while cultivating a community of continuous growth and improvement.

These initiatives will serve as the goals for the District's Strategic Plan.

"We would love to have you join one of our committee members to help move our work forward," stated Kelly Coffin, Assistant Superintendent for Innovation and Strategic Initiatives.

Each committee holds meetings in the evenings and all meetings are held virtually. The meetings are one hour in length. If you are interested in serving on one of the committees, please complete the information below and someone will be in contact with you with additional information.

**2023-24 FPS Strategic Planning Committee Interest Form:** <https://bit.ly/Stplaninterestform>

**Senior Adult Winners** *continued from page 1*

"Their dedication to make the leaders of tomorrow optimists is contagious. Over the years, they have touched the lives of many Farmington Public Schools' students, including mine."

"We chose to live in Farmington Hills because of the school system and we couldn't be happier with our decision," stated Tom Neal.

Whether it's sending weekly newsletters, brainstorming new ideas, or volunteering their time whenever they are needed, Tom and Cathy Neal are always there and thinking about FPS.



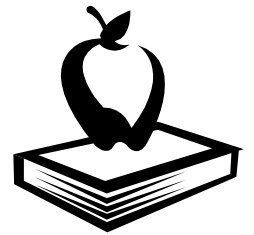
Tom and Cathy Neal accepting their award.

**Senior Adult Breakfast**

Farmington Public Schools hosted its annual Senior Adult Breakfast on Thursday, October 26. We thank all of the senior adults in the community who came out to hear an update about the District from Superintendent Chris J. Delgado and see a sampling of work from many of our schools. Guests were also able to enjoy wonderful musical performances by the Power Middle School Eighth Grade Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Sandy Vargo and the Farmington High School Madrigal Choir under the direction of Angel Gippert. District staff, along with students from our Student Round Table Group, served as hosts of each of our tables.

**The Senior School Connection**

There are several activities and opportunities for senior adults available through Farmington Public Schools. The following is just a sampling!

**S.A.G.E.  
(Senior Adults  
Giving  
to Education)****A Partnership between  
the City of Farmington Hills Senior Division  
and Farmington Public Schools**

SAGE is a community program designed to bring senior adults into the classroom to share the wisdom and values of their generation.

The program is sponsored by the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services Senior Adult Division in cooperation with Farmington Public Schools.

To volunteer, or for further details, please contact:  
Anna Durham, Senior Adult Supervisor  
Farmington Hills Senior Adult Center  
248.473.1822

**Senior Adult Cards**

Senior adults (age 60 and over) who live in the District attendance area may register for a complimentary pass which entitles seniors to discounted or free admission to school plays, concerts (student performances) and home athletic events (except conference finals and state tournaments).

- Senior adult cards are available at the School/Community Relations Department located at the Board of Education office, 32500 Shiawassee, Farmington, MI 48336.
- Please call School/Community Relations at 248.489.3349, if you need additional information.
- Senior adult card holders are encouraged to visit the Farmington Public Schools' website to learn more about the District and for a schedule of upcoming concerts and sporting events.

[www.farmington.k12.mi.us](http://www.farmington.k12.mi.us)





## Parent Information

### Personal Property Liability

Farmington Public School District and its staff are NOT liable for damage to or loss of personal property of students. It is suggested that items brought to school by your child and deemed by you to have substantial value be insured separately on your homeowner's policy.

### Returned Check Policy

If restitution is not made on a check returned by the bank for any reason, the District will no longer accept checks from that individual. If two returned checks are received from the same individual, the District will no longer accept checks from that individual even if restitution has been made. The District's returned check fee is \$20.00.

### Student Medical Insurance

We wish to emphasize that Farmington Public Schools does NOT provide any type of health or accident

insurance for injuries incurred by your child at school. Since children are particularly susceptible to injuries, we encourage you to review your present health and accident insurance program to determine if your coverage is adequate.

