



BACK TO SCHOOL - SUMMER 2022 NEWSLETTER



Superintendent's Update

Dear Forest Hills Families,

My daughter celebrated her 12th birthday this summer. To my surprise, a week after her birthday, she presented my wife and me with a hand-made card expressing thanks for her birthday gathering and gifts. She closed the card with "I purple you." Thankfully, in the postscript, she explained what "I purple you" meant. "I purple you means I will love and trust you forever because purple is the last color of the rainbow." After getting my wits about me, I reflected on the deep love and trust between parent and child. This is a sacred bond. Every parent wants the best for their child and we worry and toil to ensure that we are creating the conditions for our children to learn, grow, and thrive. As educators, we want to partner with you to help your child thrive. On behalf of the over 1,100 teachers and staff members of Forest Hills Public

Schools, we are thrilled to ring in a new year of learning and growth.

It has been a productive summer across the district. We are excited to welcome 29 new teachers, three new counselors, three new social workers, two new principals, four new secretaries, three new food service workers, five new custodial team members, and 15 new bus drivers! These new staff members bring with them hundreds of years of experience and a heart to serve children and families. Additionally, the summer has been filled with ongoing renovation work at Orchard View Elementary, Collins Elementary, Thornapple Elementary, and Central Middle School. As each school renovation project wraps up, we also bring new classroom furniture into the school. Look to our website for additional updates throughout the year.

Most importantly, we are excited to welcome thousands of students to our 18 schools across the district! Each student represents boundless potential, abundant hope, and the embodiment of dreams both defined and yet to be revealed. We are eager to build on our recent success of being among the top two percent of districts in Michigan for reading and math achievement, our highest graduation rate in over 15 years, and our multiple statewide championships in extracurricular activities. We can accomplish this and so much more as we work together - parents, families, community, and educators - to always do what is best for the children of our community. We are grateful for your steadfast support and to partner with you to create the conditions where every child deeply learns, joyfully grows, and thrives. Welcome to the new school year!

With deep appreciation,

Dan Behm Superintendent

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VISION: ALL LEARNERS ACHIEVING INDIVIDUAL POTENTIAL



In partnership with our community, Forest Hills Public Schools will provide all learners with opportunities to acquire the knowledge, skills, and experiences necessary to build meaningful and productive lives.





2022-2023 DISTRICT CALENDAR

2022

August 22 First day of school; full day

August 26 No school

September 2-5 No school / Labor Day recess
September 23 K-12 students half day a.m.
October 14 K-12 students half day a.m.
November 4 No school / Staff professional

development

November 23-25

December 14

December 15

No school/Thanksgiving recess

K-12 students half day a.m.

K-12 students half day a.m. /

7-12 exams

December 16 K-12 students half day a.m. /

7-12 exams / End of semester

December 19 - January 2 No school / Winter recess

2023

January 3 School resumes
January 16 No school /

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 17-20 No school / Mid-Winter Break March 17 K-12 students half day a.m. March 30 – April 7 No school / Spring recess

April 10 School resumes

May 5 No school / Staff professional

development

May 29 No school / Memorial Day recess

June 6 K-12 students half day a.m. June 7 K-12 students half day a.m. /

7-12 exams

June 8 Last day / K-12 students half day

a.m. / 7-12 exams

The semester exam schedule for 7-12 students may be altered by building administration based upon instructional needs.

On student half days, staff will be engaged in professional learning, collaboration, or record marking in the afternoon.

May 15, 2023	Eastern High School Commencement
May 16, 2023	Northern High School Commencement
May 17, 2023	Central High School Commencement

Student Cell Phone Use Prohibited During the Instructional Day



As a reminder, students are not allowed to carry or use cell phones during the school day. Phones are available in the office of each school should a student need to contact a parent, guardian, or family member. If families believe their child needs access to a cell phone before or after school, it will be the student's responsibility to ensure that their phone remains stored while they are at school during the instructional day.

HANDBOOKS AND CURRICULUM GUIDES

Handbooks can be found in the District Section of the website. Curriculum Guides can be found in the Instruction Department section of the website.

OPEN HOUSES, ORIENTATIONS, STUDENT PICTURES AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES SUGGESTIONS

Information regarding open houses, suggested school supply lists, orientations, and student pictures are listed on the calendar page of each individual school website.

