



# focus

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## FHPS Collaborative Team of the Year Helps Every Child Learn

In a typical elementary level classroom at the start of the school year, students are assigned to one teacher, and they primarily stick with that one teacher throughout their entire year with a group of 25 or so other students. However, imagine walking into a classroom, still with a group of 25 or so students, but you are not assigned to just one teacher. By the time the end of the first week rolls around, all teachers in that grade level know your name, who you are, and a little more about you. Imagine that all four of these teachers are interested not just in your success, but the success of every student in your grade level. It does not matter where you are academically in a subject, but what matters is that every student grows wherever they are on their learning continuum.

This year, Forest Hills Public Schools acknowledged the collaborative achievements of Knapp Forest Elementary School's fifth grade teachers with its first-ever "Collaborative Team of the Year" award. The teacher team of Matt Meyer, Heather Martin, Emiko Conroy, and Tim Greenlee, began on a journey together in earnest about four years ago, when they took a deeper look at educational leader, Richard DuFour's professional learning community questions:

1. What is it we expect all of our students to learn?
2. How will we know if they have learned it?
3. How will we respond when one or more of them don't learn it?

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## Vik Srinivasan Appointed to FHPS Board of Education



Vik Srinivasan

The Forest Hills Public Schools Board of Education is pleased to announce they unanimously approved and appointed Forest Hills resident Vik Srinivasan to the board. His term began in February and he

will be up for election in November 2018. Srinivasan currently is group vice president for distribution operations at Meijer Inc., where he oversees the distribution and wholesale operations for Meijer across 19 facilities comprised of more than 4,000 team members in the Midwest. He and his wife are active parents in the district and have young children in elementary school and preschool.

Eight individuals applied to fill the vacancy that became available following the resignation of Susan Lenhardt, who served the district for nearly 10 years on the board. In a letter he filed with his application, Srinivasan said, "I'm a very strong believer in the importance of education to achiev-

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Fifth-grade teachers from Knapp Forest Elementary School are honored as the first Collaborative Team of the Year. Pictured from left: Knapp Forest Principal Scott Haid; teachers, Tim Greenlee, Matt Meyer, Emiko Conroy, and Heather Martin; and Superintendent Dan Behm.

# FHPS Collaborative Team of the Year

(continued from the front page)

4. How will we respond when one or more of them already know it?

Beginning with one unit in math, and with some self-acknowledged skepticism, they decided to try grouping all of their fifth-grade students based on what they needed around fractions — or as the team described it, the “fifth-grade nemesis.” The students were given a pretest, and each teacher took a different tier of students. When the team analyzed the data at the end of the unit, Martin said they were “blown away” at the growth exhibited by every single student. She adamantly noted, “We couldn’t turn our backs on that data.”

The team continued the new model for math, and at the end of the school year, they decided to go “all in” with language arts as well. They planned together over the summer, and launched the next fall with reading, writing, and math.

The teacher team changes growth groups unit by unit, and year by year. The team believes that this grows their teaching practice and continues to push them to learn. It also breathes life into the idea articulated by Greenlee that, “These are all our students, and we’re going to find a way to work with all of them, and get all of them to grow. It shows students that it doesn’t matter which homeroom teacher they are assigned to at the beginning of the year, they have four teachers all committed to each of them.”

The model also enhances student engagement. As Conroy shared, “I think students begin looking forward to coming to school. I, too, look forward to coming to school and working with all of these individuals. And the kids, they come into school ready to learn, and I think it’s attributed to having trusted teammates, colleagues, and friends like this.”

For educators who would like to make this happen in their building, subject area, or grade level, Meyer offered this advice that his teammates wholeheartedly agreed with: “Accept that the job (of a teacher) is bigger than one person. That it is okay to blow up the model. And we’re all products of the model...but you have to have the trust to say, ‘It’s bigger than me. I need help to do it better for the kids.’”

“This fifth-grade team at Knapp Forest is doing something remarkable and amazing for their class, and the students are the greatest beneficiaries,” said Knapp Forest Principal Scott Haid.

To learn more about this amazing team of teachers and their philosophy of empowering, engaging, and educating every child in their care, listen to their podcast interview on our Center for Innovators’ Conversation Innovation blog: [fhpsinnovators.blogspot.com](http://fhpsinnovators.blogspot.com), and click 2017.

# Vik Srinivasan Appointed to Board

(continued from the front page)

ing individual potential. I feel fortunate to have grown up in a very education-focused family that seeded a life-long interest in continuous learning and was nurtured as a student in the public school systems here in Michigan. It is my hope that all students of Forest Hills can enjoy a similar experience wherein education can help them unlock their unique paths to success.”

According to the board president, Mary Vonck, it was apparent during the interview process of Srinivasan’s talent, his experience with connecting the world of work to education, the importance of building community partnerships, and always doing what is in the best interest for all students. “Vik brings to the board of education an understanding of school governance, the importance of servant leadership and stewardship, and the insight of continued innovation in education,” Vonck said. “He personifies the vision we have for our district and will help position our district for continued growth and success. We are honored to have him as a board of education member and serve our community, staff, and students.

“We, the board of education, are humbled by so many passionate and talented individuals who came forward, applied for the position, and interviewed,” Vonck added. “We truly witnessed people’s commitment and dedication to our school district and we are fortunate to be supported by such a caring and involved school community.”

Srinivasan served on the Forest Hills Public Schools Foundation Board for the past four years, and recently served as board chair. He holds a master’s of business administration from Northwestern University, a master’s of engineering management from the School of Engineering at Vanderbilt University, and a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Michigan.



## ■ Cover Photo

Troy Sorensen, 11th-grader at Forest Hills Northern High School, joins Emily Briggs, 11th-grader at Forest Hills Central High School, as they work together on their underwater remote operated vehicle. FHPS STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) Academy students used the pool at the aquatic center to test their UROVs prior to a statewide competition.