If you do not feel your insurance is adequate because of a deductible or co-insurance clause or if you do not have insurance, we encourage you to review the voluntary student insurance program offered by Student Assurance Services. This plan will provide benefits for medical expenses incurred because of an accident. An explanation of the cost and benefits is explained on their website ([www.sas-mn.com](http://www.sas-mn.com)). The program is administered by Student Assurance Services, Inc. of Stillwater, Minnesota. Student Assurance Services can be reached at (800) 328-2739. The enrollment form and claim form are also available on their website.

# WE ARE HIRING!

## Kitchen Helpers

Do you or someone you know:

- ✓ Like to work with kids?
- ✓ Enjoy a fast-paced, team-oriented work place?
- ✓ Want a part time job Monday-Friday?
- ✓ Like to be home when your kids are home?
- ✓ Like your nights, weekends, holidays, and summers off?

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To view the job postings, use the link below or use the QR code:  
[www.bit.ly/nutrition-jobs](http://www.bit.ly/nutrition-jobs)

**Questions?** Contact Angela Davis:  
[angela.davis@fpsk12.net](mailto:angela.davis@fpsk12.net) • 248.489.3717



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# We Are Hiring

## Bus Drivers

Paid  
**Training**

Must be 21 years of age • Health, Dental, Vision, Life, Disability, and Retirement Benefits  
Paid vacation and holidays • Flexible schedule • Guaranteed hours

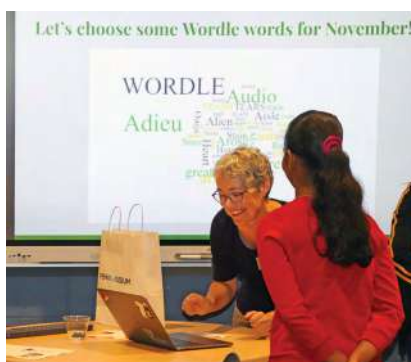
Applications are accepted online.  
Call **248.489.3700**  
for further information.

## East Middle School welcomes a visit from *New York Times* Editor Tracy Bennett

On October 11, 2023, East Middle School (EMS) had a visit from Tracy Bennett, a *New York Times* editor. Tracy is an editor with the very popular daily game, Wordle.

Tracy visited EMS after she found that the Newcomer students in Susan Bertoni's class play Wordle every day. Wordle helps the students with their language skills and vocabulary, as many of the students are new to the country.

Wordle is a word game that was created by Josh Wardle and Palak Shah in 2020. The game is designed for players to guess a five letter word in six attempts or less. Wordle was bought in 2022 by the *New York Times*. The game grew in popularity very quickly, becoming a household staple. Families, classrooms, and friends come together to play the game every day. In



*Tracy Bennett works with students to help choose Wordle words for November.*

November of 2020, only 90 people were playing the game. In January of 2021, the number grew to 300,000 playing the game. Now, millions of people play across the country.

While visiting East, Tracy talked about her experience with the game during her presentation. Tracy had always loved playing and creating her own cross word puzzles. She published her very own puzzles in 2013 and it became her full time job in 2020. She did this until she became a Wordle editor in 2022. Tracy talked about editing Wordle including, randomly choosing words, editing lists, avoiding similar words, variations in difficulty, and more.

During her presentation, students had the opportunity to help choose Wordle words for



*Tracy Bennett gave a Wordle presentation to the Newcomer students at East Middle School.*

November, and were able to play Wordle with Tracy. This was such an amazing experience for the students.





## Architect Steven Schneemann assists Farmington STEAM Academy fifth graders with an architectural project thanks to Bosch Corporation Grant



*Students work on building a chicken coop model.*

Last spring, Steven Schneemann, local architect and business owner of S3 Architecture, gave a presentation to support a fifth grade multidisciplinary project at Farmington STEAM Academy (FSA). Now, he is back and ready to consult with the new fifth graders, some of whom will be finishing an authentic construction design project that was begun by last year's students.

