



# focus

August/September 2015

Volume 21, Issue 1

Website: [www.fhps.net](http://www.fhps.net)



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### A Message from the Superintendent

## Embracing the Enthusiasm of a New School Year



Superintendent Behm

Do you remember the excitement you had when you were young and you were starting a new school year? You may have been excited to go shopping for new school supplies. You wanted the largest box of Crayola's with the sharpener

The world of a kindergartner or first-grader is a magical place. Their worlds bounce with excitement. Watch a 5- or 6-year-old go into a school building. They do not walk or saunter. They leap. They skip. They vibrate. They emanate the energy of life. Children at this age are unencumbered by the armor we cloak ourselves in as we age. They aren't afraid to try new things—to explore; to imagine; to wonder; to ask questions. Their authentic self and their persona are one. There is clarity in a simple wisdom to their thoughts that contradicts their young age.

One of the things that I learned years ago as superintendent, is that our students are truly outstanding thinkers and have far more poignant things to say about their experiences and hopes for the future than I ever could. Rather than me writing up my words of wisdom for our families, students and staff, for the upcoming year, I went to a more authentic source. Who could be more authentic and more sincere than a group of 5- or 6-year-olds?

I stopped by the Safe Bridges to Kindergarten summer class offered through our Community Services program on a hot

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on the back. You remember buying a new jar of paste. You may have gotten a new pair of sneakers. Remember your favorite lunchbox? Mine was a metal one with a matching thermos—an "Adam 12" lunchbox—while my friends sported "Planet of the Apes," "The Six Million Dollar Man," "Emergency," The Archies and The Fonz. My neighborhood friend, Amy, sported a Holly Hobbie one. My mom always took a "first day of school" photo every year.

I remember this excitement as if it were yesterday. I still get that excitement every year when September rolls around. I think of all the wonders that our teachers and staff bring to our students, and all the joys our students bring with them with an eagerness to learn.

### Bond Update

## Construction Projects Wrap Up Later This Fall

Improvements continued during the summer months at some of our buildings. Some of our elementary school playgrounds received upgrades. Work will wrap up later this fall at the Fine Arts Center; the Community, Aquatic and Senior Citizens Center; and in a few months on the campus of Forest Hills Eastern high school and middle school.

To read more about the updates the district has been able to accomplish due to the generosity of our residents and their approval of a \$45 million bond issue in 2013, visit our website: [www.fhps.net](http://www.fhps.net).



Construction workers install new flashing on all sides of the building and repair the fly loft above the stage at the Fine Arts Center.

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# 2015 -2016 District Calendar

## Forest Hills Public Schools

### 2015

September 8 (Tues.)	First day of school; full day for students
October 12 (Mon.)	Two-hour delay for students/staff professional learning
November 6 (Fri.)	K-6 students half day a.m./K-6 record marking p.m./ 7-12 students regular school day
November 25-27 (Wed. - Fri.)	No school/Thanksgiving recess
December 4 (Fri.)	Two-hour delay for students/staff professional learning
December 18 (Fri.)	Last day for students before break
December 21 - January 1	No school/holiday recess (10 days)

### 2016

January 4 (Mon.)	School resumes
January 26 (Tues.)	K-6 students full day/Exams: 7-12 students half day a.m./ 7-12 record marking p.m.
January 27 (Wed.)	K-6 students full day/Exams: 7-12 students half day a.m./ 7-12 record marking p.m.
January 28 (Thurs.)	K-6 students half day a.m./Exams: 7-12 students half day a.m.
January 29 (Fri.)	No school for K-12 students/end of semester
February 15 (Mon.)	No school for students/mid-winter break/ staff professional learning
March 31 (Thurs.)	No school for students/staff professional learning
April 1-8 (Fri. - Fri.)	No school for students/spring recess
April 11 (Mon.)	School resumes
April 12 (Tues.)	No school for students in Grades 9, 10, 12/ MME test day for 11th grade students
May 30 (Mon.)	No school/Memorial Day
June 8 (Wed.)	K-6 students full day/Exams: 7-12 students half day a.m.
June 9 (Thurs.)	K-6 students half day a.m./Exams: 7-12 students half day a.m.
June 10 (Fri.)	Last day K-6 students half day a.m./ Exams: 7-12 students half day a.m.

### Graduations

Monday, May 23, 2016	Northern High School Graduation, Sunshine Church
Tuesday, May 24, 2016	Central High School Graduation, Sunshine Church
Wednesday, May 25, 2016	Eastern High School Graduation, Sunshine Church

## School Building Start/End Times

**Ada, Collins, Knapp Forest, Meadow Brook, Orchard View, Pine Ridge and Thornapple Elementary Schools:**

Full day: 8:40 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.  
Half day: 8:40 a.m. – 11:55 a.m.

**Ada Vista Elementary School:**

Full day: 8:05 a.m. – 3:10 p.m.  
Half day: 8:05 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.

**Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) (Ada Elementary):**

Morning: 8:55 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.  
Afternoon: 12:50 p.m. – 3:40 p.m.

**Central Woodlands 5/6 School and Northern Trails 5/6 School:**

Full day: 8:40 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.  
Half day: 8:40 a.m. – 11:55 a.m.

**Goodwillie Environmental School:**

Full day: 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Half day: 8 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

**Central Middle School and Eastern Middle School:**

Full day: 7:45 a.m. – 2:50 p.m.  
Half day/exams: 7:45 a.m. – 11 a.m.

**Northern Hills Middle School:**

Full day: 7:50 a.m. – 2:55 p.m.  
Half day/exams: 7:50 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.

**Central High School:**

Zero hour: 6:40 a.m. – 7:35 a.m.  
Full day: 7:40 a.m. – 2:50 p.m.  
One-hour delayed start days: 8:40 a.m. – 2:50 p.m.  
Half day/exams: 7:40 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.

**Northern High School:**

Zero hour: 6:40 a.m. – 7:35 a.m.  
Full day: 7:40 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.  
Half day/exams: 7:40 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.

**Eastern High School:**

Zero hour: 6:35 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.  
Full day: 7:35 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.  
One-hour delayed start day: 8:40 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.  
Half day/exams: 7:35 a.m. – 11 a.m.

**Transition Center:**

Full day: 7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**Two-Hour Delayed Start Days:**

These morning programs WILL NOT ATTEND:

- Early Childhood Special Ed (ECSE) classes
- Zero hour classes at all high schools

### About the Cover

Over 60 5-year-olds attended the summer academy class called Safe Bridges to Kindergarten offered through the Community Services program. Among the highlight of the children's day was a trip through Safety Town, where students learned the importance of following safety rules while riding Big Wheels as vehicles in a make-believe town and acting as pedestrians, following the rules of the road, learning about bus safety, stranger danger and much more.

# 2015 - 2016 Enrollment Information

## New Students

If you are a new family to our district and/or are enrolling a new student in Forest Hills Public Schools, we thank you for choosing Forest Hills Public Schools. Welcome to a top-rated school district, with extraordinary and extremely supportive teachers, staff, families and community members.

We understand that you may have questions about the enrollment process. Please be assured that we're here to help. If you are unsure which school building you should enroll a student in at Forest Hills Public Schools, please try our interactive district map available online at [www.fhps.net](http://www.fhps.net), or contact us at (616) 493-8800. Children who have not been enrolled should be registered at their school office as soon as possible. All school offices will be open beginning Aug. 17, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Although you may stop in anytime, we encourage you to call your school to confirm their availability. All of our schools have back-to-school events, open houses, and/or orientations when students can tour the building; however, we welcome you any time prior to school to tour our facilities. If you'd like to meet with specific teachers, counselors, principals and/or staff, we encourage you to call and arrange an appointment.

If transportation is needed for the upcoming school year, bus route information will be mailed one week prior to school for those who have completed the enrollment process.

## New K-6 Students

A recently enacted Michigan law amended the Revised School Code (MCL 380.1147), which changed the minimum age requirement for a child enrolling in kindergarten. Children must turn 5 years of age on or before Sept. 1, 2015, in order to register for school. Children who turn 5 after Sept. 1, 2015, and not later than Dec. 1, 2015, may request an early entrance waiver to attend kindergarten. This waiver may be found on our enrollment page online at [www.fhps.net](http://www.fhps.net).

## Kindergarten Enrollment Forms

To enroll a new kindergarten student, please complete the following forms and return them to your school as soon as possible. Find them at [fhps.net](http://fhps.net), under "Enrollment."