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# FHPS Board Thanks Member Susan Lenhardt



Susan Lenhardt

The Forest Hills Public Schools Board of Education recently honored long-time board member, Susan Lenhardt, who served the district as a board member for nearly 10 years as a trustee and secretary.

Lenhardt resigned from her position as board secretary in January citing the need to focus on family and the future. In a letter to the board, Lenhardt wrote, "It has been a true joy, honor, and privilege to serve alongside an immensely-talented group of people, all such amazing servant leaders who share such tremendous heart for kids. I have learned and grown much in your company, and I will greatly treasure my time on the board."

"Susan has been a leader of our schools, an advocate for every student, and always has students' best interests at heart," said Dan Behm, superintendent. "She was about kids, first and foremost. While on the board, she wanted to make sure we did everything we could for every child and help every child achieve their given potential no matter their academic ability."

"She personifies the best in public service to our schools and to our community," said Mary Vonck, FHPS board president. "As a board member, she always had a positive attitude and faced the tough decisions by listening to all sides and asking just the right questions before reaching a decision. She was inquisitive, honest and loyal, and will be deeply missed."

Lenhardt's resignation in January led the board to post the vacancy, filled in February by Vik Srinivasan.



Susan Lenhardt (left) and former board of education member, Dr. James Fahner (right) meet with students at Meadow Brook Elementary School.

# Upcoming District Events

## Calendar Listing of Community-Wide School Events

### April

- 10 Meadow Brook 3rd and 4th Grade Concert, "From the Inside Out," 7 p.m., FAC
- 11 Ada Elementary 1st-4th Grade Music Program, 7 p.m., FAC
- 12 "Kids Under the Influence of Social Media," 7 p.m., FAC
- 16 FHPS Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., Northern High School
- 17 FHPS Student Art Exhibit Reception, 6 p.m., FAC
- 18 Meadow Brook Kindergarten Kickoff Parent Meeting, 6 p.m., Cafeteria
- College Night, 6 p.m., FHN Auditorium
- Orchard View 5th Grade Musical, 7 p.m., FAC
- 19 FHE Student Directed Play, "Star-Crossed Scholars," 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- Knapp Forest 5th Grade Finale Show, 7 p.m., FAC
- 20 FHE Student Directed Play, "Star-Crossed Scholars," 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- 23 FHC Jazz Summit and Night of Percussion, 7 p.m., FAC
- 24 Pine Ridge Elementary Kindergarten Kickoff Parent Meeting, 7 p.m., Gym
- 25 Knapp Forest Elementary Kindergarten Kickoff Parent Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Gym
- 26 Ada Elementary Kindergarten Kickoff Parent Meeting, 6 p.m., Gym
- Collins Elementary Kindergarten Kickoff Parent Meeting, 7 p.m., Collins Gym
- Orchard View Elementary Kindergarten Kickoff Parent Meeting, 6 p.m., Gym
- Thornapple Elementary 1st Grade Concert, 7 p.m., Gym
- FHN Spring Musical, "Grease," 7:30 p.m., FHN Auditorium
- 27 FHN Spring Musical, "Grease," 7:30 p.m., FHN Auditorium
- 30 FHE Community Blood Drive, 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., FHE Auxiliary Gym
- Central Woodlands 6th Grade / Central Middle 7th-8th Grade Band Concert, 7 p.m., FAC

### May

- 1 Ada Vista Kindergarten Kickoff Parent Meeting, 6 p.m., Gym
- Thornapple Elementary Kindergarten Kickoff Parent Meeting, 7 p.m., Gym
- FHC Spring Band Concert, 7 p.m., FAC
- 3 FHPS State of the District Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Watermark CC, RSVP Required
- Collins Elementary 1st Grade Musical, 6:30 p.m., FHN Auditorium
- Eastern Middle School Musical, "The Little Mermaid Jr." 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- 4 Eastern Middle School Musical, "The Little Mermaid Jr." 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- 7 Eastern Middle / Eastern High Jazz Band Showcase, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- FHC Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m., FAC
- 8 Collins Elementary Kindergarten Musical, 6:30 p.m., Collins Gym
- Meadow Brook 1st Grade Concert, "Arf," 7 p.m., FHN Auditorium
- Central Woodlands 5th Grade Musical, 7 p.m., FAC
- 9 FHE Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- Central Woodlands 5th Grade Musical, 7 p.m., FAC
- 10 FHN Band Concert, 7 p.m., FAC
- 11 Collins Elementary Asian Pacific Heritage Celebration, 9-11:30 a.m., Media Center
- 14 FHPS Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., Community and Aquatic Center
- Eastern Middle School Spring Band Concert, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- FHN Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m., FAC
- 15 FHE Band Concert, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- FHN Choir Concert, 7 p.m., FAC
- 16 FHPS Community Services' Healthy Living Lecture Series, 12:30 - 4:30 p.m., FAC
- Eastern Middle School Spring Choir Concert, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- 17 Ada Vista 1st-4th Grade Spring Program, 6:30 p.m., FAC
- FHE Choir Concert, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- 21 FHC Commencement, 7 p.m., Calvin College
- 22 FHE Commencement, 7 p.m., Calvin College
- 23 FHN Commencement, 7 p.m., Calvin College
- 24 Northern Trails 6th Grade / Northern Hills Middle 7th-8th Grade Choir Concert, 7 p.m., FAC
- Knapp Forest / Orchard View 6th Grade Band Concert, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- 29 Knapp Forest / Orchard View 6th Grade, Eastern Middle Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium

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# KIDS UNDER the INFLUENCE

The hidden impact of screen time and social media on a child's wellness  
**APRIL 12, 2018 • 7 P.M.**

**FHPS Fine Arts Center**  
 600 Forest Hill Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546



**Katey McPherson**  
 Internet Safety Expert

The event is a free parent workshop based on McPherson's experience as a K-12 guidance counselor and school administrator watching children/teens manage the uncharted waters of screen time and social media.