The project got started when students were challenged with the design question: How can we design a solution to solve the problem of inadequate space for the birds and students? Schneemann, partnered with Jeffrey Rehbine, fifth grade teacher at FSA, and his fifth grade students to finish working drawings of student designs and models in order for students to complete an expansion of the chicken coop run

in the school courtyard. Rehbine and Schneemann talked with students about what architects do and challenged students to consider it as a career direction.

Students designed and built scaled architectural models over the winter in preparation for building an addition to the FSA chicken coop. Schneemann volunteered to offer advice on the design.



*The expansion of the chicken coop requires students to get accurate measurements.*

"Steven has partnered with us as our senior design consultant to complete professional drawings from which students can use to build the structure," said Jeffrey Rehbine. "This way students get a real-world first-hand account of the process in a way that is authentic and inside of their own life experience."



*Steven Schneemann giving a presentation to Farmington STEAM Academy fifth graders.*



FSA teachers Jeffrey Rehbine and Steven Trachsel designed the Project-Based Learning (PBL) challenge that combines math, design, building skills, writing, ecology, and virtual drawing in the form of a design challenge for fifth graders. They were awarded a \$2,000 grant from BOSCH Corporation for the project materials.

Students worked with teachers to measure and assess the needs of the chickens and site requirements to begin their designs. They worked on a computer design app called Tinker CAD to create 3D models to begin. Next, students transferred their models into 2D templates on Google Draw to create scaled models of their additional designs.

Students presented some models to Mr. Schneemann last spring, including the winning model, which S3 Architecture will base the drawings on. The new fifth grade students that started in August 2023 will be learning about the project from some of their predecessors

who will come back as sixth grade consultants to explain their work. Later, the new fifth graders will finish building the addition from S3 Architecture's plans with some help from the sixth grade designers, too.

Schneemann will consult with the fifth graders about their original design before they submit the final drawings. Students are being organized into task teams that take care of the courtyard, chickens, and rabbits each year, along with touring them to all of the classrooms. Among these teams is a craftsman team and an artisan team that will work on the final construction.

Jeffrey Rehbine would love to see the benefits of this project-based partnered learning happen more often, "Today's students need exposure to multiple types of real-world skills and opportunities in order to make intelligent choices about their own interests, passions, and careers. I'm grateful that we have the kind of school and community that can provide that for them."

## District celebrates the Class of 2023 IB Graduates

Thursday, December 21 • 6:30 p.m. • Farmington High School Auditorium

Kotyba Abuchaar  
Talha Ali  
Srinidhi Aravind  
Kai Baltes  
Alyssa Barr  
Oniya Brown  
Henry Burns-Pavlik  
Ashton Chapman  
Eva Charles  
Seynabou Coly  
Mara Costea  
Abigail Dafinescu

Natasha Davis  
Emily Farhat  
Madilyn Frazee  
Ailon Christiene Gacho  
William Garcia  
Sara Goodman  
Jeffrey Grynaviski  
Carissa Hankins  
Ariana Hoffman  
Bryce Howard  
Maddox Howell  
William Huddleston

Muaaz Khan  
Eddie King  
Mirabella Koponen  
Sophie Lichtenberg  
Avishay Mamidi  
Ava Martin  
Collin Miles  
Amanda Millar  
Richard Morris  
Simra Nadeem  
Srihitha Nimmagadda  
Vrisa Odedra

Zachary Olivier  
Amy Pan  
Sohan Pinnamaraju  
Benton Pizzuti  
Cassandra Poisson  
Amatullah Poonawala  
Madhumitha Rajaprakash  
Gracie Richardson  
Scarlett Richter  
Hayden Rometty  
Mariam Safirta  
Alysa Saperstein



Adam Sypitkowski  
Pranav Tammineedi  
Quinlan Toupin  
Sellina Vasha  
Joshua Walker  
Peighton Wells  
Kiley Wilson  
Spencer Woodward

### Alumni Reflection

"As a current medical student, my IB experience not only honed my critical thinking skills but also instilled in me an appreciation for the interdisciplinary approach. These skills have been invaluable in diagnosing and treating patients, fostering a deeper understanding of healthcare complexities while drawing on insights from various fields."