- K-12 enrollment form
- Health appraisal (with vision and hearing screening)

- Health history form
- Information from preschool form (if applicable, from previous preschool)
- Classroom guidance/prevention education form
- Concussion awareness form

## First - 12th Grade Enrollment Forms

To enroll a new first- through 12th-grade student, please complete the following forms and return them to your school as soon as possible. Find them at [fhps.net](http://fhps.net), under "Enrollment."

- K-12 enrollment form
- Health history form
- Classroom guidance/prevention education form
- Concussion awareness form

## Additional Documents Required for All New Students

In addition to completing the referenced forms above, please bring the following with you to your school's office:

- Two proofs of residency in the Forest Hills Public School district:
  - Lease agreement (including the page with landlord and tenant signatures)
  - Mortgage statement (within last month)
  - City assessor's tax statement (current year)
  - Current utility bill or cable bill (within last month)
  - Notarized Affidavit of Residence if living in someone else's home/apartment + This person's driver's license and two (2) proofs of their residence
- Driver's license (of parent or guardian)
- Child's certified birth certificate (must be an original copy)
- Immunization records
- Vision screening (required for kindergarten)
- Court documents, if applicable (i.e. guardianship, foster care, etc.)
- Most recent report card (applies to seventh- and eighth-graders)
- High school transcript (applies to 10th-12th grades only)

Finally, please have the following information with you as well: emergency contact names/ phone numbers, physician's name/ phone number, and previous school name/ address, phone and fax numbers.

## First Day of School

Regular classes for all grades, including kindergarten and special education, will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

Central, Northern, and Eastern High School students who are enrolled in Kent Career Technical Center programs also will begin their classes on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

## Special Education Enrollment

You may contact the school principal within your attendance area to enroll your child who has special needs. It is very helpful to have your child's last Individualized Education Plan paperwork as well as reports that were written at the time of your child's last evaluation. Arrangements can be made to copy those files in order for personnel to use them in creating the best placement for your child. For additional information, call the FHPS Special Education Office, 493-8660.

## Office Hours

Elementary schools.....	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Ada Vista Elementary ....	7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Central Woodlands.....	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Northern Trails.....	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Goodwillie .....	7:45 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Middle Schools.....	7 a.m. - 4 p.m.
High Schools.....	7 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Administration Bldg. ....	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Child Care.....	7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Community Services .....	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Fine Arts Center .....	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Student Services .....	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Transportation.....	6 a.m. - 5 p.m.

## Student Insurance Available

Forest Hills Public Schools provides student medical insurance coverage for any student injured at school or during a school-related activity, including athletics. This coverage is secondary to any student or family medical insurance. In effect, the district's medical (continued on page 4)

# 2015-2016 Enrollment Information (continued)

## Required Childhood Immunizations for Michigan Schools

The following are the minimum requirements for childhood immunizations for entry to all Michigan public and non-public schools:

### Children Ages 4-6 Years

- Four doses DTP or DTaP, one dose must be on or after 4 years of age.
- Four doses of polio vaccine. If dose three is administered on or after 4 years of age, only three doses are required.
- Two doses of MMR vaccine on or after 12 months of age.
- Three doses of hepatitis B vaccine between the ages of 4 and 18 years.
- Two doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine at or after 12 months OR current lab immunity OR reliable history of disease.

### Children Ages 7-18 Years (including all seventh-grade students)

- Four doses D and T or three doses of Td, if first dose given on or after 7 years of age. One dose of Tdap for children 11 years of age or older upon entry into the seventh grade or higher.
- Three doses of polio vaccine.
- Two doses of MMR vaccine on or after 12 months of age.
- Three doses of hepatitis B vaccine between the ages of 4 and 18 years.
- One dose of meningococcal vaccine for all children 11 years of age or older upon entry into seventh grade or higher.

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- Two doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine at or after 12 months OR current lab immunity OR reliable history of disease.

### Immunization Information Online

For a complete list of the required immunizations for children per grade level, visit the website, [www.michigan.gov/immunize](http://www.michigan.gov/immunize). To obtain your immunization records online, visit: [www.mcir.org/publiccontent.html](http://www.mcir.org/publiccontent.html).

### Where Can I Get Immunized?

If you have health insurance, go to your family doctor. For others, vaccines are available at local health departments.

### Immunization Waiver Information

According to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, in December, 2014, the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules approved a new educational requirement for Michigan parents opting their children out of getting vaccinated before entering school.

To learn more about the new laws pertaining to the waiver, please visit the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' website: [www.michigan.gov/mdch](http://www.michigan.gov/mdch).



## Student Insurance Available

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insurance will cover medical costs for school-related injuries that are not covered by the family's medical insurance as long as the injury falls within the range of coverage.

If a family wishes to improve upon the district's plan, additional options are available for individual purchase. All necessary information will be made available to students at the beginning of school. Any family wishing to subscribe should complete the form and return it to their school. To obtain the insurance form, please call your child's school.

## Health Care Needs During the School Day

If your child has a medical condition such as diabetes, epilepsy, asthma, acute allergies (food, insect bites, animals), or a physical disability, and/or requires treatments or procedures during school hours, please inform a school staff member prior to the first day of school. An Emergency Care Plan (ECP) is needed for those students with potential complications such as allergies, asthma, seizure disorder, or diabetes. The ECP must be signed by both the physician and the parent/guardian. See your school secretary for the required forms.

## Bus Routes for This School Year

The Forest Hills Public Schools' fleet of 80 buses is ready to serve our families and children and transport students safely to and from school every day. One week prior to school, the transportation department will mail to the parent or guardian, each child's bus route information highlighting their bus stop location, bus number, and arrival times. Please remember that during the first few weeks of school, arrival times may vary slightly as everyone gets acclimated to their new schedules. We encourage you to make sure your child arrives to their bus stop

at least five minutes prior to their designated bus time noted in their letter. Due to security reasons, we do not post bus stop locations and times on the district website or publish them for general use.

In our continuous effort as a school district to allocate financial resources to support quality instruction and to standardize transportation services across the district, we continue to make adjustments to our routes. These small changes help our district allocate more money which goes directly back

into your child's classroom. More specifically this year, some of our bus routes will have fewer stops. There are some neighborhoods where buses may make several stops within the neighborhood in the morning, but may have only one stop outside of the neighborhood in the afternoon; and we continue to phase out transportation for Schools of Choice families, in-district transfers, and dual-attendance areas.

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# FHPS Phone Numbers, Attendance Lines, and Contacts

**Administration Building** ..... 493-8800  
6590 Cascade Road SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

## Elementary Schools

**Ada Elementary**..... 493-8940  
**Attendance Line:**..... 493-8943  
731 Ada Drive SE  
Ada, MI 49301  
Principal: Jo Anderson

**Ada Vista Elementary** ..... 493-8970  
**Attendance Line:**..... 493-8976  
7192 Bradfield Street SE  
Ada, MI 49301  
Principal: Jesús Santillán

**Collins Elementary**..... 493-8900  
**Attendance line:**..... 493-8906  
4368 Heather Lane SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
Principal: Mitchell Balingit

**Knapp Forest Elementary** ..... 493-8980  
**Attendance line:**..... 493-8986  
4243 Knapp Valley Drive NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49525  
Principal: Scott Haid

**Meadow Brook Elementary** ..... 493-8740  
**Attendance line:**..... 493-8748  
1450 Forest Hill Avenue SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
Principal: Tim Shaw

**Orchard View Elementary** ..... 493-8930  
**Attendance line:**..... 493-8936  
2770 Leffingwell Avenue NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49525  
Principal: Amy Burton-Major

**Pine Ridge Elementary** ..... 493-8910  
**Attendance line:**..... 493-8916  
3250 Redford Avenue SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
Principal: Mike Lareau

**Thornapple Elementary** ..... 493-8920  
**Attendance line:**..... 493-8926  
6932 Bridgewater Drive SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
Principal: Greg Shubel

## 5/6 Schools

**Central Woodlands 5/6**..... 493-8790  
**Attendance line:**..... 493-8798  
400 Alta Dale Avenue SE  
Ada, MI 49301  
Principal: David Simpson

## 5/6 Schools (continued)

**Goodwillie Environmental 5/6** ..... 493-8633  
**Attendance line:**..... 493-8633  
8400 Two Mile Road NE  
Ada, MI 49301  
Principal: David Washburn

**Northern Trails 5/6**..... 493-8990  
**Attendance line:**..... 493-8993  
3777 Leonard Street NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49525  
Principal: Susan Gutierrez

## Middle Schools

**Central Middle School** ..... 493-8750  
**Attendance line:**..... 493-8762  
5810 Ada Drive SE  
Ada, MI 49301  
Principal: Glenn Mitcham  
Assistant Principal: Charlie Vonk

