

UpDate

Farmington
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Winter
Quarterly News Update
March 2024



Farmington Public Schools announces the 2023-24 Teachers of the Year with surprise visits

Three Farmington Public Schools (FPS) teachers from across the District were surprised in their classrooms by Dr. Christopher Delgado, Superintendent, to inform them they were named as the FPS Teacher of the Year in their respective levels. The 2023/2024 FPS Teachers of the Year are Kirsten Gentry of Farmington High School, Cheryl Dalton of Warner Middle School, and GERALYN Schade of Gill Elementary School.



High School Teacher of the Year – Kirsten Gentry, Farmington High School

Kirsten Gentry was nominated as High School Teacher of the Year by her colleagues, students, and FPS parents for her exceptional commitment to provide the best possible education for

students and her dedication to being a strong advocate for her colleagues.

Gentry teaches 9th grade Biology, 10th and 11th grade AP Biology, and 10th, 11th, and 12th grade Anatomy at Farmington High School (FHS). She earned her Bachelors of Science in Biology from Michigan State University and her Masters in Arts of Teaching from Marygrove College. She has been teaching for more than 20 years in various science-related subjects such as Biology, Anatomy, and Physiology.

Gentry prides herself on making sure her students are successful. She is constantly evolving

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Farmington Public Schools celebrates National Reading Month with One School, One Book

In honor of National Reading Month in March, Farmington Public Schools (FPS) is celebrating with One School, One Book. All elementary schools across the District will be reading the same book at the same time. Each family with an elementary-aged student will receive a copy of the book to keep.

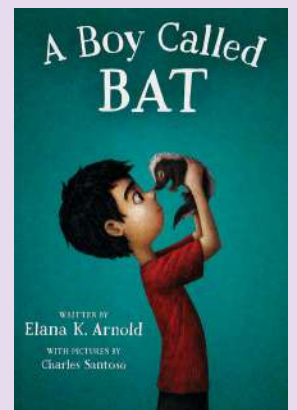
On weeknights, Monday through Thursday, families are asked to read a few pages of the book together. The following day at school, students will participate in trivia questions and discussions about the book. Teachers, bus drivers, principals, and other school staff are also reading the book, prompting conversation about the book at any time. Throughout the month, each school will host events, assemblies, projects, and more that go along with the theme of the book.

Leading up to One School, One Book, the students and community have been given clues hinting at the book

title via FPS social media pages. Schools will host a grand reveal of the book to their students in their own exciting way starting on Wednesday, February 28.

This year, students will be reading *A Boy Called Bat* written by Elana K. Arnold.

The story follows Bixby Alexander Tam, nicknamed Bat, as his life tends to be full of surprises both good and bad. His newest life surprise is his mother, a veterinarian, brings home a baby skunk that needs to be nurtured back to health. Bat has one month to convince his mother to keep the skunk as his very own pet. This story follows the brand new friendship starring the young boy who is on the autism spectrum.



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March is National Reading Month



Board of Education Meeting Dates

2023-24

March 19	May 7	June 18
April 9	May 21	
April 23	June 4	

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.

School Reminders

- **No School: Spring Recess**
Monday, March 25–Friday, March 29
Schools reconvene on Monday, April 3
- **No School: Memorial Day**
Monday, May 27
Schools reconvene on Tuesday, May 28

Summer School 2024

Farmington Public Schools will once again be offering a variety of fun and engaging summer learning opportunities for Farmington students of all ages and interests.

The details are being finalized now.

Camps • Enrichment Opportunities • Hands-On Activities • Arts • Coding • Credit Advancement Opportunities • and More

From Kindergarten to 12th grade, we have something for your student!

**SUMMER
SCHOOL
ENRICHMENTS**

Visit the Summer School Website
farmington.k12.mi.us/summer-school
to learn more.

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 or gregory.smith@fpsk12.net.



Teachers of the Year continued from page 1

ing her teaching practices to better serve her students. Gentry strives to create engaging and interactive lessons for her students so they can fully understand the content. Her students experience high levels of peer-to-peer engagement, teacher-to-student engagement, and student-to-content engagement.

Gentry sets high expectations for her students to succeed and helps them achieve their goals every step of the way. She is a role model who demonstrates values of resilience, integrity, and empathy.

Not only does she promote success in her classroom, Gentry has always been active in extracurriculars as well.