– Riya Shah, IB Class of 2020





# Awards & Achievements

*This is a partial list of awards and achievements of Farmington Public Schools' staff and students.*

A team of **Farmington High School (FHS)** students have earned a top 10 finish and have been invited to compete in the final round of the 2023 Michigan Governor's High School Cyber Challenge.

The students invited to represent FHS are **Surya Chintalapati, Sanjana Datla, Akshay Kumar, and Vijay Nannapuraju**. These students were selected as a Top 10 qualifying team in the State of Michigan.

Fourteen students at **North Farmington High School (NFHS)** and 12 students from **Farmington High School (FHS)** have been recognized by the College Board National Recognition Program and/or named National Merit Semifinalists.

The College Board National Recognition Program students have earned their recognitions due to their academic achievements in school and outstanding performance on the PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, and/or AP Exams. There is a minimum of a 3.5 GPA and a score in the top 10% of students in Michigan on the PSAT.

## Award Key:

National African American Recognition Award – NAARA  
National Hispanic Recognition Award – NHRA

## North Farmington High School Recognition Program

### Awardees:

**Adrianna Bohannon**, NAARA  
**Akua Gyamfi**, NAARA  
**Brian Rivers**, NAARA  
**Kamille Fells**, NAARA  
**Keira Rhodes-Greer**, NAARA  
**Sydney Cole**, NAARA  
**Tyreese Radway**, NAARA  
**Eugenio Camino-Cantu**, NHRA  
**Lana Cerbin Eckhoff**, NHRA

## Farmington High School Recognition Program Awardees:

**Ashley Katushabe**, NAARA  
**Brandon Dail**, NAARA  
**Naomi Edwards**, NAARA  
**Saniya Gorham**, NAARA  
**Isabel Torres**, NHRA  
**Xavier Chavarria**, NHRA

## North Farmington High School National Merit Semifinalists:

**Bjorn Brolin-Olson**      **Matthew Rai**  
**Shamon Gajraj**        **Angelina Sun**  
**Jonathan Manela**

## Farmington High School National Merit Semifinalists:

**Sanjana Datla**        **Asher Hart**  
**Riya Desai**           **Lydia Meissner**  
**Grisham Halapeti**   **Samarth Punjala**

Congratulations to **Anirudh Bommanaveni** from **NFHS** who was named as **National Merit Commended**.

Congratulations to the following students from **FHS**. They were named as **National Merit Commended**.

**Rayyan Ahmed**        **Carter Pierce**  
**Vijay Nannapuraju**   **Bruce Wilson**  
**Shreyas Narayanan**   **Nicholas Winder**  
**Viktor Ostapyuk**       **Faylinn Wong**

Congratulations to all the College Board National Recognition Program and National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists!

## Farmington High School Marching Band places third at Troy Athens Invitational Marching Competition

On September 30, 2023, the **Farmington High School (FHS)** Marching Band competed at the Troy Athens Invitational Marching Competition. They played their full show for the first time in front of fans and judges. They placed third overall in the competition.

The Falcons performed their 2023 show that is entitled *Dreamscapes*. The show consists of four distinct songs, all relating to the theme of dreams. These songs include *Atmadja*, a *Cirque du Soleil* original, *White Rabbit* by Grace Slick, *Venus Bringer of Peace* by

Gustav Holst, and *Dream On* by Aerosmith. The show also includes the Farmington Fight song along with a few other stand songs.

The band performed in Class A during the competition. Along with placing third overall, both the FHS Percussion Line and the Color Guard were awarded first place in their respective categories.