**Eastern Middle School** ..... 493-8850  
**Attendance line:**..... 493-8856  
2200 Pettis Avenue NE  
Ada, MI 49301  
Principal: David Washburn  
Dean of Students: Tricia McPheron

**Northern Hills Middle School**..... 493-8650  
**Attendance line:**..... 493-8666  
3775 Leonard Street NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49525  
Principal: Nancy Susterka  
Assistant Principal: Joe Curcuru

## High Schools

**Central High School**..... 493-8700  
**Attendance line:**..... 493-8712  
5901 Hall Street SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
Principal: Steve Passinault  
Assistant Principals: Elizabeth Cotter,  
John DeStefano

**Eastern High School**..... 493-8830  
**Attendance line:**..... 493-8836  
2200 Pettis Avenue NE  
Ada, MI 49301  
Principal: Steve Harvey  
Assistant Principals: Tim Hollern,  
Edgar Wilson

**Northern High School** ..... 493-8600  
**Attendance line:**..... 493-8610  
3801 Leonard Street NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49525  
Principal: Jon Gregory  
Assistant Principals: John Dolce,  
Stephanie Hare

## Additional Numbers

**Student Services/  
Special Education Offices** ..... 493-8660  
3787 Leonard Street NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49525  
Director: Jann VanAirsdale

**Operations**..... 493-8780  
150 Alta Dale Avenue SE  
Ada, MI 49301  
Director: Ron Boezwinkle

**Transportation** ..... 493-8785  
6001 Hall Street SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
Director: Darryl Hofstra

**Food Service**..... 493-8774  
160 Alta Dale Avenue SE  
Ada, MI 49301  
Director: Chris Nelson

**Community Services**..... 493-8950  
Community, Aquatic & Senior Citizen Center  
660 Forest Hill Avenue SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
Supervisor: Kelly Swieter

**Fine Arts Center** ..... 493-8965  
600 Forest Hill Avenue SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
Manager: Meggan George

**Child Care** ..... 493-8787  
150 Alta Dale Avenue SE  
Ada, MI 49301  
Child Care Director: Julie Jewell

## Please Call in Your Child's Absences

For the safety and welfare of all students, we require that a parent or guardian call the school office on any day a child is absent. Procedures for reporting student absences are the same at all Forest Hills schools. If your child is absent from school, please call the school's attendance line to explain the reason for the absence. Calls to report student absences should be made as soon as possible during the late evening or morning hours, preferably before 9:30 a.m. Attendance lines are available 24-hours-a-day. If your child will be absent from school for any reason other than illness, please call the school office to make arrangements in advance. If your child is absent from school and you do not call to explain the absence, the school will call you.

# FHPS Food Service Information

## Easy-to-Access School Menus

Forest Hills Public Schools, in partnership with Chartwells K12, uses Nutrislice to publish school menus to an interactive website. Families can view menu item descriptions and photographs, filter common food allergens, translate the menus into another language, view carbohydrate counts and calories, and much more.

It's easy to check out daily, weekly, and monthly lunch menus. The fastest way to access lunch menus is to:

- Go to our website: [www.fhps.net](http://www.fhps.net).
- Click on the little red apple icon at the top of the home page.
- Click on the "Interactive School Menus" button on the right hand side of the page.

When viewing online menus, you can also print the month's menu by clicking on the printer icon located in the upper right-hand side of the menu. Finally, you may also download a free app for a smartphone or mobile device to view menus when you're on the go. Links to these apps also are on our food service website page.

## School Lunch Accounts and Adding Money to the Account

Forest Hills Public Schools uses an online program at [www.sendmoneytoschool.com](http://www.sendmoneytoschool.com) for families to keep track of a student's prepaid lunch account. Families can deposit funds into a student's account, monitor purchases made on the account and view account balances. Funds deposited through



[sendmoneytoschool.com](http://www.sendmoneytoschool.com) are available for the student to use within a matter of minutes. This feature eliminates the need to send a check to school or worry about lost or forgotten lunch money.

To create a new account or to check the balance of a student's account carried over from last year, visit: [www.sendmoneytoschool.com](http://www.sendmoneytoschool.com), and follow the on-screen directions to login. For this school year, the system will no longer charge a per transaction fee per student. The district has simplified the system by changing credit card processors. Families will be charged a flat \$1.75 transaction fee no matter the amount or number of students included with a deposit. With this update, the e-check option is no longer available.

If you are new to the system, you will need your child's Student ID number which can be obtained by contacting the school or by calling the food service department, (616) 493-8774.

## Meals Are Always Available

We will always offer a meal to all students regardless of their lunch account balance. If a child's lunch account balance is zero or below, we will offer a child a meal; however, they will not be allowed to purchase any à la carte items. We will allow them to charge

## 2015-2016 School Lunch Prices

Elementary (K-4) w/milk .....	\$2.60
Secondary (5-12) w/milk.....	\$2.85
Milk only .....	\$0.50
*Reduced Lunch w/milk .....	\$0.40

\*All schools participating in the National School Lunch Program must make free and reduced price meals available to eligible children. To view this year's eligibility requirements and for a confidential application, go online to: [www.fhps.net/food-service](http://www.fhps.net/food-service), or contact your school's secretary for a hard copy of the application. Children who receive a free or reduced meal have the same school lunch card as all of the students in FHPS, so a student's participation in the program remains confidential.

on their lunch account up to three hot lunches, which will create a negative balance on their account. If funds are not deposited into a student's lunch account after these three lunch charges, we will only offer that student a cheese sandwich meal. The student will be charged full price for this meal. A cheese sandwich meal consists of: cold cheese sandwich, fruit and vegetables, and white milk. This child will continue to be offered this meal until his/her lunch account is brought back to at least zero.

## Food Service Forms and Menu Substitutions for Students with Allergies

Additional food service information, forms, policies and free/reduced application forms may be found online at: [www.fhps.net/food-service](http://www.fhps.net/food-service).

## Food Service Questions and Assistance

Our ongoing goal is to provide fresh, nutritious food for our students. We focus on nurturing our students' well-being by preparing delicious and healthy meals they enjoy. Should you have questions or need assistance, please contact Chris Nelson, food service director, at (616) 493-8774 or email at [cnelson@fhps.net](mailto:cnelson@fhps.net).

## Did You Know?

- Approximately 56 percent of the products we purchase are locally grown and/or produced.
- Last year, we served over 825,000 meals to students and staff.
- Our students and staff helped set the Michigan record for the number of people eating a Michigan apple at one time during Michigan's Apple Crunch.



# Before- and After-School Care

When parents work or have to be somewhere before school starts, they want a place they can take their child that is safe and fun and that helps start the day on a positive note. Likewise, parents want the security and peace of mind knowing their child is safe after school. When school schedules and parent schedules just don't match, the Forest Hills Public Schools has a fee-based, before- and after-school child care program.

Our before- and after-school care programs are housed in all of the district's elementary school buildings, including Ada Vista Elementary School. We also offer a before- and after-school care program for our fifth- and sixth-grade students at Central Woodlands 5/6 and Northern Trails 5/6 schools. All before- and after-school care programs run from 6:45 a.m. to the time that the school starts, and from the time school ends until 6:15 p.m.

Before-school care is \$11 per day and breakfast is included. After-school care also is \$11 per day and a snack is included. There is a 10 percent discount applied for five-day scheduling. The before- and after-school care combined cost for one child per day is \$19.80, reflecting a built-in 10 percent discount.

This program is for children 5-years-old by Sept. 1, 2015, through sixth grade. If your child is enrolled in the before- and after-school care program then they may automatically attend the Forest Hills Public Schools' Child Care Program on inclement weather days housed at Central Woodlands 5/6 School and Northern Trails 5/6 School. If your child is enrolled in the before- and after-school program, parents/guardians may also register their child to attend the Child Care Program at Central Woodlands during winter, midwinter and spring



breaks; when school is closed for staff professional learning days and much more. Please note, that the FHPS Child Care programs are not in session on district observed holidays.

Registration in any before- or after-school care program guarantees full day child care if needed, on non-school days. Please call the Child Care Office, 493-8787 for current fees, availability, and additional information. A \$35 annual registration fee will be applied to your first invoice.

Families may register online for the before- and after-school care program. A link to the online registration may be found at: [www.fhps.net/child-care](http://www.fhps.net/child-care).