FINE ARTS CENTER news



Forest Hills Fine Arts Center

Artist Exhibit Schedule 2022-2023







Plein Air Exhibition

August 24- September 28, 2022 Reception & Demonstrations: September 15, 2022 6-8 PM

Nancy O'Keeffe

October 4-31, 2022 Reception: October 13, 2022 6:00-7:00 PM

FHPS Staff & Community

November 9- December 13, 2022 Reception: November 10, 2022 6:00-7:30 PM



Valentina Grigorieva

January 4- February 3, 2023 Reception: January 18, 2023 6:00-7:00 PM

Tim Donohoe

February 8- March 16, 2023 Reception: February 16, 2023 6:00-7:00 PM

FHPS Student Art Exhibit

March 22- April 26, 2023 Reception: April 13, 2023 6:00- 7:30 PM



Kendall College of Art & Design May 4-12, 2023 **KCAD** Reception: TBD 2023

Nora Faber Overvoorde

May 17- June 15, 2023 Reception: May 17, 2023 6:00-7:00 PM

Charles LaRue

June 20- July 20 Reception: June 22, 2023 6:00-7:00 PM



FOREST HILLS

600 Forest Hill Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546 Phone: 616.493.8965 Box Office: 616.493.8966 www.fhfineartscenter.com

EST MICHIGAN COMMUNITY BANK ...where relationships matter Member FDIC

Title Sponsor

Additional support provided by

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Shows and performances are back again for the 2022-23 school year. Events are being planned for the school year. Please visit their website for the event calendar and additional information on how to volunteer.

Bus Route Information Available



USE THE VERSATRANS E-LINK SYSTEM



School Bus App

Versatrans My Stop App provides mobile access to bus information. With My Stop, parents and guardians know exactly where their child's bus is on the route and an estimated time of arrival (ETA) at their stop.

The location of the bus is automatically updated to accommodate any delays. Update frequency is dependent on a user's data plan. The app is available for both iPhone and Android devices. When using the app, parents and guardians can choose to receive push notifications alerting them to changes in their child's bus schedule. Links to the apps are available on our website. My Stop is for FHPS buses only and not for transportation arranged for families through Dean Transportation or Kent ISD.



The FHPS transportation department communicates all bus stop information electronically using the Versatrans e-Link system. Versatrans e-Link allows parents/guardians to view essential school bus information such as where their children should wait for the bus, what time the bus should arrive, and other pick up and drop off information.

To log into e-Link, families should follow the four-step process on the FHPS website: www.fhps.net/departments/transportation/e-link-instructions. You will need your student's 5-digit student ID number. If you need help locating your child's student ID number, please call your child's school. Please note that e-Link is for FHPS buses only and not for transportation arranged for families through Dean Transportation or Kent ISD.

As a reminder, during the first few weeks of school, arrival times may vary slightly as everyone acclimates 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 e-Link.

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.

Finally, please remember that the safety of children is not only our priority, but we partner with you to help keep children safe going to and coming from the bus stop. Should you have questions pertaining to bus travel and route information, please contact the transportation department, 616-493-8785, or email: transportation@fhps.net.



Driving A Student To School?

CAR LINE ETIQUETTE REMINDERS

Please make every effort to be on time to ensure a good start or end to the school day for your child.

Each school has a designated drop off and pick up area separate from where school buses park. Please make sure you know where this is at your child's school. Here are some additional reminders.

- Safety first! When picking up or dropping off, children must enter and exit vehicles on the curb side only. Children are not permitted to walk in front of, or behind your car. Be ready for your child to enter or exit to help keep this process safe.
- Drivers should not get out of their vehicle; not to, "quickly grab" your child; wave to your child, or say "hi" to a friend in line. When the car in front of you moves, please pull forward.
- Don't cut in line. There is a

line and a process. Please wait patiently in the line and know that we all share the same goal of dropping off or picking up children in a safe manner.

- Put away electronic devices and cell phones; pay attention.
 Don't double park.
- Keep the line moving.
- Be a good steward of the Earth.
 If you arrive too early, consider turning off your vehicle while
- waiting. Be patient. Politeness goes a long way in the car line. Honking at others or displaying any other form of road rage is unacceptable, and remember, even the little ones notice this behavior. Set a good example.
- Should you have specific questions pertaining to traffic flow and child safety during drop off and pick up, please contact the school office.