North Farmington Raiders Football team members from **North Farmington High School (NFHS)** visited **Wood Creek Elementary School** on Halloween. These students took the time to talk to the kids about responsibility, working hard, and never giving up. Shout out to coaches **Jon Herstein** and **Billy Slobin** for making it happen.



The Michigan Wrestling Association (MWA) has selected **Farmington STEAM Academy (FSA)** principal **David Beazley** for induction into the Michigan Wrestling Association Hall of Fame, Class of 2023.



**Farmington High School (FHS)** inducted four alumni into the FHS Sports Hall of Fame.

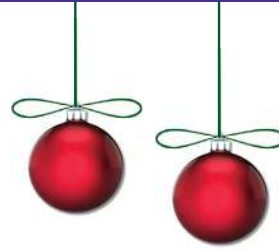
## FHS Sports Hall of Fame Inductees:

**Andrew Anderson**, Baseball, Class of 2005  
**Jill Haapaniemi**, Gymnastics, Class of 2008  
**K.C. Lopata**, Football and Soccer, Class of 2003  
**Erica Rose Olivi**, Soccer, Class of 2003





# Farmington Public Schools holding Annual Goodfellows Canned Food Drive from November 1 to 21



## FARMINGTON AREA Goodfellows

Farmington Public Schools' (FPS) Annual Canned Food Drive for the Farmington Area Goodfellows will be held this year from November 1–21, 2023. Donations will be accepted at all FPS schools, the Farmington and Farmington Hills City Halls, the Costick Center, and the downtown branch of the Farmington Community Library.

The Goodfellows rely on this canned food drive to supply a majority of the goods needed to fill the food baskets that get delivered to families in the community during the holiday season. It is also important to note that the Goodfellows cannot use cans with expired dates.

**Please check expiration dates; expired cans can't be used.**

In an average holiday season, Goodfellows helps between 400-500 children, families, and seniors living in Farmington and Farmington Hills. Their volunteer efforts rely fully on the generosity of local residents and businesses that help serve those in need in our community.

The need is ever increasing especially with the current economic environment. Goodfellows has a mission of "No Child or Senior without a Christmas." If you're willing and able, please consider helping them achieve this mission.

To learn more about the Farmington Area Goodfellows, please visit their website at [www.farmingtonareagoodfellows.org](http://www.farmingtonareagoodfellows.org).



It's that time of the year again, and Farmington Youth Assistance is counting on you to bring joy to many families through the Holiday Angels program. They are collecting donations for children aged 13 and above, who are not served by other agencies, and they are confident that the suggested items on the list will maximize your generous donations.

They are grateful to have a caring community that is willing to donate to those in need in the Farmington and Farmington Hills area. To serve students in need fairly and equitably, we kindly request that you use only the suggested items on this list to shop for your holiday donation.


Please deliver your donations to their office at 32789 W. 10 Mile Road, Farmington, MI 48336, between December 4th and 8th, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. If you need an alternative drop-off date, please email [fya@fpsk12.net](mailto:fya@fpsk12.net). They appreciate your support in making this program a success!

## Holiday Angels 2023

BRIGHTEN THE HOLIDAY OF LOCAL YOUTH WITH YOUR DONATIONS!


**FYA provides holiday assistance for local youth ages 13 and up with your generous donations!**

★ *Donate any items on the wishlist*



[2023 FYA Holiday Angels wishlist](#)


★ *Make Monetary donations*



Donate at <http://ffhya.org/donations> or make a check payable to Farmington Youth Assistance and mail it to 32789 W 10 Mile Road, Farmington, MI 48336

★ *Adopt a youth*

Please email [fya@fpsk12.net](mailto:fya@fpsk12.net) to get information about youth.