"Any student at Farmington High School that has had Mrs. Gentry as a science teacher knows that she puts in a great amount of dedication and hard work to set up her students for success," said Sarah Weber, a former student of Gentry. "In addition to academic success, Mrs. Gentry also helped me shape my love for the sciences into a future career path. In almost every unit she taught, I remember her mentioning how the content we just learned applies to the modern STEM world."

Among her colleagues, Gentry is beyond admired. She serves as her building union representative and strongly advocates for the teachers in her building. She is respected by colleagues across departments for her work ethic and commitment to students and the needs of her colleagues. She serves as a mentor to many of her colleagues, especially new teachers.

Her dedication, passion, and drive is exactly why Kirsten Gentry was named the FPS 2023/2024 High School Teacher of the Year.



Middle School Teacher of the Year – Cheryl Dalton, Warner Middle School

Cheryl Dalton was nominated as Middle School Teacher of the Year by her colleagues, students, and FPS parents for her engaging, approachable, and relationship building skills in the classroom.

Dalton teaches sixth grade ELA and Social Studies at Warner Middle School. She earned her Bachelors of Arts in Education from the University of Michigan and her Master of Arts in Reading and Language Arts from Oakland University. She has spent her entire teaching career with FPS in the Warner Middle School Building and has been teaching middle schoolers for more than 25 years.

Every day, students are excited to walk into Dalton's classroom. Her students know that they can expect something great planned for the day as she makes her lessons come alive. Her students love learning in her classroom for that reason.

"Mrs. Dalton could tell you each student's learning style and love language because she

Congratulations Farmington PUBLIC SCHOOLS Teachers of the Year

knows them each so well," said colleague Jennifer Lilienthal. "She pushes her students to work beyond what they think they are capable of, all while creating an environment that is safe, warm, and invites learning."

Dalton's classroom environment is positive, and a safe space for students. She strives to make her classroom inclusive for all. She consciously makes an effort to include all students in every single lesson. She makes it a point to connect the curriculum to students' personal lives which keeps students engaged and wanting to learn.

"I love to do creative writing and Mrs. Dalton was always there to help me whenever I needed help, even though it was not part of her class assignments," said Savannah Sowers, a former student of Dalton's.

Not only does Dalton make her students feel seen and heard, she does the same for parents as well.

"Every single parent that interacts with her loves her because their child loves her," said Jennifer Lilienthal. "There is a mutual trust and understanding with each family at Warner and Mrs. Dalton."

Dalton radiates warm and positive energy. She has the utmost consideration for her students. She attends every meeting and activity during the day that involves her students, even when it is supposed to be her break time. To many, she is a joy to watch and work alongside every day, which is why she was named the FPS 2023/2024 Middle School Teacher of the Year.



Elementary School Teacher of the Year – Geraldyn Schade, Gill Elementary School

Geraldyn Schade was nominated as Elementary School Teacher of the Year by her colleagues, students, and FPS parents for her warm and nurturing nature, and her ability to motivate her students.

Schade currently works in the Gill Elementary School Resource Room. She earned her Bachelors of Arts in Elementary/Special Education from Michigan State University. She then earned her Master of Arts in Special Education for the Emotionally Impaired from Western Michigan University. Since then Schade has been dedicated to helping children.

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Teachers of the Year continued from page 2

In the classroom, Schade has the ability to make learning fun and interactive, ensuring that each of her students feel valued and involved. Her classroom is a safe space for students where they feel comfortable to take risks, be themselves, and evolve as learners.

In her role as a resource room teacher, she looks for ways to best reach each student and help them achieve their personalized goals. She closely monitors progress to adjust her strategies as needed to make sure the students are moving in the right direction.

Schade often works with students in crisis or distress. With this, Schade has a natural calmness to her that translates to her classroom, students, and crisis situations. She has the ability to set firm boundaries while instilling a mutual sense of respect that allows her students to thrive.

Not only does Schade strive to help her students, but she also is a team player and a trusted colleague to everyone in her building.

On top of being an exceptional teacher, Schade exhibits exceptional leadership skills that extend beyond the classroom.

It's no secret that Schade is favored among her students and her colleagues. But, she is also a favorite amongst parents. She regularly makes phone calls to comfort and console worried or concerned parents, as well as to celebrate student success. She takes the time to stop and make sure that families feel heard and represented.

"We all have had that one teacher, the one we remember the most, the one that took extra interest in us, was extra kind and supportive," said Laura Sroka, FPS parent. "Perhaps, pushed us to be our better selves, even if we didn't appreciate it at the time. The one that made a difference. Geralyn Schade is that kind of teacher, and for my son and my family, she made all the difference."