Call In 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 early 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.

Importance of School Attendance

Every minute in school counts! Being on time every day and staying until the last bell rings is paramount to your child's success. Parents and families can help their child succeed in school by building the habit of positive attendance early.

School success goes hand-in-hand with good attendance.

Forest Hills Public Schools is committed to providing a quality education to promote student success. In order to accomplish this, students should be in school for the entire school day.

We encourage you to contact your child's teacher, guidance counselor, or principal when you have questions about attendance.

Middle School Sports Update

All middle school sports are taking team registrations via Final Forms (similar to our high school athletic programs). Final Forms is new at the middle school level and will assist parents with parent registration and help you stay up to date with all things related to athletics. Stay tuned to fhps.net and our school websites for more information as it becomes available.



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT: CURIOSITY IS OUR SUPER POWER

I have a confession. I buy too many books. What could be the cause of this obsession?

If I hear an author interview, listen to a podcast, talk to a colleague or take one of the oodles of book recommendations from my friends in book clubs and professional colleagues, I am prompted to buy the book, read the article, attend an event, watch the documentary and ask a few more questions. I love seeing the interconnectedness of ideas across industries and disciplines.

I think my obsession started with childhood questions: Why is the sky blue? Why can't I see my ears? Where does the water go after it goes down the drain? Why do you cry when you are happy?



I attribute my radar for recommended reading and interest in interconnectedness to my sense of curiosity. Even with my eagerness to learn, my capacity as an adult pales in comparison to what our young people are eagerly absorbing on a daily basis through the creative activities, experiments and exercises inside our classrooms, on our performance stages and across the acres of land in our school district.

After a summer of unstructured exploration and adventures far from home, or maybe in a backyard with a garden hose, a mountain of dirt and an adventurous neighborhood friend, I am certain the superpowers are fully charged and ready for action. I am curious to read the next chapter, aren't you?

Suzanne Callahan Board President

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FHPSF.ORG | (616) 493-8500 | WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FORESTHILLSPUBLICSCHOOLSFOUNDATION

HELPING ALL LEARNERS SUCCEED

The primary goal of the Forest Hills Public Schools Foundation is to raise funds to help support all of our students, our teachers, and our schools. We invest in student success! There are many needs identified by teachers and staff that cannot be covered by school budgets. Through donations, community assistance, alumni engagement, volunteer opportunities, and much more, the Foundation supports these needs and other educational initiatives. Join us and help spark creativity, inspire curiosity, and energize an excitement for learning, now and in years to come. Become involved in your education foundation. Join us at one of our upcoming events, volunteer, follow us on social media, call our office, and learn more online.





INSPIRING

By volunteering or making a financial contribution, you help the foundation inspire students to pursue their passions, create limitless possibilities, and transform our classrooms that cultivate lifelong learners. Pictured above are foundation teacher grants in action. On the left is a new wide belt sanding machine approved for Colin Gallagher at Northern High School for the woodworking and Gone Boarding industrial technology program, Project Next, and STEM Academy. On the right, students showcase a sampling of the specialized equipment approved for Michelle Becker an instructional coach, for all K-12 physical education teachers to use to ensure equitable learning opportunities for all students in PE classrooms.



THE GALA

NOVEMBER 10, 2022 FREDERIK MEIJER GARDENS & SCULPTURE PARK

Join us for an evening celebrating excellence in education, our collaborative teacher team of the year, and more.

STATE OF THE DISTRICT LUNCHEON

MAY 4, 2023 WATERMARK COUNTRY CLUB

Hear from district leaders and students how their educational experiences are transformative and inspiring.

CHARLIE ANDERSON MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

JUNE 20, 2023 THORNAPPLE POINTE GOLF CLUB

Tee it up for education on the links at Thornapple Pointe and support our students, teachers, and staff.