**Farmington Youth Assistance**  
32789 w 10 mile Road, Farmington, MI 48336  
[fya@fpsk12.net](mailto:fya@fpsk12.net)  
248-489-3434

## Suggested Donations

- **Monetary donations to purchase items:**  
Donate here: [ffhya.org/donations](http://ffhya.org/donations)
- **Gift Cards:**
  - Food/Restaurants: \$10 value**  
Taco Bell, McDonald's, Jimmy John's, Wendy's, Burger King, Starbucks, Dairy Queen, Little Caesars, Chick-fil-A
  - Clothing & Shoes: \$25 Value**  
Target, Walmart, Old Navy, Amazon
- **Warm Blankets**
- **Solid color hoodies, sweatshirts, and/or pajama pants only** (No team hoodies/sweatshirts please)  
Mens and Womens: XS, S, M, L, XL, XXL
- **Board Games and more**
  - Board Games:** Throw Throw Burrito, Throw Throw Avocado, Taco Cat Goat Cheese Pizza
  - Card Games:** Uno, Dice Game – Left Center Right, Rubik's Cube, Jenga Game, Poker Set, LED Strip Light, Belt Bag, Basketball, Football, Soccer Ball
- **Stocking Stuffers**  
Candy bars, gums, fidget toys, toothbrushes, lip gloss/balm, hand cream, nail polish, fuzzy socks, etc.

## Farmington Public Schools recognized among 2024 Best Schools in America

Farmington Public Schools (FPS) is thrilled to announce that we have been recognized as a 2024 Best School by Niche! This is our fifth year in a row reaching this status. Niche has rated our District as an overall A-

We've earned this ranking by scoring high in many factors that aim to capture what it's really like to attend FPS. We are ranked a very high 68 out of 580 in the Best School Districts in Michigan category. We also ranked 42 out of 565 in the Most Diverse School Districts in Michigan.

We're so proud of our students and staff for earning this national distinction. You can view the FPS profile and see a full list of 2024 rankings at [Niche.com](https://niche.com).

### About Niche

According to their website, Niche is a market leader in connecting colleges and schools with students and families. They curate in-depth profiles on every school and college in America. They have more than 140 million reviews and ratings and host powerful search and data tools to help millions of students and families to find and enroll in the right school for them.







## Vision

Together with our diverse community, Farmington Public Schools is committed to provide each and every learner equitable experiences to explore and develop their passions and interests in order to prepare for their future.

## Mission

We are all safe in this environment as we Investigate, Grow, Express, Reflect, and Innovate.



### Compassionate Community Member

FPS learners are compassionate community members who welcome the unique contribution of each individual, value the strength and power of community, and participate to create a positive and authentic impact in the community—personal, local, and global.

### Resilient Problem Solver

FPS learners are resilient problem solvers who are empowered to persevere in their quest for solutions to problems and/or questions. Learners consider multiple perspectives, solicit and respond to feedback, identify the best solution for the situation, and navigate their own problem-solving pathway.

### Empowered Collaborator

FPS learners give their best efforts while engaging in a productive exchange of ideas in working toward a common goal. Learners provide and receive respectful feedback, contribute their talents, thoughts, and opinions while respecting those of others, and develop effective ways of working together.

### Strategic Communicator

FPS learners are able to use communication as a way to build understanding and form relationships. Learners are active listeners, consider the needs of their audience, and use a variety of methods to express ideas effectively. Learners are open to others' perspectives and ideas as they engage in civil discourse.

### Self-Actualizer

FPS learners are in control of their educational pathway and their future. Learners set and strive toward goals based on self-awareness of strengths, interests, talents, and opportunities for growth. Using a growth mindset, they demonstrate self-compassion and self-acceptance as they become lifelong learners.

## Farmington STEAM Academy application window to be open December 4–11, 2023

The Farmington STEAM Academy (FSA) application window for the 2024-2025 school year will be held Monday, December 4, 2023 through Monday, December 11, 2023 for families that reside within the Farmington Public Schools' (FPS) District boundaries.