For all of these reasons, she was named the FPS 2023/2024 Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

"Gerri gives 100% each day to foster a culture of excellence and encourages her students to reach their full potential," said colleague Renee Moreau-Decator. "She demonstrates kindness and empathy on a daily basis and always has a warm smile to share."

As Elementary Teacher of the Year, Schade was awarded \$2,500 from The Suburban Collection. She is also in the running for a lease of a brand new car. The Suburban Collection will invite all their partnering schools' teacher of the year winners to a dinner where the winner of a two-year car lease will be announced.

**Congratulations to all three
of the 2023/2024 FPS
Teachers of the Year!**
You are all so deserving.
Thank you for everything you do
for Farmington Public Schools.

Farmington/Farmington Hills Education Foundation Awards more than \$17,000 to fund 14 innovation grants

The Board of Trustees of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Education Foundation is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2023-24 grant allocations. These awards were funded from proceeds from the successful "A Toast to Education" fundraiser held in November and private donations. These awards bring the total awarded by the Foundation since 2013 to more than \$421,000 to projects impacting students in Farmington Public Schools.

The Foundation was pleased to award 14 submitted projects and initiatives totaling more than \$17,000.

- **Equity Initiative – Forest Elementary School – Maria Blanco**
The students will participate in a school wide Equity project that begins with an assembly and goes through the year by displaying examples of learning.
- **Little Hands Can Do Big Things – Gill Elementary School – Emily Garbham**
Putting learning in the future generations' hands.
- **HEAL (Helping Environment & Aiding Lives) – North Farmington High School – Sophia Yee**
Propagating succulents to donate at the farmer's market in the spring.
- **Sew East Sewing Club – East Middle School – Tara Fanning**
An after school sewing club for any and all students wishing to learn or grow their skills in the art of sewing.
- **Salmon in the Classroom – Hillside Elementary School – Darcy Dows**
Salmon in the Classroom is a very interactive, participatory program in which students raise the resource and ultimately are responsible for its survival and release of Chinook Salmon in the nearest Great Lake Watershed.
- **Taking Learning Outdoors – Wood Creek Elementary School – Amy Foster**
Take learning outside the four classroom walls by creating an outdoor learning space.
- **CSSS Project – Gill Elementary School – Christine Suliman**
Development, and implementation of an inclusive, CSSS (Culture, Science, SEL, Social Justice) area at Gill Elementary's Media Center that encourages reading, empathy, enrichment, and knowledge.
- **Read for the GOLD – Literacy Night – Wood Creek Elementary School – Amy Foster**
Wood Creek PTA wants to encourage students to read and have planned for an author visit, literacy stations and projects for an evening activity!
- **Beechview BEE Green Garden – Beechview Elementary School – Misuk Drews**
Welcome to Beechview Hive where we learn together to care for each other and our world.



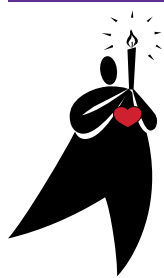
- **Summer Youth Arts Workshops with KickstART – All Schools – Dwayne Hayes**
In the summer of 2024, KickstART Farmington will offer at least 12 youth art classes that will be free of charge for the participants and their families.
- **National Elementary Honor Society – Beechview Elementary School**
To start an NEHS chapter for qualifying 4th and 5th grade students.
- **El Biblioburro – Middle & High Schools – Renee Pena**
This project will supply books for a free voluntary reading library for Spanish 1 students throughout Farmington Public Schools.
- **FIRST Lego League – Farmington STEAM Academy – Karen Gee**
This project is to send FIRST Lego League Challenge Team 35450 to the National level FIRST Lego League competition that they qualified to attend.
- **Student Choice Innovation Projects – Power Middle School – Michele Laramie**
Through student voice and choice projects, students will become expert learners by taking charge of their own learning.

"AGAIN, the Education Foundation enjoyed the pleasure of learning about many creative innovations our educators are implementing throughout the district," said David Workman, Board Chair and Grant Committee Member. "Even better, thanks to so much generosity from our staff and community members, we were again able to offer funding to 14 projects across our school community. Thank you staff and community for making these grants available for students throughout our community. Your generosity makes a difference."

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. The Foundation's mission is to "foster investment in innovative educational opportunities to benefit the students of Farmington Public Schools."

Questions regarding the Farmington/Farmington Hills Education Foundation may be directed to director@ffhedfoundation.org or by calling 248.426.2897.

Additional information about the Education Foundation and its work is available online at www.ffhedfoundation.org, Facebook, and X (formerly Twitter).