Practical evidence-based strategies and tips to manage and supervise digital device use will be offered.

Register for this free workshop at [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com).

Sponsored by the **Awareness Acceptance Advocacy of Mental Health** Parent Group



## Forest Hills Northern Musical Theater Class

- PRESENTS -



**April 26 & 27 at 7:30 pm**

Forest Hills Northern Auditorium  
 3801 Leonard NE

All tickets available at the door  
 Adults \$8  
 Students \$5

Fun for the whole family!

Produced in cooperation with Samml French and Warner Chappell Music Inc.

## FHN Presents "Grease"

**April 26 and 27, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Forest Hills Northern High Auditorium**

Featuring the hit songs "Greased Lightnin'" and "Summer Nights," this school version of "Grease" follows the journey of Danny and Sandy, alongside the Burger Palace Boys and the Pink Ladies, as they navigate high school in the 1950s to the unforgettable rock 'n' roll soundtrack that defined generations. All tickets are available at the door.

## Calendar Listing of Community-Wide School Events (continued)

### May

- 29 Northern Trails 6th Grade/Northern Hills Middle 7th-8th Grade Band Concert, 7 p.m., FAC  
 Central Woodlands 6th Grade/Central Middle 7th-8th Grade Spring Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m., FHC Auditorium
- 30 Central Woodlands 6th Grade/Central Middle 7th-8th Grade Choir Concert, 7 p.m., FAC  
 Northern Hills Middle School 8th Grade Musical, 7 p.m., FHN Auditorium
- 31 Northern Trails 6th Grade Orchestra/Northern Hills Middle 7th-8th Grade Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m., FHN Auditorium  
 Knapp Forest Gemini Night Hosted by 6th Grade Students, 4-6 p.m., KF Classrooms

For the most up-to-date district and school calendars, please visit the FHPS website: [www.fhps.net/about-us/district-calendar](http://www.fhps.net/about-us/district-calendar).

## Kindergarten Enrollment and Kickoff Dates for 2018

Now is the time to register for kindergarten for the upcoming school year. To enter kindergarten, a child must turn 5 years of age on or before Sept. 1, 2018. Families with a child who turns 5 after Sept. 1, and no later than Dec. 1, may request an early entrance waiver to attend kindergarten by filling out a kindergarten early entrance waiver form.

To enroll for kindergarten, the first step is to visit the district website: [www.fhps.net](http://www.fhps.net). Under the enrollment tab, and enrollment information for 2018-19, complete the online pre-enrollment form and return the required documents to the school building the child will attend no later than June 8, 2018. All of the enrollment forms are available on the district website.

In addition to enrolling a child for kindergarten, all of our elementary schools host Kindergarten Kickoff events. These events are meetings specifically for parents and guardians to learn more about the kindergarten program, curriculum, and the enrollment process. Each school will then host a Ready-Set-Go event, prior to the start

of school, tailored for kindergartners. The following is a list of Kindergarten Kickoff dates.

- **Ada Elementary:** April 26, 6-7:15 p.m.
- **Ada Vista Elementary:** May 1, 6-7:30 p.m.
- **Collins Elementary:** April 26, 7-8 p.m.
- **Knapp Forest Elementary:** April 25, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- **Meadow Brook Elementary:** April 18, 6-7 p.m.
- **Orchard View Elementary:** April 26, 6-7 p.m.
- **Pine Ridge Elementary:** April 24, 7-8 p.m.
- **Thornapple Elementary:** May 1, 7-8 p.m.

If you have questions about the enrollment process, please call your child's school. Questions regarding language immersion kindergarten programs may be directed to Ada Vista Elementary School (Spanish immersion), 616-493-8970, and Meadow Brook Elementary School (Mandarin Chinese immersion), 616-493-8740.

## FHPS Preschools Now Enrolling for Fall

Forest Hills Public Schools offers exceptional preschool options for young learners. FHPS preschools follow the same school district calendar and are housed in some of our elementary school buildings. FHPS offers both traditional and Spanish immersion preschool programs, as well as the Great Start Readiness Program, a free preschool option for qualifying families.

FHPS preschool programs offer a curriculum that is designed intentionally with young learners in mind. Programs provide a warm, nurturing environment where children can grow socially, emotionally, physically, and intellectually. At the heart of the program is the dedication of giving every child individualized attention, support, and encouragement. (continued on page 5)

## FHPS Preschools

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There are two traditional preschool programs licensed by the State of Michigan run by Forest Hills Public Schools. One is located at Ada Elementary, 731 Ada Drive SE, and the other one is located at Knapp Forest Elementary, 4243 Knapp Valley Drive NE. The Spanish immersion preschool program is held at Ada Vista Elementary, 7192 Bradford SE, Ada. Transportation to and from any preschool program is the responsibility of the parents/guardians.

For answers to questions regarding preschool enrollment, tuition, and programs, please call the FHPS child care office, 616-493-8787.

## Three FHPS Students Finish Among the Top 100 in Michigan Math Competition

Three high school students are among the top 100 finishers in the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition exam. Scott Hadley, from Central High School, and Liam Maloney and Camil Suciu from Northern High School, scored high enough on part two of the MMPC exam to earn this top honor. Part I of the MMPC is open to all students in Michigan high schools. The exam consists of 40 multiple-choice questions involving topics from high school mathematics. From over 6,000 participants in Part I, the top 1,000 students are invited to take Part II of the MMPC. On Part II of the exam, students work on five challenging problems and write their solutions providing full justification and proof of their claims. The students with the top 100 scores on the two parts of the competition were honored at an awards program at Albion College in March. Approximately \$20,000 in scholarships ranging from at least \$25 to \$2,500 were awarded at the awards program.