FOREST HILLS BACK TO SCHOOL NEWS

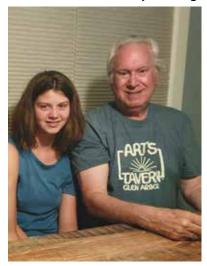
New Student Enrollment

If you are a new student to Forest Hills Public Schools this year, or your family just moved to the area ... welcome! We are glad you are here! To begin the new student enrollment process, click on Enrollment at the top of the page at fhps.net. For questions regarding the enrollment process, please call (616) 493-8800.

A Lifesaving Education

In July, an FHPS seventh-grader used the lifesaving skills she learned in class to save her grandfather's life. Kate and her brother were visiting their grandparents for dinner when Kate's grandfather had a serious heart attack. Their grandmother has difficulty hearing,

Kate fielded SO the 911 call and performed chest compressions, both skills she learned in the Youth Services program. She continued chest compressions until paramedics the arrived. Her grandfather was taken to the hospital and is expected to make full recovery.



Pictured are Kate and her grandfather from last summer.

Adult Enrichments

Something fun for everyone! Swimming, dancing, fitness, running, cooking, art classes and so much more! Be sure to visit Forest Hills Community Services program offerings at enjoylearning.com or call 616-493-8950 for more information. Also, enjoy a relaxing Sunday afternoon concert of live instrumental music provided by the Forest Hills Adult Community Band. All concerts are at Eastern High School Auditorium, 2200 Pettis Avenue NE, beginning at 2:30 p.m. Everyone is invited! FREE Sunday Concerts • October 30, 2022 • December 11, 2022 • March 5, 2023 • May 21, 2023

A Heartfelt Thanks to our School Resource Officers

The district has three School Resource Officers (SROs) through the Kent County Sheriff's Department. These officers routinely visit our schools, interact with staff, students, and families, and help maintain a culture of open communication and safety while building positive relationships with students. Deputy Ben Dunneback services the Northern side of the district, Deputy Kresten Green services the Eastern side of the district, and Deputy Jim Svoboda services the Central side of the district. These officers are always focused on doing what's best for FHPS students and we thank them for their continued support and contributions toward a safe Forest Hills.







Deputy Dunneback

Deputy Green

Deputy Svoboda

Food Services Update for 2022-2023

The Forest Hills Public Schools Food Service Department welcomes you and your child to the 2022-2023 school year! Please notice that the USDA waiver allowing us to serve free meals to all students has not been extended for this school year, meaning the cost of meals has changed this year. Please see additional information on next two pages of this newsletter.

You are always welcome to call the Food Service Office at 616-493-8774 with all of your questions or concerns.



Food Service Fact Sheet

The Forest Hills Public Schools Food Service Department welcomes you and your child to the 2022-2023 school year! Please look below for the answers to our most asked questions.

NEW THIS YEAR - MEAL MAGIC FAMILY PORTAL

What is the Meal Magic Family Portal and how do I use it? The Meal Magic Family Portal https://foresthills.familyportal.cloud/ is your one-stop site for managing your child's meal account. Once you've created your personal account, you will be able to:

- Apply for free and reduced price meal benefits
- View your child's detailed purchase history
- View current account balance
- Make a deposit
- Transfer funds between your children
- Access and change parental controls, such as a daily spending limit

The best way to get started is by going https://foresthills.familyportal.cloud/ where you can register for an account, or click on "Tutorials" for guidance.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The district no longer supports SchoolPay for credit card deposits. Please use the Meal Magic Family Portal (powered by e~Funds for Schools) to make deposits to your child's meal account.

<u>Due to the expiration of USDA's nationwide waivers, meals are no longer free for all students. We are encouraging all families to complete a free and reduced price meal application for the 2022-2023 school year.</u>

How do I know if my family qualifies for free or reduced price meals? Below is the table showing the Federal Income guidelines for free and reduced price meals. You are encouraged to apply before the school year begins, and any time your family's income or household size changes. To complete an application online, please use the Meal Magic Family Portal.

FEDERAL INCOME ELIGIBILITY CHART for School Year 2022-2023

Household Size	Annually	Monthly	Weekly
1	25,142	2,096	484
2	33,874	2,823	652
3	42,606	3,551	820
4	51,338	4,279	988
5	60,070	5,006	1,156
6	68,802	5,734	1,324
7	77,534	6,462	1,492
8	86,266	7,189	1,659
ach additional person:	8,732	728	168

How much will my child's meal cost if I do not qualify for free or reduced price meals?