## Technology Discounts

Forest Hills Public Schools is pleased to offer all families access to a technology purchasing program which provides discounts on the purchase of Dell products, including laptops, desktop computers, select electronics and accessories. Through the Dell Member Purchase Program for Forest Hills Public Schools, families can take advantage of savings and special financing options. To access the program, go to the Dell Member Purchase Program website: <http://dell.com/mpp/foresthills> and use member ID: KS241580. On this site you can compare devices and electronics, see monthly specials, and use an online chat feature for additional sales and service information.

## Support FHN Class of 2016: Apple Pie Sale!

The Forest Hills Northern High School senior class will host its annual apple pie sale to raise funds for their graduation party celebration. Purchase 9-inch deep-dish apple pies that are ready-to-bake or can be frozen and baked when needed. Pies are \$9 each or three for \$25.

You also may choose to donate your pies. Donated pies will be delivered to God's Kitchen, Gilda's Club, Mel Trotter Ministries, Degage Ministries, Ronald McDonald House, YMCA Domestic Crisis Center, and Renucci House at Spectrum Health.

Order by Nov. 7 by visiting the website, [www.fhnapplepie.com](http://www.fhnapplepie.com). Pay using PayPal or your credit card. Pies will be ready to be picked up Saturday, Nov. 14, from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at Forest Hills Northern High School, 3801 Leonard NE. Pies are made fresh that day!

Questions? Email Laura Cox at [lauracoxfamily@me.com](mailto:lauracoxfamily@me.com).



# High School Fall Football Community Festivities

## Central High School

**Friday, Sept. 11, at 4:30 p.m.**

Come join the Custer family community tailgate party. Activities begin at 4 p.m., featuring food, games, cheerleaders, poms, the marching band, face painting, and much more. The event will take place on the fields between Central High School and Central Middle School. The night's football game will feature the Rangers taking on Grand Rapids Christian at 7 p.m.

## Eastern High School

**Friday, Sept. 18, at 4 p.m.**

The Eastern High School Athletic Boosters will host the annual Hawk Rally with family fun, food, games, music, activities for the children, and entertainment. The event will be held on the lawn outside the Hawk Stadium. The all-school athlete parade will begin at 6:45 p.m. Cheer on the Eastern Hawks as they go for a victory against South Christian at 7 p.m.

## Northern High School

**Friday, Oct. 9, at 5 p.m.**

Parents of the Forest Hills Northern senior class will host homecoming and Husky Fest in the commons at the high school. The carnival will include face painting, nail painting, and many games and prizes. The senior class parents will prepare the "Husky Meal Deal" for \$5 per person. After the carnival, follow the marching band into the stadium where the Huskies will take on Northview.

# Forest Hills Congratulates 2015 Advanced Placement Scholars

The Advanced Placement Scholar Awards, sponsored by The College Board, recognizes high school students who have demonstrated college-level achievement through AP courses and exams. Students who complete the rigorous Advanced Placement courses offered in our high schools are eligible to take the nation's standardized AP tests held at the beginning of summer. Students

who demonstrate college-level achievement through AP courses and exams are recognized with several levels of AP Scholar Awards. In addition to receiving a certificate, this achievement is acknowledged on any AP Grade Report that is sent to colleges in the fall. Sometimes, a sufficiently high AP test score allows the student to bypass

an introductory course requirement in college and begin studies at a more advanced level. For 2015, Forest Hills had 13 students named National AP Scholars—the highest award; 103 students named AP Scholars with Distinction; 85 students named AP Scholars with Honor; and 128 students named AP Scholars.

## Central High School

### National AP Scholars

Granted to students in the United States who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.

Alison Farmer	Tasneem Sannah
Alexander Girgis	Taylor Schermers
Fatima Haidar	

### AP Scholars with Distinction

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

Madalyn Alm	Alexander Mallett
Tanner Atwater	Nicholas Mallett
Zachary Brodkey	Elise Marvin
Grant Carlson	Victoria Mischley
Eric Daniels	Colin Murphy
Sarah Delapp	Camden Pastyrnak
Emily Devriese	Hannah Peper
John Dyke	Kevin Pope
Nicholas Ettinger	Anna Raisch
Alison Farmer	Jared Richardson
Nicholas Finelli	Rachel Richardson
Andrew Fox	Nicholas Samra
Alexander Girgis	Tasneem Sannah
Ruchir Gupta	Taylor Schermers
Fatima Haidar	Carson Schmidt
Hope Healey	Audrey Schwartz
Zachary Hoiles	Daniel Slaw
John Hunt	Sofia Stanesco-Bellu
Cooper James	Austin Tomko
Kallie Jiang	Sarah VanDiepenbos
Joshua Kooistra	Lucy Wagenaar

### AP Scholars with Honor

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

Mitchell Anderson	Noah Carlson
Jared Baas	Joshua Cassady
Lucas Bailey	Gabriella DeStefano
Cecelia Batterbee	Meredith Farmer
Kathryn Cammell	Jordan George
Susan Candela	Tanya Juneja

## Central High School

### AP Scholars with Honor (continued)

Morgan Kauss	Hannah Ploof
Clairese Kenyon	Samantha Plouff
Emma Kraimer	Joseph Preston
Eric Krejci	Noah Saleh
Christopher Lenderink	Evon Shay
Hayley Mallett	Catherine Stapleton
Joseph McClure	Bradley Thomas
Connor Nolan	Nicholas Todoroff
Jonathan Pearcy	Jessica Van Ells
	William Xu

### AP Scholars

Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.

Samuel Aidala	Kristin Lewis
Amani Allen	Annika Lintvedt
Humzah Azeem	Madeleine Lorenz
Joshua Ball	Mark Mainero
Timothy Bennett	Evan Martin
Rebeka Benstein	Hugh McDonald
Geoffrey Brown	Sari Muallem
Gabrielle Buchanan	Ryan Mulder
Erin Burke	Bridget O'Connell
Mikelis Butlevics	Kathryn Ott
Sophie Carrington	Ethan Palmer
Joseph Chen	Joshua Reminga
Jacob Coiner	Ibraheem Saleh
Karsen Diepholz	Raneem Sannah
Emma Dixon	Katherine Sarb
Meghan Donovan	Kadin Schermers
Colin Felten	Elliane Siebert
Lukas Gaudette	Michael Soukar
Scott Hadley	Allyson Stapleton
Jaide Hawn	Marlee Talbot
Hannah Helmbrecht	Michael Tanis
Ryan Hilbert	Daniel Tiggleman
Kayla Hunnewell	Tejas Vettukattil
Patrick Jarvis	Sophia Viola
Hannah Jones-Reiser	Elsie Wagner
Caroline Kuiper	Amanda Wang
Megan Lee	Madeleine Wilson
Jennifer Lewis	

## Eastern High School

### National AP Scholars

Granted to students in the United States who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.

Brendan Lenhardt	Jonathan Thomas
Spencer Linn	Allyson Whitsett
Natalie Shabahang	

### AP Scholars with Distinction

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

Stephen Bartlett	Michael Mahacek
Lois Biggs	Josephine Meyers
Amrit Deol	Jonathan Peters
Tiffany Ellis	Nathan Rodriguez
Peyton George	John Rumery
Emma Henkel	Natalie Shabahang
Lydia Hodgson	Ethan Thomas
Alexander Hoffmann	Jonathan Thomas
Samuel Hostetter	Allyson Whitsett
Brendan Lenhardt	Kimberly Yang
Spencer Linn	Emma Yarhouse
Gerald Longjohn	

### AP Scholars with Honor

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

Hafsa Azim	Brianna McCoy
Devon Brown	Isaiah Mendoza
Anna Buckingham	Irene Missler
Payton Burns	Lauren Pham
Isabel Centner	Meghana Ranabothu
Tyler Dann	Hope Roguska
Peter Ellinger	Ally Rzesza
Nicolas Fereday	Tabitha Sherk
Anudeeta Gautam	Reka Slater
Marion Jamet	Annabel Tadic
Parker Janson	Andrew Tift
Serin Joice	Zoe Vanslooten
Jennifer Le	Elise Wassink
Michael Lu	Rachel Westrick



## Eastern High School

### AP Scholars

Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.

Ambika Agrawal	Annika Kuz
Matthew Bageris	Jordan Moreau
Elliot Bekker	Claire Netemeyer
Michael Bova	Maeve Odowd
Jackson Clark	Eduardo Ortiz
Courtney Clay	Henna Singh
Katheryn Couthie	Ashley Smith
Kaitlyn Dann	Rachel Swem
Yordanos Dessie	Jacob Sypniewski
Wesley Gawel	Matthew Taylor
Cassidy Hakken	Maxwell Tenderso
Kathleen Halvorson	Natasha Thapa
Elliot Hoogerland	Rachel Van Boxtel
Beau Hunsaker	Keely Vandenberg
Quentin Johnson	Samuel Whitsell
Daniel Kaufman	

## Northern High School

### National AP Scholars

Granted to students in the United States who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.