Judy White-Ora
Teaching with Heart and Soul



Judy White-Ora "Teaching with Heart and Soul" Award nominations due Friday, April 26

Farmington Public Schools is requesting nominations for the 15th annual recognition for teachers called the Judy White-Ora "Teaching with Heart and Soul" Award. This recognition program is in honor of the District's former Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Judy White-Ora, who dedicated her life to the pursuit of excellence in education. Her "Teaching with Heart and Soul" pledge was created to inspire teachers to reach out to students in unique and creative ways.

The nominee for the award must exemplify the six tenants of her pledge:

- ✓ Respects the uniqueness of each child.
- ✓ Ignites the joy of learning.
- ✓ Listens to the child's voice.
- ✓ Puts human connections first.
- ✓ Encourages the spirit of each child and lets their light shine.
- ✓ Creates a caring environment.

Past Judy White-Ora "Teaching with Heart and Soul" award winners include: Greg Drozdowski, Kim Zell, Marian Orihel, Vitas Underys, Maria Blanco, Pam Gutierrez, Nikki Schueller, Ann Marie Robinson, Hatty Ligon, Nancy Morris, Elyse Jahnke, Patricia Pomaranski, Julie Folkert, MaryBeth SiKora, Greg Drozdowski, Kim Zell, Kathy Koperski, Kyle Kurtis, Carol McGorsick, and Kimmi Dukes.

Nominees must be teachers with at least three years teaching experience and members of the Farmington Education Association (FEA). Nomination forms can be found at bit.ly/3ST7O75. **The deadline for submissions is Friday, April 26, 2024.** The selected candidate will be recognized at the Tuesday, June 4, 2024 Board of Education Meeting.



If you have questions regarding this award, please contact School/Community Relations at 248.489.3349.



Farmington High School named in Top 100 list of Michigan High Schools in the *U.S. News & World Report*

Farmington High School (FHS) is named in the Top 100 of Michigan High Schools with the *U.S. News & World Report* for the 2023/2024 School year. FHS is ranked 52nd within the state of Michigan, and ranked 22nd in Detroit Metro Area High Schools.

FHS is ranked 1,839 nationally with an overall score of 89.6/100. Schools are ranked on their performance on state-required tests, graduation and how well they prepare students for college.

The FHS score card includes: 43% of students taking at least one AP exam, 32% of students passing at least one AP exam, 50% mathematics proficiency, 76% reading proficiency, and a 96% graduation rate.

"I am so incredibly proud of the Farmington High School staff and students for being named by *US News and World Report* as one of the top 100 high schools in Michigan," said FHS principal Christine Meussner. "We have a dedicated, caring, and highly talented staff that has worked incredibly hard to reach this level. We also have hardworking, intelligent, kind students who make FHS a great place to learn and grow. Congratulations, FHS, for being named #52 in the state of Michigan!"

To learn more about how U.S. News calculated the 2023-2024 Best High School Rankings, visit usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/articles/how-us-news-calculated-the-rankings.

To view the FHS U.S. News Profile, visit usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/michigan/districts/farmington-public-school-district/farmington-high-school-9913.

Congratulations Farmington High School!



Second Annual Family Community Resource and Opportunities Fair



in partnership
with



Please join us for the second annual

Family Community Resource and Opportunities Fair

This is an opportunity for Farmington/Farmington Hills families to learn about many of our local community organizations and the resources they have to offer.

Come meet 20+ of our local community organizations from the Farmington area/Oakland County and learn about resources/services they provide, meet non-profit leaders, get library cards, ask questions and get answers about school, camp information, new family registration assistance, and see how you can get involved.

There will be give-aways, raffle prizes, and more.

Thursday • April 4 • 4:30-7:30 p.m.

Farmington Community Library • 32737 W. 12 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills

Contact Shannon Daniel with any questions: 313.689.3279 or shannon.daniel@fpsk12.net

Welcome & Congratulations

Allyson Robinson serving as the District's new Director of School Safety and Athletics



At the Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, November 21, the Board of Education approved the appointment of Allyson Robinson as the District's new Director of School Safety and Athletics. The previous director, Tom Shelton, left the District in October to pursue other career opportunities.

Allyson has served as the Principal of Power Middle School since 2015. Allyson began her career in Farmington Public Schools in 2000 as an English Teacher at Harrison High School moving into the role of Assistant Principal in 2011. As Assistant Principal, two of her main roles were Athletic Director and Crisis Team Leader for the school.