Farmington STEAM Academy is a K-8 school where STEAM is an integrated approach to learning that includes:

- S:** Science Standards and Social Sciences
- T:** Incorporation of Technology
- E:** Principles of Engineering and Design
- A:** English Language and Performing/Visual Arts
- M:** Application of Mathematics

Centered on project-based learning, Farmington STEAM Academy combines unique facilities with an inquiry-driven philosophy, giving students autonomy and opportunity to pursue their own interests.

The online lottery application window for FSA will open on Monday, December 4, 2023 at 9 a.m. and will close on Monday, December 11, 2023 at 11 p.m. Applications will be available on the FSA website at [www.farmington.k12.mi.us/fsa](http://www.farmington.k12.mi.us/fsa) beginning Monday, December 4, 2023.

The lottery will be held on Friday, December 15, 2023 to fill the open FSA slots for the 2024-2025 school year. Families will be notified if they receive a slot into FSA.

## Farmington Public Schools' accepting Schools of Choice applications January 29–February 16, 2024

Farmington Public Schools (FPS) will accept Section 105 Schools of Choice applications starting January 29 through February 16, 2024 for the 2024-2025 school year. Applications will be open for grades Kindergarten through 9th grade. Applications for Farmington Online, our remote and virtual programs, will be open for Kindergarten through eighth grade.

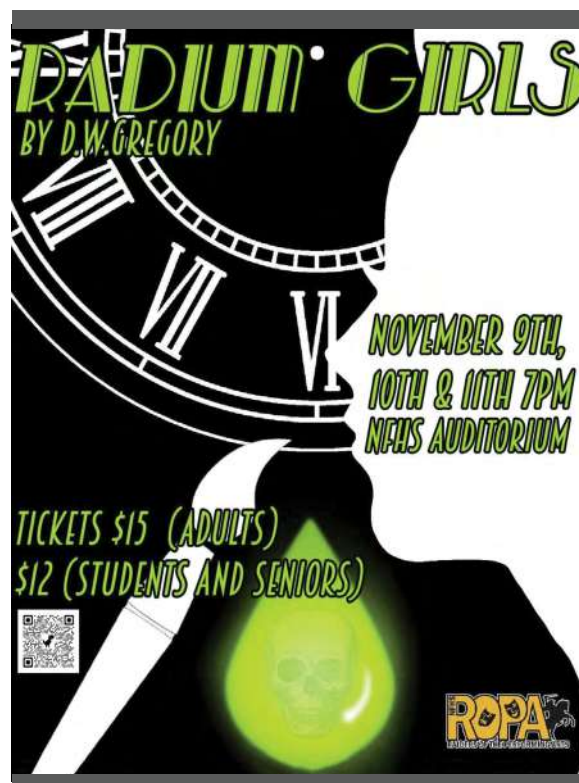
Online applications will be available beginning Monday, January 29, 2024, on the Farmington Public Schools' website, [www.farmington.k12.mi.us](http://www.farmington.k12.mi.us).

Applications for Section 105 Schools of Choice for the 2024-2025 school year must be submitted by 11:59 PM on Friday, February 16,

2024. No applications will be honored after the February 16th deadline.

In order to support the District's goal of excellence and equity for all students, the granting of choice is balanced with the need to provide an equitable and appropriate enrollment in all of our schools. Final placement will be determined based on current enrollment, projected enrollment, 2024-2025 staffing levels/ratios, and the number of applications received for each school/level.

Please see the District website for additional details and guidelines regarding the Section 105 Schools of Choice program at [www.farmington.k12.mi.us/section105-soc](http://www.farmington.k12.mi.us/section105-soc).



UpDate is a newsletter for Farmington Public Schools' residents. It is published four times during the school year by the School/Community Relations Department. Comments and suggestions are welcome. Please visit [www.farmington.k12.mi.us](http://www.farmington.k12.mi.us) or call 248.489.3349.

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