Victoria Spiegel	Nicholas VanderLaan
Sharath Sundaram	

### AP Scholars with Distinction

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

Madison Barrett	Andrew Nikolajuk
Jacob Bickel	Teresa Paul
Natalie Brown	Bennett Pelton
William Christian	Emily Pool
Chu-Yuan Chu	Vincent Rogers
Amy Doster	Alexander Rosencrance
Hannah Duiven	Mia Scharnowski
Michael Dykema	Madeleine Sena
Samuel Elwell	Jaspreet Singh
Raymond Engle	Noor Sohail
Sophia Frankel	Hannah Sorensen
Stuart Hart	Victoria Spiegel
Kevin Hinkle	Sharath Sundaram
Matthew Holden	Nicholas Vanderlaan
Emily Joseph	Elizabeth Van Harn
Ayaz Khan	Tai Verbrugge
Audrey Klomparens	Steven Whitaker
Sarah Kuntzman	Katrina Yeomans
Grant Lardieri	
Alicia Nicholas	

### AP Scholars with Honor

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

Collin Barnhardt	Adrienne Bilbao
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## Northern High School

### AP Scholars with Honor (continued)

Megan Brackmann	Nathan Legault
Mikaela Bradley	Sarah Mageed
Keegan Coles	Quinton Oconnor
Andrew Dicks	Gregory Poole
Madison Ford	Owen Purdue
Ethan Grayeb	Daniel Rosengren
Michael Hawkins	Rubee Sandhu
Aaron Heldt	Harris Spungen
Molly Hudson	Lydia Turke
Elizabeth Kiekover	Zachary Wingrove
Nathan Koo	Nicholas Young
Mackenzie Kramer	Gray Zeldes

### AP Scholars

Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.

Kathryn Aaberg	Emily Jazwinski
Lauren Axelrod	Rachael Kepley
Austin Banta	Aldina Mahmutovic
Joshua Belfer	Jan Mecano
Jillianne Carrasco	Caylyn Moglia
Vanessa Chavarriaga	Walter Moore
Ophelia Cheng	Matthew Morello
Dante Compean	William Pettinger
Noah Crampton	Ashley Peuler
Eric Crawford	Liliana Pfeifer
Connor Dipzinski	Matthew Posthuma
Christine Dood	Stephen Prefontaine
Matisen Douglas	Samuel Schellenberg
Bryanna Dunston	Karissa Scholten
Danielle Falling	Mahesh Singh
Rachel Fanning	Katherine Steiner
Mihir Gondhalekar	Paul Tierney
Victor Hao	Maxwell Vanspronsen
Addison Healey	Garrett Vonk
Claire Heiney	Bryce Wallace
Grayam Hotchkiss	Mathew Williams

## FHN Senior Scores Perfect 36 on ACT

Forest Hills Northern High School senior, Nathan Legault, earned a top composite score of 36 on the ACT test. Nationally, while the actual number of students earning a composite score of 36 varies from year to year, on average, less than one-tenth of 1 percent of students who take the ACT earns the top score.

The ACT consists of tests in English, mathematics, reading and science. Each test is scored on a scale of 1-36, and a student's composite score is the average of the four test scores. Some students also take the ACT's optional writing test, but the score for that test is reported separately and is not included within the ACT composite score. ACT test scores are accepted by all major U.S. colleges.

## Cultural Exchange



Forty-three 8- to 13-year-old students from Shanghai visited Michigan over a three-week period in August. The trip was organized through an organization in their schools called Team Awesome. Forest Hills Public Schools' Mandarin Immersion Program partnered with this group to have an afternoon picnic where the Chinese and FHPS students could build relationships, culturally connect and practice their language skills.

## FHPS Students Among Top Winners at Teen Entrepreneur Summer Academy

Several Forest Hills students were among this year's top winners at the 2015 Teen Entrepreneur Summer Academy hosted by Grand Valley State University. During the five-day academy, teams from different schools manufactured original business pitches from the idea stage to a developed concept. On the final day, each team presented their idea to a panel of local business professionals.

Congratulations to the following Forest Hills students who were on the winning teams during this year's Teen Entrepreneur Summer Academy.

### 1st Place

Ryan Miller, FH Eastern High School  
Teresa Paul, FH Northern High School

### 2nd Place

Michaela Gheorghiu, FH Eastern High School  
Alex Plouff, FH Central High School  
Layth Almallah, FH Northern High School  
Jaspreet Singh, FH Northern High School

### 3rd Place

Kevin Wang, FH Central High School

## Calling All Alumni ...

# Forest Hills High School Class of 1965

Which Forest Hills High School do you ask? It is the 50th Year Reunion for those in the Forest Hills High School Class of 1965 (a time when there was only one high school, and it wasn't designated Central, Northern or Eastern). The 50th reunion will be held Saturday, Oct. 3, from 6-11 p.m. at Egypt Valley Country Club. Reservations and inquiries may be made by emailing Tom Carew, [blkvette79@yahoo.com](mailto:blkvette79@yahoo.com), or by calling Bill Manus, (616) 676-2053. According to Manus, "Former classmates are coming from all over the United States and as far away as Saarbrücken, Germany. It should be a gala affair!"

## What You Should Do if You Have School Questions, Concerns

We know there may be times you have questions or concerns about a situation at your child's school. The most important thing is communication, and we offer the following guide to help.

1. Discuss your question or concern with your child's teacher.
2. If you feel you have not received a satisfactory answer or solution, contact the school principal.
3. If the school principal does not resolve the matter to your satisfaction, please call the Superintendent's Office to schedule a meeting with him or his designee.

The final step, if necessary, is to request an appearance before the Forest Hills Public Schools board of education. If you wish to address the board, you must notify the superintendent in writing at least five days before the board is scheduled to meet. Your letter must also describe the problem or concern you wish to discuss.

By following this procedure, your questions and concerns about school-related issues will be resolved.

# Exciting Changes Happening in FHPS Instruction Office

## New Assistant Superintendent for Instruction



Margaret Fellingner

Margaret Fellingner is the new assistant superintendent for instruction and replaces Scott Korpak, Ed.D., who became the superintendent for Northview Public Schools. Fellingner began her career as a teacher in the East Lansing area. Following two years there, she came to Forest Hills teaching first grade at Collins Elementary. That was 28 years ago. Since then, Fellingner has served as a teacher, a learning consultant, a principal, and, for the past four years, as director of instructional services. She has called six different buildings "home" during her tenure in the district and knows the district well. She serves on the board of directors of Learning Forward Michigan. Learning Forward, formerly known as the Michigan Staff Development Council, is part of a national organization advocating for quality research-based professional learning policies and practices for those in the field of education. Fellingner holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Michigan State University, and a master's degree, also from MSU, in curriculum and instruction. Fellingner knows how to merge the expert knowledge and profound wisdom that resides in our teachers and bring this expertise to everyone who helps students learn.

## New Director of Instructional Services



Carole Beverwyk

Carole Beverwyk is the new director of instructional services. Carole comes to us with an outstanding leadership portfolio, including 12 years of central office experience in both smaller and larger districts. She comes to us from Dearborn Heights #7, where she has served as assistant superintendent for K-12 curriculum and human resources. Her teaching experiences range from preschool to high school biology. Throughout her career, she has

received many honors and awards, including Middle School Science Teacher of the Year and was a Fulbright Fellow-Educator Abroad (in Nepal). She has led her districts in the implementation of job-embedded professional learning programs such as coaching and classroom labs. She is passionate about increasing learning opportunities for all students.

## New Chief Innovation Officer



Judy Walton

Forest Hills Public Schools is excited to launch the Center for Innovators—a hub for FHPS teachers and other stakeholders to re-imagine how best to deliver education to all students. The Center's five-year goal is to create learning experiences and environments across the district that are more connected, relevant, collaborative, and personalized. The work of the Center will be facilitated by Judy Walton, chief innovation officer. The job of the CIO is to be a transformational leader who constantly looks for, inspires, and cultivates opportunities for innovation, and who creates an environment that values, allows, and enables teachers to facilitate the best impact on student learning.

Judy Walton has been an employee of Forest Hills Public Schools for over 14 years. While in Forest Hills, she has served as the Advanced Placement test coordinator, an instructional coach, a mock trial team coach, an AP teacher at Forest Hills Northern High School, an elementary assistant principal and was chosen as an attendee of the National Endowment for the Humanities Educational Workshop. Presently she is pursuing her doctorate in educational leadership from Michigan State University, and is the recipient of the Clyde M. Campbell Endowed Fellowship for the 2015 fall semester. She obtained her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan, a law degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School, and her master's degree from Aquinas College.