Scott Hadley, FHC   Liam Maloney, FHN   Camil Suciu, FHN

## National Merit Scholars Announced for the Class of 2018 Including Seven from Forest Hills Public Schools

Seven seniors have earned the top distinction of National Merit Scholar and National Merit Finalist. As finalists, these students have an opportunity to be awarded some 7,400 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32 million.

Students who score in the top percent on the Preliminary SAT (PSAT)/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test achieve the semifinalist status. To advance to the finalist level, each semifinalist submitted a de-

tailed scholarship application outlining: an outstanding high school academic record; school and community activity participation; demonstration of leadership ability; employment; and honors and awards received. Each semifinalist also received the endorsement and recommendation of a high school official, wrote an essay, and earned SAT scores confirming their previous performance on the PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

### Central High School



Scott Hadley



Jason Ross



Kevin Wang



Destiny Wu



Irene Yi

### Northern High School



Brett Bauman



Maxwell Lu

## Test Your Math Skills

Are you smarter than a high school mathematician? Can you show proof and justification for the following? Here is just one example of a math problem on the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition Part II exam.

Consider a normal  $8 \times 8$  chessboard, where each square is labeled with either 1 or  $-1$ . Let  $a_k$  be the product of the numbers in the  $k$ th row, and let  $b_k$  be the product of the numbers in the  $k$ th column. Find, with proof, all possible values of  $\sum_{k=1}^8 (a_k b_k)$ .

## Superintendent Creates Podcast to Explain Importance of Reimagining Schools

Superintendent Dan Behm sat down with Rebecca Charbauski, senior communications specialist with Steelcase, to discuss and inspire innovation in our schools. The podcast exudes the vision of reimagining our schools and our students' day, how changing classroom design and function can help learning, and he talks about some of the skills students need to be successful. He dives deeper into the school experience for all learners, and explains how the district is making some positive changes to enhance students' engagement. The podcast is posted on the FHPS website: [www.fhps.net](http://www.fhps.net). Search the website for "podcast." It also is available on iTunes titled, "School District Rethinks Creativity + Collaboration."

# Around Forest Hills Public Schools in Pictures

# NHMS Students Participate in Google Expeditions Augmented Reality

## Happy Birthday Northern Trails

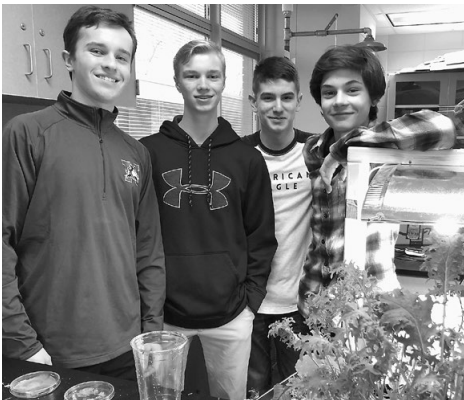


This January marked the 20th birthday of Northern Trails 5/6 School and Central Woodlands 5/6 School. At Northern Trails, staff and students celebrated the event with a birthday cake. Through continued community support, the district is helping maintain and improve all school buildings. Thank you community for your support of our schools.



Seventh- and eighth-grade students at Northern Hills Middle School participated in the Google Expeditions Augmented Reality program. The seventh-grade students participated in the "DNA and RNA" program as well as "Forces of Nature." Eighth-grade students took part in looking at "da Vinci's Inventions" and the "Solar System." According to a news article by Madison Bennett, NHMS robotics and computer science teacher, Adam Zavislak, said that he stumbled upon the program while reading the Google for Education newsletter. He then completed an application to have Google bring in augmented reality equipment to the school, which allowed teachers to spend a day incorporating it into their lessons. "It's taking a 2-D textbook and putting it into a 3-D world," Zavislak said.

## FHN STEM Students Roll Up Their Sleeves and Get Their Hands Dirty While Learning About Science



Forest Hills Northern ninth-grade students in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) program, are continuing their work on their hydroponics to aquaponics systems. They are using their geometry, biology, and engineering skills to create sustainable systems and are learning a lot along the way, especially how to solve problems when things do not quite work as planned.

## Soup with the Superintendent



Superintendent Dan Behm hosts "Soup with the Supt." each month at schools around the district. The goal of these informal meetings is to have lunch with students and learn firsthand what the students like and dislike about their school, hear suggestions on school improvement, and answer questions. Pictured here, Superintendent Behm listens to Knapp Forest Elementary School students.

# Elementary LEGO Team Advances to World Competition



Orchard View Elementary School's LEGO robotics team, "Hey, Watch This!" won the first place Champion's Award at the Michigan FIRST LEGO League championship. The team received outstanding scores in all three components: robot, research, and core values. The team now advances to the FIRST LEGO League championship world festival to be held in Detroit at the end of April. This year's theme for the competition is called hydrodynamics. The team not only built a LEGO robot to complete many challenges, but the students conducted research, created displays, and brainstormed solutions to have a positive impact on Michigan's Great Lakes.