Grade Level	Breakfast	Lunch	Tier 1 (2Mato, Grill)	Tier 2 (Deli, Create, On the Go)	Tier 3 (Sono)
Elementary	\$1.70	\$2.95			
5/6 and MS	\$1.95	Tier Pricing	\$3.20	\$3.45	\$3.70 (EMS Only)
High School	\$1.95	Tier Pricing	\$3.20	\$3.45	\$3.70
Reduced Price (all)	\$0.30	\$0.40	\$0.40	\$0.40	\$0.40

What comes in a meal?

Elementary - Your child will have a choice of three main entrees every day, including a hot vegetarian option. Each meal comes with white or chocolate milk, and your child's choice of a variety of fresh and prepared fruits and vegetables. **Meals are offered on ALL full school days, beginning on your child's FIRST DAY!**

5/6, Middle School and High School – In these grade levels, your child will have more choices for meals. The **Grill** and **2Mato** stations include homemade pizza by the slice, and a variety of hot sandwiches such as fresh grilled burgers and chicken sandwiches. The **Deli** station features fresh baked sub sandwiches, and **On the Go** includes fresh prepared items, such as smoothies, salads and yogurt parfaits. The **Create** station includes a variety of home-style meals, pasta dishes, and Asian cuisine. Our **Sono** line (available to Eastern Middle School and all high schools) serves made-to-order tacos, nachos, and burrito bowls. All meals include a choice of a variety of fresh and prepared fruits and vegetables, and a choice of milk. **Meals are offered on ALL full school days, beginning on your child's FIRST DAY!**

Can my child bring a lunch from home and still get milk? Are snack items available?

Milk is available for purchase without a meal for \$0.65, regardless of meal benefits. It is free of charge with all meals.

At the 5/6 and secondary levels, your child will have the option to purchase a la carte items, such as bottled drinks, packaged snacks and homemade cookies. All snacks meet the USDA requirement for Smart Snacks in schools.

How do I know what's on the menu each day for my child? Daily and monthly menus are published on Nutrislice. Visit www.fhps.nutrislice.com to see daily menu descriptions and photographs, filter common food allergens, translate the menu into another language, view carb counts and calories, and much more. The Nutrislice app is available on the App Store and Google Play.

My child has a food allergy and/or requires a special diet. How is that provided? All of our Food Service team members receive allergy training through the National FAREcheck Allergy training program. Our District Chef creates menus that accommodate your child's dietary need, and these items are prepared and served safely. If your child has a special dietary need due to a disability or medical issue, please complete the Medical Statement to Request Special Meals and/or Accommodations (available at https://www.fhps.net/departments/food-service/). This form must be completed and signed by your child's healthcare provider, and delivered to the Food Service via inter-office or regular mail. A new form must be submitted each school year. If you have questions, please call the Food Service Office at 616-493-8774.

How much should I budget for meal costs?

	Average Weekly Cost (5 lunch days)	Average Monthly Cost (20 lunch days)	Through December (73 lunch days)	Entire School Year (170 lunch days)
Elementary	\$14.75	\$59.00	\$215.35	\$501.50
5/6 and MS	\$16.00 - \$18.50	\$64.00 - \$74.00	\$251.85 - \$270.10	\$544.00 - \$629.00
High School	\$16.00 - \$18.50	\$64.00 - \$74.00	\$251.85 - \$270.10	\$544.00 - \$629.00
Reduced price	\$2.00	\$8.00	\$29.20	\$68.00

If your child has funds remaining at the end of the school year, these funds will transfer with your child to the next grade level as long as your child remains in the FHPS district!

For more information, please visit the Food Service website at https://www.fhps.net/departments/food-service/

REQUIRED ANNUAL NOTICES AUGUST 2022

Dear Forest Hills Families,

Public school districts are required to send to the parents/guardians of our students a vast array of annual notices. These notices are the products of various laws, rules, orders, and rulings of the state and federal government. Unabbreviated policies are located on the district website. Should you have questions about anything you read here, please do not hesitate to contact us at **616-493-8800**, and we will be happy to assist you.