"I am very excited to be serving the district in a different capacity and look forward to my new role," stated Robinson. "I will miss the day-to-day interactions with Power students as they consistently give me hope for our future."

"I am looking forward to Mrs. Robinson joining our Central Office team," stated Superintendent Christopher J. Delgado. "Her building leadership at both the middle and high school levels provides her with a unique perspective to support the athletic continuum, and her experience with Safety and Security will enhance the excellent infrastructure and training we have in place."

Jodie Middleton was selected to replace Allyson as the new principal at Power Middle School.

Jodie Middleton selected as the new Power Middle School principal



After a comprehensive hiring process, Jodie Middleton rose to the top out of 45 applicants and has been selected as the new principal at Power Middle School. Middleton follows Allyson Robinson who moved to the position of Director of School Safety and Athletics for the District in November.

of School Safety and Athletics for the District in November.

Middleton earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Eastern Michigan University and her Master of Education in Early Childhood from Oakland University. She also earned her Ed Specialist Degree from Western Michigan University.

Middleton has served as the principal at Auburn Elementary School in the Avondale School District since 2017. She has also served as a K-8 principal at Taylor International Academy and as a Middle School Director for Eton Academy.

"I have been impressed and truly excited to hear and believe in her educational philosophy that is grounded in a positive and inclusive learning environment that inspires both students and staff to simply be their best versions of themselves," said Bradley Paddock, Farmington Public Schools' Assistant Superintendent of Talent Development.

"I'm really excited to be a part of Farmington Public Schools," stated Middleton.

Jodie began her duties at Power Middle School on Wednesday, January 24.

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services awards Farmington High School and North Farmington High School HEARTSafe Designation



Farmington High School (FHS) and North Farmington High School (NFHS) have both received a MI HEARTSafe School Designation. The MI HEARTSafe program is designed to ensure that schools are prepared if a sudden cardiac emergency were to occur during or after school hours. This year, a record breaking 256 schools are being recognized for their work during the 2022-2023 school year with 123 schools receiving the award for the first time, which includes FHS and NFHS.

To earn a MI HEARTSafe School designation, schools must have:

- A written medical emergency response plan and team that can respond to an emergency during school hours and after-school activities and sports.
- Current CPR/AED certification of at least 10% of staff and 50% of coaches, including 100% of head coaches and physical education staff.
- Accessible, properly maintained and inspected AEDs with signs identifying locations.
- Annual cardiac emergency response drills.
- Pre-participation sports screening of all student athletes using the current physical and history form endorsed by MHSAA.

Multiple groups, including the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), Michigan Department of Education (MDE), American Heart Association, Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA), and Michigan Alliance for Prevention of Sudden Cardiac Death of the Young (MAP-SCDY) have recognized schools that have taken the necessary steps to prepare for cardiac emergencies by awarding them with the MI HEARTSafe School designation.

FHS and NFHS were recognized in a ceremony at MHSAA in East Lansing in November.

Congratulations to both FHS and NFHS for actively ensuring our students are safe.





We Are Hiring

Bus Drivers



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.



Awards & Achievements

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

Farmington Public Schools (FPS) currently has two active middle school FIRST Tech Challenge robotics teams. The **Power Middle School (PMS)** team, the Power Hackbytes, and the **Farmington STEAM Academy (FSA)** team, the FSA Steambots, competed at the Lake Orion Qualifying event in November.

The Power Hackbytes finished the event with two wins and three losses. The FSA Steambots finished the event with a perfect record of five wins and zero losses. The Steambots earned enough points to compete in the playoffs as the 4th alliance captain, but did not beat the first alliance.

Both teams received individual awards from the judges. The Power Hackbytes team was recognized for their outstanding presentation. They earned the Judges Award. The Steambots earned second place for the Design Award. They also earned first place for the Think Award, which recognizes their engineering portfolio.

Farmington High School (FHS) students competed at the Region Eight HOSA Future Health Professionals Leadership Conference at FHS in December. There were a total of 72 Falcons that competed. Out of those 72, 45 students placed in the top seven as Finalists, while 26 students placed in the top three as medalists. All of these students are eligible to advance to the State Competition that takes place in April 2024.

Farmington High School (FHS) senior, **Faylinn Wong**, has earned a four-year full ride scholarship to Princeton University through QuestBridge. Faylinn was awarded her scholarship through the 2023 QuestBridge National College Match, a program that connects high-achieving high school seniors from low-income backgrounds with full four-year scholarships to 50 of the nation's best colleges.