# FHE Gone Boarding Students Receive Scholarship on Collaboration Project with Local Furniture Designer



Students from Forest Hills Eastern and Northern high schools in the Gone Boarding class were recognized for their work and ideas they brought forth to izzy+, an innovative office furniture designer located in Spring Lake, Michigan. FHE seniors, Garryn Johnson and Tyler Kaminski (center), created the winning prototype of an element which will be incorporated into an adjustable height desk. (Pictured from left: FHE teachers Bill Curtis and Richard Butcher, students Garryn Johnson and Tyler Kaminski, and izzy+ representatives Nate Follett and Christian Carr.) Last semester the two schools collaborated with izzy+ to create a functional design element for a piece of office furniture that will be unveiled at NeoCon, the commercial design industry's launch pad for innovation and national convention. Johnson and Kaminski each were awarded a scholarship and will be given additional opportunities throughout the design, build, and marketing stages of the product. The Northern students who also created and submitted ideas were awarded Amazon gift cards for their hard work and inspiration. Northern students include: Joshua Spiegel, Credence White, Nihad Dzebo, and Alexander Lavertue. The schools' collaboration and work with izzy+ will continue throughout this school year, and hopefully, into the future. More information will be released this spring with final pictures of the piece of furniture and additional information about the collaborative project. Gone Boarding is just one example of an FHPS classroom taking students' learning outside school walls and partnering with businesses to give students real-life experiences and applications. Gone Boarding is an innovative class that pairs woodshop, design, critical problem solving and creativity with physical education and much more. The class is available at all three high schools.

# Middle School Students Knit Hats for Charity



Central Middle School students completed a project in their Natural Expressions class to help others in the community. The students spent several weeks knitting hats for charity. This project began a few years ago when the students started creating small, red knitted hats for newborn babies as part of February's American Heart Month. During Heart Awareness Month, volunteers for the American Heart Association knit red hats for babies born at participating hospitals. The project is called Little Hats, Big Hearts.

# Middle School Robotics Team Ends Successful Inaugural Year

Congratulations to the middle school robotics team, the METEORS, comprised of students from all three middle schools. Although this was the team's first year, this rookie team surpassed 32 other teams to take the top spot in their first event and qualified for the state championship. These students participated in the FIRST robotics program, an international program designed to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology, and to motivate them to pursue education and career opportunities in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) fields. While teams create their own robots to accomplish the goals laid out in the game, they also work together with other teams and build alliances in competition. Teams are scored not only on their robots and process, but also how they work within the team, with other teams, team spirit, and a variety of other categories.



# High School Art Students Take Top Awards at Scholastic Art and Writing Competition

Kaitlyn Goldberg, a sophomore at Forest Hills Northern High School, recently received a Gold Key award in the Scholastic Art and Writing Competition, for her work

titled, "The Wonder Within." Grace Whalen, a senior at Forest Hills Central High School, received four awards in the same competition. Hannah Huizing, a senior at Forest

Hills Eastern High School received Honorable Mention for her work titled, "Forest." All pieces are on display at Kendall College of Art and Design.



"The Wonder Within," Gold Key Award  
Kaitlyn Goldberg



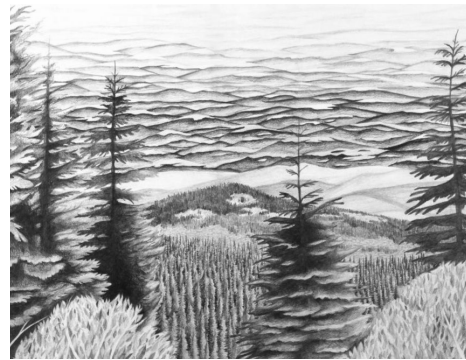
"Nakano Side Street," Silver Key Award  
Grace Whalen



"Art Nouveau Tokyo," Silver Key Award  
Grace Whalen



"Wooden Dragon," Honorable Mention  
Grace Whalen



"Forest," Honorable Mention  
Hannah Huizing

## Staff Continuous Learning is Valuable

Many people notice on the district calendar, "No school for students; staff professional development." While a day off for students may cause scheduling challenges for families, these days are incredibly important for staff. During the last full day of staff professional development, teacher and administrator teams met and reviewed areas such as literacy, the Connected Math Project, social studies, science and more. Many elementary teachers attended sessions on strengthening balanced literacy instruction. They learned how the research informed Lucy Calkins Reading Units of Study support the FHPS literacy framework and evidence-based essential instructional practices in literacy. These staff days help all students succeed. Students benefit when educators dive deeper into subjects' content areas and strengthen their craft of teaching.

## Central High School Students' Art on Display at GRAM



"Tsukji Market," Silver Key Award,  
Grace Whalen



"Tea Cupboard," Emily Cobb



"Behind the Face," Adrianna Donald



"Untitled," Sydney Verlinde

Congratulations to Grace Whalen, Emily Cobb, Adrianna Donald, and Sydney Verlinde, students at Forest Hills Central High School, whose artwork has been accepted into the Region 9 Michigan Art Education Association's show on display at the Grand Rapids Art Museum. All four pieces, pictured above, have been adjudicated in the state show which will be held at

the Kresge Center in East Lansing, Michigan. Verlinde's and Donald's pieces also are among the top 100 in the state of Michigan. Donald's piece is one of 18 pieces accepted in the governor's traveling art exhibit for an entire year.



# Forest Hills Fall Sports Athletic Awards

## FHC

### Boys' Soccer

*OK White Conf. Co-Champs  
MIHSSCA Team  
Academic Award*

Ian Abel (AC, AD)  
Joseph Batdorf (AA)  
Eric Conerty (AC, AD, AR, AS, AA, Dream Team)  
Ryan Downey (AD)  
Michael Francisco (AC, AD, AA)  
Jared Ireland (AC, AD, AR, AS)  
Tristan Kerr (ACHM)  
Maxwell Mairn (AD, AA)  
Luke Peterson (AA)  
Samuel Postlewait (ACHM, AD)  
Mitchel Strawser (AC, AA)  
Nolan Vandegrift (AC, AD, AR, AS, AA)  
Jordan Wintrich (AA)

### Volleyball

Kendall Gardner (AC)  
Audrey Tubbs (AC)