Like Us on FB!

[www.facebook.com/fhps.net](http://www.facebook.com/fhps.net)



# FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

August/September 2015

## Destination: Innovation Equipping Teachers to Transform Learning

The vision of Forest Hills Public Schools is to create a new model of education which equips each student with the 21st century skills they need to be successful.

This includes four essential elements:

- Achieving educational standards
- Project-based rather than subject-based learning
- Individual plans based on student's progress
- Advanced training for teachers

Creating a new model is exciting, fulfilling, and leading-edge work. Oddly enough, it bears a much stronger resemblance to research and development than it does to traditional education. It is, in fact, true innovation.

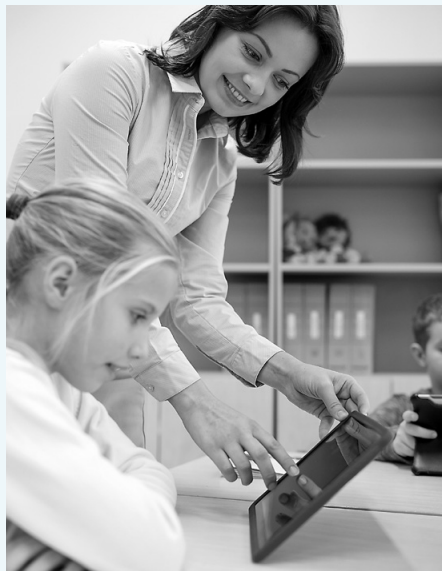
### The Campaign

The Forest Hills Public Schools Foundation is charged with raising the funds needed for this educational R&D. Our \$500,000 "Destination: Innovation" advancement campaign will fund exploration of new learning methods, structures, and ideas. These funds will enrich teachers with essential resources—such as time, training and technology—so they

can deliver a new type of learning in a new way.

Exciting concepts keep emerging from both students and faculty as they embrace innovation. This campaign will allow both teachers and students to test and explore the most intriguing paths for research.

Give securely online at [www.fhpsf.org](http://www.fhpsf.org) or contact Jana Siminski, (616) 493-8954 or [jsiminski@fhpsf.net](mailto:jsiminski@fhpsf.net).



### Innovation Newsletter

## New for 2015!

We are excited to announce the creation of a newsletter to highlight innovation throughout the district. We will focus on what innovation means, why it's important and how it's making an impact on Forest Hills' students. We will produce six issues a year with the first issue slated for October. If you would like to receive this newsletter, please visit [www.fhpsf.org](http://www.fhpsf.org) to subscribe.

## Forest Hills Public Schools Foundation

Jana Siminski, Director

600 Forest Hill Avenue SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

(616) 493-8954 or  
[jsiminski@fhpsf.net](mailto:jsiminski@fhpsf.net)

[www.fhpsf.org](http://www.fhpsf.org)

## the Gala

### Make Plans to Attend!

The Gala 2015 is a high-impact community celebration of quality education, and the role the Forest Hills Public Schools Foundation plays in helping engage students and expand their horizons. It also offers a chance to honor the Forest Hills Public Schools Teacher of the Year.

### Event Details

Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2015

Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

- Dress: cocktail attire, black-tie optional
- Gala Co-Chairs: Mark and Kellie Custer
- Gala Emcee: Judge Sara Smolenski

6 p.m. – 7 p.m.: Reception and Support  
Our Schools Preview

7 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.: Dinner and Program

### Make Reservations

Sponsorships are available. You can purchase sponsorships online at [www.fhpsf.org](http://www.fhpsf.org) or by calling (616) 493-8954. Individual tickets are available for \$200/person or by coordinating a Circle of Friends table for \$150/ticket. For more information, please contact the Foundation at (616) 493-8954.

### Support Our Schools

The Forest Hills Public Schools Foundation will promote the Support Our Schools initiative, where we will be highlighting specific needs identified and requested by each school. Gala guests will have the opportunity to help our schools by funding selected needs. What a great way to make an impact on the schools, the classrooms, and the students!

*Please attend the 2015 Gala and help us help our schools!*

## 2015-16 Board of Education Meetings

The Forest Hills Public Schools board of education meets monthly. The meeting times of the regular board meetings are now 7 p.m. The community is invited and welcomed to attend.

**Monday, August 17, 2015**

Community and Aquatic Center  
660 Forest Hill Ave. SE

**Monday, September 21, 2015**

Thornapple Elementary School  
6932 Bridgewater Dr. SE

**Monday, October 19, 2015**

Pine Ridge Elementary School  
3250 Redford Ave. SE

**Monday, November 16, 2015**

Orchard View Elementary School  
2770 Leffingwell Ave. NE

**Monday, December 21, 2015**

Transportation Department  
6001 Hall St. SE

**Monday, January 18, 2016**

Central High School  
5901 Hall St. SE

**Monday, February 15, 2016**

Ada Elementary School  
731 Ada Dr. SE

**Monday, March 21, 2016**

Meadow Brook Elementary School  
1450 Forest Hill Ave. SE

**Monday, April 18, 2016**

Operations Department  
150 Alta Dale Ave. SE

**Monday, May 16, 2016**

Eastern High School  
2200 Pettis Ave. NE

**Monday, June 6, 2016**

Forest Hills Fine Arts Center  
600 Forest Hill Ave. SE

## 2015-2016 Board of Education Members

**Douglas Josephson**, President

**Mary Vonck**, Vice President

**Martha Atwater**, Secretary

**Walter F. Perschbacher III**, Treasurer

**Dr. James Fahner**, Trustee

**Susan Lenhardt**, Trustee

**Michael Seekell**, Trustee

**Daniel Behm**, Superintendent

## Embracing the Enthusiasm

(continued from front page)

summer's day to get a glimpse of the world through the eyes of an incoming kindergartner. I wanted to capture some of their excitement about beginning school. I asked them what their family had said to them before coming to this summer class. Here is what they said.

"Have fun." "Enjoy the day." "Remember to wash your hands." "Look both ways." "Use your manners." "Be nice to others." "Be good." "Be happy." "Be glad." "Use a Kleenex." "Be gentle." "Make new friends." "Treat people how you want to be treated." "Be there when someone gets hurt." "Make good choices." "Be generous." "Try your best." "Teach others." "Be kind." "Learn something new." "I love you."

Reflecting on these words, I think our children are wise beyond their years. These children are in tune and in touch with what really matters. We can all gain a fresh perspective when we listen to children. These children are effortlessly sincere and love-filled. The distance between their head and

their heart is merely inches, and so much shorter than it is for adults.

So as we embark on the 2015-2016 school year, may we be connected to our 5- or 6-year-old self. I encourage all of us to emanate the energy of life. Show excitement, joy, support, love and encouragement. Embrace this school year with all the energy that it exudes.

Whether you have a child beginning kindergarten, or entering their senior year, we celebrate the cultivating of minds in our youth and the limitless possibilities that this school year brings. We also know the heart of a child lies within each of us. Let's be open to the wonders of each day. Embrace the new school year with anticipation, eagerness and enthusiasm.

On behalf of the board of education, welcome to the 2015-2016 school year. I wish all of our families a bright and bountiful year!

With deep respect and appreciation,

Daniel S. Behm, Superintendent

## Bond Update: Construction Projects

(continued from front page)



Work continues on the creation of the additional gymnasium on the campus of Eastern high and middle schools. Construction will not interfere with fall school events, and is expected to be completed prior to the end of November.



This summer, some elementary school playgrounds received upgraded equipment, and drainage issues were addressed. In this photo, Orchard View Elementary's playground is nearing completion.

## Bus Routes for This School Year

(continued from page 4)

Finally, please remember that the safety of children is not only our priority, but we partner with you, as parents and guardians to ensure that your child is safely on their way to, and home from, their bus stop. We care for your child when they are on the bus, and it is the parents'/guardians'

responsibility to safely get their child to and from the bus stop each day.

Should you have questions pertaining to bus travel and route information, please contact the Transportation Department, (616) 493-8785, or email: [transportation@fhps.net](mailto:transportation@fhps.net).

# Stay in Touch with Your School and District; Make Sure You're Receiving News

- **SchoolMessenger Used for School Closings, Delays and Emergencies**
- **Emailed News Bulletins Keep You Informed of Events, Happenings, Reminders, Activities and More**

As another school year begins, it is important that our schools and school district remain in contact with our families. We want to make sure you remain informed during the year and receive up-to-date information. The following outlines the communication methods used throughout the district. Please review this information to make sure you've taken the necessary steps to receive the information.