Farmington Public Schools (FPS) hosted a successful 29th Annual Day for Strings event at North Farmington High School (NFHS). Nearly 400 orchestra students in grades 6-12 attended the event. The event hosted two different sessions. Session one included Power/STEAM 6th grade, all District 7th grade, and all District high school Allegro Ensemble. Session two included East/Warner 6th grade, all District 8th grade, and all District high school Vivace Ensemble. Congratulations to the FPS orchestra faculty that put on an amazing show.



Multiple **Farmington High School (FHS)** marketing students have earned a finalist spot in the prestigious Western Michigan University (WMU) Sales Challenge. Eleven Falcons have earned a spot in the top 48 of all marketing students in the State of Michigan. These finalists traveled to the WMU campus in February to compete against other finalists from across Michigan.

Falcon Finalists:

Vivik Chava
Clipper Watson
Andrea Filip
Alison Stewart
Charmi Yakkanti
Audrey Perry

Gwenyth Richards
Hayden Cox
Noman Sajjad
Nadim Nabulsi
Sohan Sompore

The **North Farmington High School (NFHS)** CyberPatriot Team competed in the CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Defense State Round Competition that took place online via WebEx. The team placed fifth overall in the State of Michigan.

The NFHS CyberPatriot team consists of:

Heidi Gee
Nolan Barker

Shaila Cranson
Riya Chava

Tiffiney Lee, fifth grade teacher at **Forest Elementary School**, was a contestant on "Wheel of Fortune!" In November, Tiffiney flew out to California and was selected to be a participant. Her episode aired on December 29.



Many **Farmington High School (FHS)** art students received high honors in the prestigious Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. The students were competing with other high school art students, including private schools, and students that take private art classes. The students' art was celebrated at an awards ceremony at the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) Theater, followed by the opening of the show on February 12, 2024.

Award Results:

Alison Hoisington, Honorable Mention and Silver Key
Anna Toranchuk, two Honorable Mentions

Drawing & Illustration:

Landon Kennedy, Honorable Mention, three Silver Keys, one Gold Key
Anna Toranchuk, Gold Key

Mixed Media:

Landon Kennedy, Silver Key
Anna Toranchuk, Honorable Mention

Photography:

Grace Guttovz, Honorable Mention
Anna Magner, Honorable Mention

Sculpture:

Abby Bride, Honorable Mention

Senior Portfolio:

Alison Hoisington, Honorable Mention (ceramics)
Arya Karki, Silver Key (painting)
Landon Kennedy, Gold Key (drawing), and the highest honor of Best In Show! Landon also earned a scholarship to his dream school, the College of Creative Studies (CSS).

East Middle School student, Kennadee Fabin, publishes her first book at age 11



East Middle School (EMS) student **Kennadee Fabin**, has published her first book titled *Kind Again: How to Return to Kindness like Dolly Parton*. Kennadee, who is a Beechview Elementary School alumni, set a personal goal for herself to write and publish her first book by the age of 12, which she accomplished at the age of 11.

Kind Again: How to Return to Kindness like Dolly Parton explores many avenues including the virtues of kindness, being a good friend, and employing positivity to help create a happy life. Kennadee was inspired by Dolly Parton while writing her book. This influenced her to create her narrative based on generosity, optimism, seeking out positivity, and cherishing friendships. Kennadee shares the love of Dolly Parton with her father, James Fabin. She relates to Dolly Parton's lyrics and overall philosophy and wanted to share that with others.

Throughout her time at Beechview Elementary School, Kennadee looked up to Principal **Mrs. Shawndra Hernton**, who always had a smile on her face as she walked down the hallways. Kennadee was amazed that Mrs. Hernton knew every student by name and was always cheerful. Another person at Beechview that Kennadee looked up to was **Mrs. Jessie Partridge**, a Media Aide in the library. Mrs. Partridge really helped grow Kennadee's love for reading. Inspired by both Mrs. Hernton and Mrs. Partridge, Kennadee decided to set her goal, work hard, and publish her book.

Farmington High School (FHS) and **North Farmington High School (NFHS)** Business Professionals of America (BPA) students competed at the BPA Regional competition at Wayne County Community College in December. FHS had 44 students and NFHS had 28 students who have qualified to compete at the State competition.

Multiple Farmington Public Schools' (FPS) students have won a 2024 National Center for Women and Information Technology (NCWIT) Aspirations in Computing (AiC) award. The winners were selected from more than 3,300 applicants across 44 states.