### Football

*OK White Conf. Champs  
MHSAA District Champs  
MHSAA Regional Champs*

Christian Balanda (ACHM)  
Bryce Clay (AC, AA, ASHM, 1st Dream Team)  
Elijah Gurley (AC, AA, 2nd Dream Team)  
Tate Hallock (AC, AA, ASHM, 1st Dream Team)  
Luke Majick (AC, ASHM)  
Michael Peliotes (ACHM)  
Daniel Riser (AC, AA, ASHM, 1st Dream Team)  
Kade Shomin (ACHM)  
Jace Thornton (AC, AA, ASHM, 2nd Dream Team)  
Isaac Torrey (AC, AAHM)  
Seth Udell (ACHM)  
Kyle Wojczynski (ACHM)

### Girls' Golf

Kayley Reynolds (AC)  
Allison Ringler (AC, AA)  
Paige Snyder (ACHM)

## Cross Country

Geoffrey Batterbee (AC)  
Susannah Bennett (AC)  
Gabriel Carlson (AC)  
Whitney Currie (AC)  
Kyle James-Herr (ACHM)  
Nicole Marco (AC)

### Boys' Tennis

*All-Area Advance 1st Team*  
Connor Genschaw (AC, AA, AS\*, SC)  
Peyton Herbert (AC, AAHM, ASHM, ASHM\*)  
Aidan Rynbrandt (AC, AA, AS, AS\*)  
Jacob Wiltjer (AC, AA, AS, AS\*)  
Jack Ziegler (AC, AAHM, ASHM, ASHM\*)

### Girls' Swim/Dive

*MHSAA Team - 3rd Place*  
Felicity Buchmaier (AC, AS, SC)  
Nicole Carlson (AS)  
Anna Hansen (AC, AS)  
Olivia Hooper (AS)  
Colleen Kramer (AC, SC)  
Olivia Luplow (AS)  
Jessica Schellenboom (AC, AS)  
Molly Weiblen (AS)  
Margaret Zorn (AS)

### Field Hockey

*MHSFHA State Champs*

## FHE

### Boys' Soccer

Jonathan Courts (ACHM)  
Clay Edwards (AC, AD)  
Aidan Jacks (AC, AD, AR, ASHM)  
Brendan Miller (AD)

### Volleyball

Jenna Breuker (AC)  
Catherine Vansolkema (AC)  
Olivia Linn (ACHM)

### Football

Benjamin Armbruster (AC)  
Samuel Dziuba (ACHM)  
Kade Krueger (AC)

## Football (continued)

Mason MacDonald (AASHM)  
Scott Massie (AC)  
Bennett Vansolkema (ACHM, AAS, Dream Team)

### Girls' Golf

Morgan Duvall (ACHM)

### Girls' Cross Country

*Highest Unweighted Team  
GPA in District II*  
Kiah Becker (AC)  
Landyn Howell (AAS)  
Olivia Miller (AAS)  
Jamison Reed (AC, AR, AS)

### Boys' Cross Country

Thomas Westrick (AC, AR, AAS)

### Boys' Tennis

Nicolas Hakken (AC, #1 Doubles)  
Anish Kokkula (AC)  
Anish Premkumar (AC, #1 Doubles)  
Nolan Sherwood (AC)  
Mark Wassink (AC)

### Girls' Swim/Dive

Gracie Sleeman (AC)

## FHN

### Boys' Soccer

*OK White Conf. Co-Champs  
MHSAA District Champs*

Carter Clark (AD, AR, ASHM)  
Zachary Meyers (ACHM, AD)  
Isaac Nelson (AC, AD, AR, ASHM)  
Aidan O'Connor (AC, AD, AR, 3rd Team AS)  
Jordan Okito (AC, AD, AR, 2nd Team AS)  
Sawyer Rilett (AC, AD)  
Devin Riley (ACHM)  
Nathan Stevens (AD)  
Hayden Strobel (AC, AD, AR, AS, MHSAA Dream Team)  
Nathan Texer (AC, AD)

### Volleyball

*OK White Conf. Champs  
Team Academic All-State*  
Riley Homer (AC, AR)  
Parker Kwiatkowski (AC, AR, ASHM)

## Volleyball (continued)

Jaclyn Rozell (ADHM)  
Jamie Rozell (AC, AR)  
Shelby Verbrugge (ACHM)

### Football

Benjamin Casterline (AC, MHSFCA 1st Team AS)  
Alexander Clark (AC)  
Kyle Delamielleure (ACHM)  
Adam Gill (AC)  
William Hawkins (AC)  
Brandon Matthews (ACHM)

### Girls' Golf

*OK White Conf. Champs  
MHSAA Reg. Runners-up  
Team Academic All-State  
MHSAA State Champs*

Anna Fay (AC, 2nd Team AAA)  
Madeline Goodrich (AC, 1st Team AAA)  
Lilia Henkel (AC, AS, 1st Team AAA)  
Chloe Johnson (AC, 2nd Team AAA)  
Gabriela Mas (AC, 1st Team AAS)  
Kay Zubkus (AC, AS, 1st Team AAA)  
Coach Kent Graves (Division II Coach of the Year)

### Girls' Cross Country

*OK White Conf. Champs*

Grace Fletter (AC)  
Emily Fredette (AC, SQ)  
Kayley Porter (AC)  
Adeline Shaw (ACHM)  
Gabriella Taylor (AC)  
Samantha Tran (AC, AR, SQ)  
Sydney Tran (ACHM)

### Boys' Cross Country

*OK White Conf. Champs*  
Abdifetah Ahmed (AC, AS, SQ)  
David Jamet (AC, SQ)  
Scott Tran (AC, SQ)  
Michael Zacker (AC)

### Boys' Tennis

*OK White Conf. Champs  
MHSAA Regional Champs  
7th in State  
MHSAA Academic All-State Team*