## SchoolMessenger

Forest Hills Public Schools uses an enhanced communication system called SchoolMessenger. The communication system is fast, doesn't get blocked by SPAM filters, and better yet, families control the information they receive and how they receive it. SchoolMessenger notifies families of school closings or delays due to inclement weather, and alerts families of school emergencies. Families can receive SchoolMessenger alerts via a text, email or phone call message.

SchoolMessenger works with the Parent Portal section of PowerSchool, the Forest Hills Public Schools' computerized student records database. For existing families with students previously enrolled in the district, Parent Portal and PowerSchool will reopen on Tuesday, Sept. 8. On that date, existing families can check their SchoolMessenger preferences. Families with new students enrolled in the district, will receive a letter later in September indicating their Parent Portal login information and additional information about SchoolMessenger. Families should always contact their student's school to update their phone number and email contact information if or when a change occurs. Additional information is posted online: <http://www.fhps.net/technology-department/schoolmessenger/>.

## Emailed News Bulletins

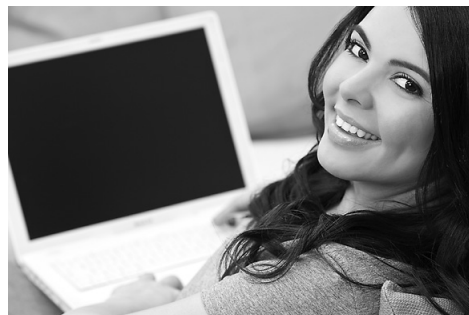
General information such as field trip permission slips, important activities happening, senior graduation information, student/group accomplishments and general news are all communicated through our emailed

news bulletins. Each school building, along with the district, has their own emailed news bulletin. News bulletins are generated when the school or district updates information on their homepage of their website. If nothing has been added that day to the website, families will not receive an email update that day. The emailed news digests are short, clear and concise bulletins, and link families to additional information if and when needed. Families won't have to search previous emailed announcements since everything is online.

Please subscribe to the district news bulletin along with your student's school bulletin. Here's how:

1. Visit our website: [www.fhps.net](http://www.fhps.net).
2. Find the "Subscribe to Emailed News" button on the right-hand side of our home page.
3. Fill in your first name, last name and email address.
4. Check all the emailed news bulletins you'd like to receive.
5. Click the "Subscribe" button. A confirmation message should appear stating that your request was successful and to check your inbox.
6. IMPORTANT: Go to your email inbox and open the confirmation email regarding your subscription, and follow the directions.

Should you have any questions regarding Parent Portal or SchoolMessenger, please email: [schoolmessenger@fhps.net](mailto:schoolmessenger@fhps.net) or call the Parent Portal Help Line at (616) 493-8550. For questions pertaining to our emailed news bulletins, email: [info@fhps.net](mailto:info@fhps.net).



## Students Win Meijer Great Choices Film Festival Awards

Two Forest Hills students once again took top honors at this year's Great Choices Student Film Festival. Out of over 420 entries received, 60 awards were given to students throughout Michigan honoring them for their winning film entries. Students submitted 30-second public service announcements promoting positive choices in the areas of character education, healthy lifestyles and celebrating diversity.

Matthew Morello, a recent graduate of Forest Hills Northern, took home first and second place honors for his videos. Morello took first place in the seventh-12th grade building character category with his video titled, "Conserve," and a second place in the seventh-12th grade healthy lifestyles category with this video, "Labels."

Christian Raguse, a recent graduate of Forest Hills Eastern High School, placed first for his K-6 healthy lifestyles video, "Circus Animals."

The festival was developed in partnership with Meijer Inc., Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Chemical Bank, The VanderLaan Family Foundation, Celebration Cinema North and the Van Singel Fine Arts Center.

## Non-Discrimination Policy

Forest Hills Public Schools is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age, height, weight, marital status, genetic information, or any legally protected characteristic in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities. Any questions concerning compliance issues with Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, including athletic issues, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, or inquiries related to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicap, should be directed to:

Christine Annese  
Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources  
Forest Hills Public Schools  
6590 Cascade Road SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
493-8805

# Forest Hills Fine Arts Center

**It's Almost Here!**  
**Our 12th Season of Outstanding Performances**

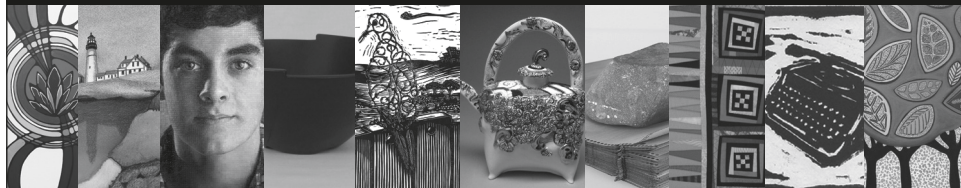


**Announcement Coming Sept. 2015**  
[www.fhfineartscenter.com](http://www.fhfineartscenter.com)

## "Hairspray" Is Real Crowd Pleaser at FAC

Summer Stock 2015, Forest Hills Public Schools' musical theater summer study program for students in grades ninth through 12th, presented Broadway's big musical hit "Hairspray." Audience members were delighted by talented performances and witnessed the show's protagonist, Tracy, achieve her dream of performing on a TV dance show in 1960s Baltimore. Summer Stock is a credit course offering high school students the opportunity to learn about theatrical production and performance while actually creating their own musical production. Next year's program will be announced in March 2016.

## Forest Hills Fine Arts Center 15/16 Artist-in-Residence & Exhibit Schedule



**ANTHONY MEAD & STEVEN RAINEY**  
 September 7 – 25, 2015  
 Reception: Thursday, September 10, 2015

**JODY WILLIAMS**  
 October 1 – 23, 2015  
 Reception: Thursday, October 8, 2015

**JAN G. VONK**  
**Celebration of an Artist's Life**  
 October 30 – November 20, 2015  
 Reception: Thursday, November 12, 2015

**FHPS STAFF & COMMUNITY EXHIBIT**  
 December 2 – 16, 2015  
 Reception: Wednesday, December 9, 2015

**THERESA BRAVATA**  
 January 8 – 29, 2016  
 Reception: Thursday, January 14, 2016

**GEORGIA TARDY**  
 February 1 – 26, 2016  
 Reception: Thursday, February 11, 2016

**ALYNN GUERRA**  
 March 4 – 25, 2016  
 Reception: Thursday, March 10, 2016

**FHPS STUDENT EXHIBIT**  
 April 15 – May 12, 2016  
 Reception: Thursday, April 21, 2016

**KATHY MOHL**  
 May 23 – June 10, 2016  
 Reception: Thursday, June 2, 2016

**VIVIAN & JEFF GRILL**  
 June 17 – July 15, 2016  
 Reception: Thursday, June 23, 2016

**MADELINE KACZMARCZYK**  
 July 27 – August 19, 2016  
 Reception: Thursday, August 4, 2016



"Hairspray" featured big songs, big talent and big hair! The show received standing ovations at every performance. Pictured here, students finish a show-stopping song.

## FH Community Band

Forest Hills Adult Community Band is an organization of adults who share a common interest in making music. This band includes college students, retirees, professionals, music instructors, and homemakers from the Grand Rapids area. Musicians of all skill levels and ability are welcomed. Teacher Greg Christensen of Eastern High School serves as conductor. Visit [www.fhacb.org](http://www.fhacb.org) for more. The band rehearses every Thursday from September through May, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Forest Hills Eastern High School.

To register to become a band member, or for more information, please call FHPS Community Services at 493-8950 or visit [www.enjoylearning.com](http://www.enjoylearning.com). The cost is \$49 for residents and \$59 for non-residents.

## Forest Hills Community Band Fall and Winter Concerts

**Fall Concert** – Sunday, Oct. 18, 2015  
**Winter Concert** – Sunday, Dec. 13, 2015  
 2:30 p.m., Eastern High School Auditorium  
 Concerts are free and fun for the entire family.



600 Forest Hill Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
 Phone: 616.493.8965 Box Office: 616.493.8966  
[www.fhfineartscenter.com](http://www.fhfineartscenter.com)

All exhibits are free to the public, everyone is welcome.  
 Exhibit Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday  
 Summer Exhibit Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Thursday  
 Artist Receptions: 6pm - 7pm in the FHFAC lobby.