NCWIT Winners:

Sanjana Dalta, Farmington High School
Gabby Ngang, Farmington High School
Heidi Gee, North Farmington High School



Awards & Achievements



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

Farmington High School (FHS) students recently competed in the DECA District Competition. FHS had a total of 49 students compete in the competition. Of those 49, there were 89 medals awarded to the Falcons and a total of 40 students earned the right to compete at the DECA State Competition that takes place in Detroit in March.

Farmington High School (FHS) DECA has been recognized for an Outstanding School-Based Enterprise (SBE). The Falcon's Nest, the FHS SBE was among 728 school-based enterprises to achieve the gold-level certification for the 2023-2024 school year. They will be honored during DECA's International Career Development Conference this April.

FHS students **Kennedy Williams** and **Krishna Patel**, with the assistance of their DECA chapter advisor, **Mrs. Merget**, are the two Falcon's Nest DECA members that contributed to the certification. The SBE at Farmington High School has been operating for 75 years, which is an extremely commendable achievement.

North Farmington High School (NFHS) student **Cydney Armwood** is featured in the new Disney+ docuseries "Choir." The show follows the journey of the Detroit Youth Choir (DYC) as they prepare to perform on one of America's biggest stages.

Cydney has been performing with the DYC for four years. During her time, she has been able to perform on many big stages including America's Got Talent: All Stars, the Detroit Lions playoff game versus the Los Angeles Rams, and most recently on Good Morning America.

Farmington High School (FHS) marketing students had a great day of learning and competing at the Western Michigan University (WMU) Sales Challenge in Kalamazoo. The students gained a lot of experience and learned a lot from the WMU sales students.

Alison Stewart, **Charmi Yakkanti**, and **Noman Saffid** made it to the Sweet 16 round of the competition. This earned them each \$25 and a WMU quarter zip hoodie.

Vivek Chava earned third place overall in the competition, taking home \$150 and WMU quarter zip hoodie.

Farmington/Farmington Hills Optimist Club chooses winners in the Leslie Rebtoy Essay Contest



Farmington/Farmington Hills
OPTIMIST CLUB

On Wednesday, February 14, 2024, the Farmington/Farmington Hills Optimist Club announced the winners of its annual Essay Contest that it holds for middle and high school students.

The topic for this year's Essay Contest was: "Optimism: How It Connects Us." Winning students and their families were invited to a breakfast where the students read their essays for the Club. Winners were awarded a medal for their efforts along with a cash prize.



From L to R: FPS Superintendent Christopher Delgado, Umar Ahmed, FSA Principal David Beazley, Richa Chava, Chaitrika Reddy Butta, and Optimist Contest Chairwoman Anna Durham.

Middle School Winners:

1st Place – **Umar Ahmed** (Farmington STEAM Academy, Farmington Public Schools)

2nd Place – **Richa Chava** (Farmington STEAM Academy, Farmington Public Schools)

3rd Place – **Chaitrika Reddy Battu** (Farmington STEAM Academy, Farmington Public Schools)

High School Winners

1st Place – **Amrita Renduchintala** (Farmington High School, Farmington Public Schools)

2nd Place – **Mariam Dukhan** (Farmington High School, Farmington Public Schools)

3rd Place – **Zainab Ahmed** (Farmington High School, Farmington Public Schools)

"All of the students did such a wonderful job with their essays," said Contest Chairperson Anna Durham. "This is one of the highlights of the Club each year."



From L to R: Optimist Essay Contest Chairwoman Anna Durham, Zainab Ahmed, Amrita Renduchintala, Mariam Dukhan, and FPS Superintendent Christopher Delgado.

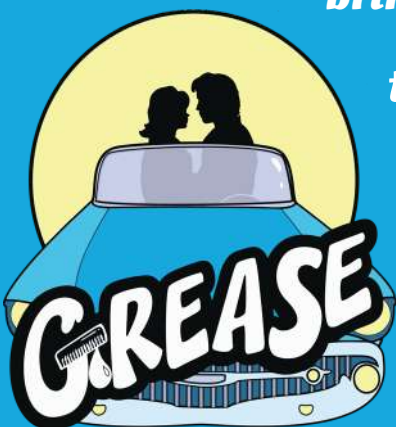
For more information about the Farmington/Farmington Hills Optimist Club, please visit www.f2hoptimists.org.

Farmington High School
brings you

the '50s Rock 'N Roll Musical

April 18, 19, 20 • 7:30 p.m.
\$12 students & seniors • \$15 adults

Be there or be square!



North Farmington High School
brings you

April 19, 25, 26, 27
7:00 p.m.

April 20 • 1:00 p.m.