## Boys' Tennis (continued)

Brett Bauman (CC, RC)  
Jeffrey Consolla (AC, ASHM)  
Nav Dalmia (AC, CC)  
Anthony Eyde (AC, RC)  
Bennett Lawson (RC)  
Justin Lee (CC, RC)  
Parker Morey (AC)  
Peter Renucci (AC)  
Christopher Rivera (AC, ASHM)  
Cole Rynbrandt (AC, AS)

## Boys' Tennis (continued)

Sanchay Thamman (RC)  
Siddharth Varma (CC, RC)

## Girls' Swim/Dive

Ashley Jeffreys (AS)

## Field Hockey

*MHSFHA State Champs*  
Mallory Jacobs (AS)

### Key:

AC = All-Conference  
ACHM = All-Conference Honorable Mention  
CC = Conference Champion  
AD = All-District  
AR = All-Region  
RC = Regional Champion  
AA = All-Area  
AAHM = All-Area Honorable Mention  
AS = All-State  
AS\* = MHSTCA All-State  
ASHM = All-State Honorable Mention  
ASHM\* = MHSTCA All-State Honorable Mention  
AAS = Academic All-State  
AASHM = Academic All-State Honorable Mention  
SQ = State Qualifier  
SC = State Champion  
AAA = Academic All-American



# Schools Celebrate Chinese New Year

Mandarin Chinese language immersion schools were filled with energy, excitement, and fun activities as they celebrated the Chinese New Year, the Year of the Dog. There was a Chinese New Year family dinner, New Year celebrations, dragon dances, music, and more. At Meadow Brook Elementary, they hosted their annual Chinese New Year and Spring Festival. The entire building celebrated through cultural performances and traditional Chinese martial arts, cultural games, and arts and crafts. Northern Trails 5/6 School celebrated by making 2,000 dumplings, among other festivities. Northern Hills Middle School made fortune cookies, festive paper lanterns, and the students created their own Chinese New Year game show. Northern High School ninth-grade students made red envelopes, which they decorated with Chinese calligraphy, filled with candy, and delivered to teachers. They also made dumplings and performed a traditional dragon dance.

FHPS is home to a vibrant and growing Mandarin Chinese language immersion program beginning in kindergarten. The program began in 2008 and provides a rich

academic, linguistic, and cultural experience for students.



A Northern Trails 5/6 student receives instruction on how to make Chinese dumplings.



Meadow Brook Elementary School students witnessed a dragon dance.

## Forest Hills Fine Arts Center

### Art Exhibits at the Center

#### FHPS Student Exhibit

Various Media

April 12 - May 11, 2018

Artists' Reception: April 17, 6-7:30 p.m.  
Forest Hills Fine Arts Center Lobby



#### Jillian Dickson

Drawings

May 25 - June 22, 2018

Artists' Reception: June 6, 6-7 p.m.  
Forest Hills Fine Arts Center Lobby



Presenting Sponsor:

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Be seen, heard & remembered.

## HEALTHY LIVING

LECTURE SERIES  
2018



**Wednesday, May 16**  
12:30-4:30 p.m.

**Forest Hills Fine Arts Center**  
600 Forest Hill Avenue SE

#### Mercy Health Lectures

- Cardiac Herbalism, 1:15 p.m.
- Joint Care, 2:15 p.m.
- Healthy Sleep Habits, 3:15 p.m.



Exhibitor Booths • Health Screenings • Door Prizes • Live Entertainment • Healthy Snacks

**It's All Free!**

**enjoylearning.com**

### FHFAC Calendar

#### April

17 FHPS Student Art Exhibit  
Artists' Reception, 6-7:30 p.m.

#### May

16 FHPS Community Services'  
Healthy Living Lecture Series,  
12:30-4:30 p.m.

#### June

6 Jillian Dickson Exhibit  
Artist's Reception, 6-7 p.m.

#### July

12 Kate Meyer Exhibit  
Artist's Reception, 6-7 p.m.

Visit [fhfineartscenter.com](http://fhfineartscenter.com) for a calendar showing all upcoming events.

**Follow the FAC on Facebook, Twitter:**

- Twitter: [twitter.com/FHFAC](https://twitter.com/FHFAC)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pages/Forest-Hills-Fine-Arts-Center](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Forest-Hills-Fine-Arts-Center)



# FOREST HILLS

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

Providing funding for all areas of academic excellence in Forest Hills Public Schools  
For more information and to donate, call 616-493-8954, or visit [www.fhpsf.org](http://www.fhpsf.org).

## Spring 2018 Grants Awarded

The mission of the Forest Hills Public Schools Foundation is to provide funding for all areas of academic excellence in Forest Hills Public Schools. We are pleased to report that the Forest Hills Public Schools Foundation approved over \$64,000 for the 2018 spring grant cycle.