Presenting Sponsor for the 15/16 Exhibit & Artist-In-Residence Program



AIR/Exhibit Supporting Sponsors






# Community Services Offers Exciting Fall Classes for All Ages

Forest Hills community enrichment classes allow students of all ages to explore their creativity, broaden their talents, develop new skills, and just have fun! Classes cover subjects including art, dance, fitness, language, cooking, computers, aquatics, personal enrichment, sports, and more. Browse through our catalog online at [enjoylearning.com](http://enjoylearning.com).

## Learn to Swim or Enjoy a Water Workout

Empower your child with the skills to enjoy the water as a lifelong activity. The Aquatic Center offers the American Red Cross Learn-to-Swim program on Saturday mornings from 9:10 a.m. to noon for ages 5 and above. Each class is 50 minutes long and they start Sept. 12 and wrap up on Nov. 14, with an omit date of Sept. 26. Preschool swimming lessons are offered on weekdays. Details for each class can be found on our website at [enjoylearning.com](http://enjoylearning.com).

Want to enjoy some revitalizing water exercise after a long day at work? We offer two evening water exercise classes, Swimercise: High Intensity and Deep Water Aerobics. All of our adult water exercise classes are co-ed.

## Youth Enrichment Classes

Community Services offers traditional after-school enrichment classes and sports. Here are some of the highlights for fall 2015:

- **Kendall College presents Brush Upon a Star:** For first- through fourth-grade students, this class will encourage students to use their imagination to draw and paint outer space as if they lived there.
- **Michigan Ballet Academy presents Pre-Ballet and Beginning Ballet:** For ages 5-7 and 7-9 respectively, these classes introduce dance in a fun and creative way while providing body awareness, musicality, flexibility, and coordination.
- **Bricks 4 Kidz Wild Weather Fun :** Kids in first through fourth grades will learn about the amazing forces of nature by building weather models using LEGO bricks.
- **Cupcake Creations:** Students in fourth through sixth grades will team up with adults to create entrées and desserts that resemble cupcakes.
- **I Can Run a Marathon:** Third- through sixth-grade students will enjoy running

one- to three-mile segments each class that will accumulate toward the 26.2 miles of a real marathon. Class activities culminate in a 2.2 mile run on Saturday, Oct. 15.

- **Girls' Volleyball Camp:** Students of all experience levels in grades fifth and sixth will learn skills and participate in drills/ games to prepare them for high school volleyball.

A complete list of fall youth classes and sports is included in the Community Services class catalog mailed in August. Class information is also available online at [enjoylearning.com](http://enjoylearning.com), or call 493-8950.

## Middle School Sports

We offer two sports for seventh- and eighth-graders:

- **Co-ed Middle School Soccer:** This class starts Sept. 8 through Oct. 29 (Monday-Thursday) from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Middle level soccer teams are designed to enhance players' abilities by providing quality instruction in a fun environment.
- **Co-ed Swimming and Diving:** This class starts on Nov. 2 and meets for 28 sessions (Monday - Thursday). Join the middle school swim and dive season. A complete practice and meet calendar will be given out on the first day of practice.

To participate in middle school soccer or swimming and diving, athletes must have a physical on file dated after April 15, 2015, before they can attend a practice. Please call 493-8950 to register for either of these two sports.

## Adult Enrichment Classes

This fall we are offering 14 new classes in a variety of areas. Take a look:

- Watercolor Exploration: The Basics
- QuickBooks for Business or CEO of the Home
- Group Fitness for Beginners
- Fitness for People Who Hate to Exercise
- Renewing Your Core
- Ballroom and Latin Dance for Couples
- Know Your Investments
- Cookies and Muffins Galore

... and several more new classes! Check out our catalog coming to your mailbox this August, or visit us at [enjoylearning.com](http://enjoylearning.com).

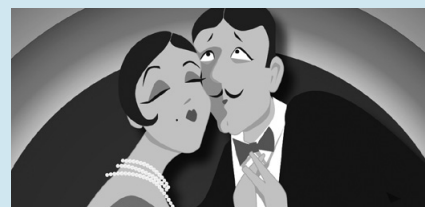
## Senior Citizen Corner Learning Café

### Great American Songbook Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2015, noon

Listen to songs from the Great American Songbook performed by jazz pianist, Robin Connell. Robin blends a bit of musical history narrative along with singing/ playing each song. She holds a doctorate of arts and currently enjoys adjunct teaching at Aquinas College and Grand Rapids Community College.

Lunch at noon; program at 12:45 p.m.  
Forest Hills Community Services, 660 Forest Hill Avenue SE.

Cost: \$8 per person for lunch and program (\$9 for non-residents); \$2 for program only (\$3 for non-residents). Please call in your reservation to 493-8950 or register online at [enjoylearning.com](http://enjoylearning.com).



### Special Concert Whoopie!

Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2015, 1 p.m.  
(Doors open at 12:30 p.m.)

#### Forest Hills Fine Arts Center

Enjoy songs from the 1920s and 1930s, including the "Charleston" and "Varsity Drag" performed by Mary Rademacher and the Live Wires (Tom and Cherie Lynn Hagen and Mike Lutley).

Call 493-8950 or visit [enjoylearning.com](http://enjoylearning.com) to register. Cost: \$8 if you register by Monday, Oct. 12, by 4 p.m.; or \$10 at the door. (Cash/check only on day of show.)

Hosted by:



Community Services  
Forest Hills Public Schools

Sponsored by:



PORTER HILLS

## Groovin' at the Gardens

Save the date, Friday, Jan. 29, 2016, for our popular dance, Groovin' at the Gardens. Girls in grades K-6, along with an adult, will dance the night away at Meijer Gardens. Visit [enjoylearning.com](http://enjoylearning.com) for more information.



Forest Hills Public Schools

6590 Cascade Road SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Phone: (616) 493-8800



**POSTMASTER:**

This publication contains dated material. Deliver to homes no later than Aug. 24, 2015.

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# Sharing the Road Safely with School Buses

School buses are the safest mode of transportation for getting children back and forth to school. Riding in a school bus is safer than walking, riding a bicycle, or being driven to school in private vehicles.

Here are some safety tips for drivers sharing the road with school buses:

- Prepare to stop when a slowing bus has its overhead yellow lights flashing.
- Stop at least 20 feet away from buses when red lights are flashing, unless driving in the opposite direction on a divided highway.

- All 50 states have a law making it illegal to pass a school bus that is stopped to load or unload children.
- All 50 states require that traffic in both directions stop on undivided roadways when students are entering or exiting a school bus.
- Traffic behind the school bus (traveling in the same direction) must stop. In Michigan, you must also stop if the school bus is on the opposite side of the street and when the lanes are not separated by a barrier, such as a concrete or grass median, island or other structures that separate the flow of traffic.



- Never pass a school bus on the right. It is illegal and could have tragic consequences.
- Slow down in or near school and residential areas.
- Watch for children between parked cars and other objects
- Children are unpredictable. Children walking to or from their bus are usually very comfortable with their surroundings. This makes them more likely to take risks, ignore hazards or fail to look both ways when crossing the street.

School buses are like traffic signals. Remember:

When overhead lights are flashing yellow: Prepare to stop!

When overhead lights are flashing red: Kids ahead ... STOP!

— Information from the National Safety Council

## Save the Date!

# Our Kids' Well-Being Speaker Series: "The Emotional Side of Change"

Monday, Nov. 30, at 7 p.m.  
Forest Hills Fine Arts Center

Everyone experiences change or goes through various transitions in life. Whether it is moving to a new home, a death in the family, an illness, financial matters, divorce, or attending a new school, these events have multiple effects. Changes and transitions in life bring a whirlwind of emotions and feelings, and how we respond during these times can have a cascading effect on other individuals and future events.

Set aside a couple of hours, grab some coffee, and attend the fall "Our Kids' Well-Being" speaker series featuring Nancy Anne Colflesh, Ph.D. She is the lead learning advocate for the Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association's Leadership Matters Specialty Endorsement Program. She also is an assistant professor in the College of Education, Department of Educational Administration at Michigan State University. Nancy owns and operates



her own educational consulting company, Colflesh & Associates.

More information about her visit and the evening of Nov. 30 will be posted online: [www.fhps.net](http://www.fhps.net). This event is free.

If you'd like additional information from previous speakers and programs coordinated by our AAA team, visit: [www.fhps.net/mental-health-information](http://www.fhps.net/mental-health-information).

Presented by:



### Publication information:

The Forest Hills Public Schools' "Focus" newsletter is published bimonthly during the school year by the FHPS board of education. It is mailed to all residents of the Forest Hills Public Schools district, and additional copies are sent to every district school for distribution to staff, new residents, and visitors. FHPS is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination of all its programs in relation to race, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability and genetic information.