Farmington Public Schools' Kick Off to Kindergarten Registration has started

Do you have a child that is going to Kindergarten this fall? Kick off to Kindergarten is here and it is time to register your child(ren) for the 2024-2025 school year. Farmington Public Schools provides full-day Kindergarten for its families.

Kindergarten registration can occur at any time prior to the new school year, however, it is best for parents to register their child(ren) as early as possible to guarantee placement at their home school. If you are unsure of your home school, please enter your street name into the Street Guide on our website at www.farmington.k12.mi.us/street-guide.

Parents need to register their child(ren) for Kindergarten utilizing the Pre-Enrollment module on the District's website at bit.ly/FPSEnroll. To register online, parents will need a driver's license and proof of residency, such as a warranty deed, current property tax statement or lease/rental agreement with occupancy date including a list of all occupants, and any two of the following items: current gas, electric, telephone, or cable bill. Water bills do not meet the accepted criteria. Other required documentation needed is the child's birth certificate, immunization record, and a health physical form.

If you wish to enroll your child in Kindergarten, your child must be at least five years of age by SEPTEMBER 1. The birth date cut-off for a child to begin Kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year is September 1, 2019.

Young 5s Program

Farmington Public Schools is offering Young 5s programming for our youngest learners for the 2024-25 school year. This free full-day program for families with Kindergarten-eligible students (turning 5 by December 1, 2024) who were born between June 1–December 1, 2019 may be a great option that provides extra time for their child to grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

To learn more about the Young5s program, visit www.farmington.k12.mi.us/Page/2552.

You can fill out the 2024/2025 school year interest form [here](#).



Kindergarten Orientation Day is Friday, May 3.

Details about Orientation Day will be shared with families closer to May 3.



2024-2025 District Calendar

**2024
AUG**

Monday, August 19
No Students – Staff Meeting AM; Teacher Work Day PM

Tuesday, August 20 & Wednesday, August 21
No Students – All Day Professional Development

Thursday, August 22
No Students – District Work Day AM; Teacher Work Day in Classrooms PM

Friday, August 23
No School for Students; Staff Non-Reporting Day – Virtual PD

Monday, August 26
First Day of School – All K-12 Students AM Only; District Work Day PM

Friday, August 30
No School – Friday before Labor Day

**2024
SEP**

Monday, September 2
No School – Labor Day

Wednesday, September 4
First Day for Early Childhood

Friday, September 20
All K-12 Students AM; Professional Development for FEA Staff PM

**2024
OCT**

Wednesday, October 2
First Student Count Day

Thursday, October 3
No School – Rosh Hashanah

Thursday, October 31
K-5 Students AM; K-5 Teacher Records Day PM

**2024
NOV**

Tuesday, November 5
No Students – Full Day Professional Development for Staff (Election Day)

Thursday, November 7
Elementary Students AM; Elementary Conferences PM and Evening

Tuesday, November 12
Elementary Evening Conferences

Wednesday, November 27 – Friday, November 29
No School – Thanksgiving Recess

**2024
DEC**

Monday, December 2
School Reconvenes

Monday, December 23 – Friday, January 3
No School – Winter Vacation

**2025
JAN**

Monday, January 6
School Reconvenes

Wednesday, January 15 & Thursday, January 16
High School Final Exams AM

Friday, January 17
All K-12 Students AM; Teacher Records Day PM; End of Semester

Monday, January 20
No School – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

**2025
FEB**

Wednesday, February 12
Second Student Count Day

Monday, February 17 – Friday, February 21
No School – February Break

Monday, February 24
School Reconvenes

**2025
MAR**

Friday, March 7
All K-12 Students AM; Professional Development for FEA Staff PM

Thursday, March 13 & Tuesday, March 18
Elementary Evening Conferences

Monday, March 24 – Friday, March 28
No School – Spring Recess

Monday, March 31
School Reconvenes

**2025
APR**

Friday, April 18
No School – Good Friday

**2025
MAY**

Friday, May 23
K-5 Students AM

Monday, May 26
No School – Memorial Day

**2025
JUN**

Tuesday, June 10 & Wednesday, June 11
High School Final Exams AM

Thursday, June 12
Last Day of School – All Students AM; Teacher Records Day PM; End of Semester

Friday, June 13
Teacher Work Day

**2025
JUL**

Note:

- For calendar purposes, K-8 STEAM will follow the elementary schedule.
- Dates for Open Houses, Curriculum Nights, and other activities yet to be determined, will be posted on individual school websites.

2.16.24

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 or call 248.489.3349.

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