Applicant	Bldg.	Project Name   Description
Tammy Morris	PR	Multi-Cultural Resources   Culturally and ethnically diverse dolls, puzzles, and games for kindergarten classes.
Amanda Krieger, Kristin Messner	PR	Osmo Kits   Kits to integrate technology and math skills through high interest games in second-grade classrooms.
Klara Patrick	NT	Math Read-Alouds   Read-aloud books that provide interesting math insights and solidify concepts taught in class.
Cortney Kittridge, Christen Topolinski	KF	Real World Reading and Application   Books for the MiStar real-world learning science curriculum for sixth-graders.
Sue Gutierrez	NT	Eagle Scout Greenhouse   Greenhouse kit to be built at school.
Jeremy Hurley	THO	Thornapple Climbing Wall   Indoor climbing wall at the school.
Rob Miedema	FHC	Rotary Fixture for Laser   Fixture for laser cutter that will allow for more creative and challenging projects.
Ian Hearn	FHE	FHE Physical Education   Dynamic and mobile equipment for the school's strength and conditioning program.
Kimberly Anderson	FHC	ASL Deaf/Blind Unit Supplies   Supplies for Goal Ball, a game played by the blind community. The activity will allow students to learn more about the blind/deaf communities.
Diana Bowman	AV	AV Breakout EDU   Educational tools for cross-curricular adventures that link critical thinking and problem solving.
Ben Bailey	NT	Higher Interest Lower Level Books   Books for students not reading at the fifth-grade level, but of interest to that group.
Dolores Keeley	FHE	Inquiry Anatomy   Muscular skeletal system anatomy kits.
Jeffrey Dunn	NHM	Outdoor Exploration Update   Supplies for outdoor exploration class such as GPS devices, field guides, and fire starters.
Jacque Brown, Dolores Keeley	FHE	Wayfinder Navigators   Backpacking/camping equipment for the new Wayfinder Navigators class that integrates biology, PE, and health standards through outdoor experiences.
Anne Keller	OV	Experiencing Great Lakes Ecology Through Art   Watercolor painting books and supplies for sixth-graders.
Trevor Sprik	FHE	Earth Keepers   Tools to conduct experiments and studies on the school's two ecosystems: water and soil.
David Howard	FHN	Multi-Platform Video Editing   Adobe Premiere software.
Jeremy Cox	FAC	FAC Recording   Stage performance recording equipment.
John Vanderburg	FHE	Digital Expansion IV   3D printer and supplies.

## Upcoming Events in 2018

### Save the Dates

#### State of the District Luncheon Thursday, May 3, 2018

#### Watermark Country Club

Reservations Required

Chairperson: Erin Molhoek

#### Charlie Anderson Memorial Golf Tournament

#### Wednesday, June 13, 2018

#### Thornapple Pointe Golf Club

Sponsorships Available

Chairperson: Brian Sandberg

## Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Forest Hills Public Schools Foundation during the 2017 calendar year. We are grateful for your gifts. The generosity of the Forest Hills community is amazing and we appreciate your support.

### FHPS Foundation

Forest Hills Public Schools Foundation

600 Forest Hill Avenue SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49546-2322

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

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# Forest Hills Community Services Offers Many Exciting Enrichment Classes This Spring and Summer

## Aquatic Classes

### American Red Cross Learn-to-Swim Program (Ages 5-17)

**Spring:** Saturdays, April 14-May 19, 2018

**Summer:** Mondays through Fridays, June 11-22; June 25-July 3; or July 9-20, 2018

The American Red Cross Learn-to-Swim Program offers six levels of swimming instruction. From Level 1: Introduction to Water Skills, to Level 6: Swimming and Skill Proficiency, your child can progress through these successive classes to become a good swimmer with plenty of water safety knowledge.

We also offer introductory aquatic classes for preschoolers and aquatic exercise classes for adults. Visit our website or call us to register.

## Youth Classes and Sports

This spring, we are offering an exciting new class, Babysitting 101, for ages 10-16. Students will learn the basics about becoming a capable and responsible babysitter, setting up a babysitting business, and CPR. Certificates from Heartbeat, LLC will be given to those who complete the class. Also, we are offering nine other spring classes in a variety of interest areas.

This year's Summer Academy is full of interesting enrichment and sports classes for kids who want to add to their summer fun. These include new classes such as Toddler Art and Sensory Exploration; Toddler Yoga with Adult; KCAD's Drawing Lions, Tigers and Bears; KCAD's Painting Plus; Bricks 4 Kidz: Transformers Transformations Camp; Bricks 4 Kidz: Jr. Robotics LEGO "City" Camp; and Bricks 4 Kidz: Video Game Design. Our newest class providing partner, Scienstational Workshops for Kids, is offering four new camps/labs: "Can You Dig It?" Fossil Hunt

Camp; Harry Potter Magical Mystery Camp; CSI: Crime Scene Investigation Camp; and their Electronics Lab. For recreation and sports, check out the new Chess Wizards Summer Camp; Summer Soccer Camp for Boys and Girls; Basics Basketball Shooting/Ball Handling Camp; and Basics Basketball Skills and Scrimmage Training Camp.

In addition to these new classes, we have many returning favorites. For more information or to register for classes, please visit our website, [enjoylearning.com](http://enjoylearning.com).

## Classes for Adults

Forest Hills Community Services is offering a wonderful variety of classes this spring and summer for adult learners. Explore an interest, learn a new skill, or try something completely different just for the fun of it. We have classes in languages, visual arts, computers and technology, fitness, dance, and recreation, and special interests to tempt you. Check out our website for more details.

## Senior Citizen Corner

### AARP Driver Safety Class

**Dates/Times:** April 17 and April 20, 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.

**Location:** Forest Hills Community and Aquatic Center

Looking to improve your driving skills? Boost your confidence and heighten your driving awareness through this classroom-based refresher course.

**Cost:** \$15 for AARP members, \$20 for non-AARP members.

## Quick, Secure Registration

It's easy to register for Community Services classes and Learning Cafés:

- Visit our website, [enjoylearning.com](http://enjoylearning.com).
- Call us at 616-493-8950.

## Severe Weather/Closings

If Forest Hills Public Schools is closed due to severe weather, the Forest Hills Community and Aquatic Center also will be closed and all classes will be canceled. Check the district website, [www.fhps.net](http://www.fhps.net), for more information.

## 2017-2018 Board of Education Members

**Mary Vonck**, President

**Martha Atwater**, Vice President

**Suzanne Callahan**, Secretary

**Walter F. Perschbacher III**, Treasurer

**Michael Seekell**, Trustee

**Nicole Meloche-Gregory**, Trustee

**Vik Srinivasan**, Trustee

**Daniel Behm**, Superintendent

### 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.

Questions and/or comments about this publication should be emailed to the editor at [ebrink@fhps.net](mailto:ebrink@fhps.net), or call 616-493-8800.



**Wednesday, May 16**

See page 10 for more information.