Sincerely, Forest Hills Public Schools

BULLYING POLICY

All types of bullying, including cyberbullying, without regard to subject matter or motivating animus are prohibited.

Bullying, including cyberbullying, a student at school is prohibited. Bullying is any written, verbal, or physical act, or electronic communication that is intended to or that a reasonable person would know is likely to harm one or more students directly or indirectly by doing any of the following:

- a. substantially interfering with a student's educational opportunities, benefits, or programs;
- adversely affecting a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the District's educational programs or activities by placing the student in reasonable fear of physical harm or by causing substantial emotional distress;
- having an actual and substantial detrimental effect on a student's physical or mental health; or
- causing substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the District's orderly operations.

Retaliation or false accusations against the target of bullying, anyone reporting bullying, a witness, or another person with reliable information about an act of bullying, are prohibited.

If a student, staff member, or other person suspects there has been a bullying incident, the person must promptly report the incident to the building principal or designee, or to the Responsible School Official(s), as defined below.

A report may be made in person, by telephone, or in writing (including electronic transmissions). If a bullying incident is reported to a staff member who is not the building principal, designee, or a Responsible School Official, the staff member must promptly report the incident to the building principal, designee, or a Responsible School Official.

To encourage reporting of suspected bullying or related activities, each building principal, after consulting the Responsible School Official(s), will create, publicize, and implement a system for anonymous reports. The system must emphasize that the District's ability to investigate anonymous reports may be limited.

Complaints that the building principal has bullied a student must be reported to the Superintendent. Complaints that the Superintendent has bullied a student must be reported to the Board President.

All bullying complaints will be promptly investigated. The building principal or designee will conduct the investigation, unless the building principal or Superintendent is the subject of the investigation. If the building principal is the subject of the investigation, the Superintendent or designee will conduct the investigation. If the Superintendent is the subject of the investigation, the Board President will designate a neutral party to conduct the investigation.

A description of each reported incident, along with all investigation materials and conclusions reached, will be documented and retained.

If the investigator determines that a bullying incident has occurred, the District will promptly notify the victim's and perpetrator's parent/quardian in writing.

"At school" means in a classroom, elsewhere on school premises, on a school bus or other school-related vehicle, or at a school-sponsored activity or event whether it is held on school premises. "At school" also includes any conduct using a telecommunications access device or telecommunications service provider that occurs off school premises if the device or provider is owned by or under the control of the District.

The district may utilize restorative practices that emphasize repairing the harm to the victim and school community in the correction of bullying behavior.

CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE OFFICER (EQUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY)

It is the policy of this district to provide an equal education opportunity for all students. Any person who believes that s/he has been discriminated against on the basis of his/her race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity or sexual orientation), national origin, disability, or any other legally protected class that has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment or unreasonably interfering with the student's ability to benefit from the District's education programs or activities while at school or a school activity should immediately contact the school district's compliance officer listed below.

If you or someone you know has been the victim of sex-based discrimination, harassment, or retaliation, you may file a complaint with:

Christine Annese, Title IX Coordinator
Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Forest Hills Public Schools
6590 Cascade Road SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616-493-8800
cannese@fhps.net



If you or someone you know has been the victim of disability-based discrimination, harassment, or retaliation, you may file a complaint with:

Sarah Castro, Student Section 504 and Special Education Coordinator 3787 Leonard NE Grand Rapids, MI 49525 616-493-8660 scastro@fhps.net

Christine Annese, Section 504 Coordinator (non-student) 6590 Cascade Road SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546 616-493-8800 cannese@fhps.net

If you or someone you know has been the victim of any other type of unlawful discrimination, harassment, or retaliation, including unlawful conduct based on race, color, or national origin, you may file a complaint with:

Christine Annese, Civil Rights Coordinator 6590 Cascade Road SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546 616-493-8800 cannese@fhps.net

A complaint of unlawful discrimination, including unlawful harassment or retaliation, may be made verbally or in writing.

Complaints will be investigated. Any student making a complaint or participating in a school investigation will be protected from any threat or retaliation. The compliance officer can provide additional information concerning equal access to educational opportunity.

Any person who believes that he or she has been the victim of unlawful discrimination may file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights listed below:

U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights 1350 Euclid Avenue; Suite 325 Cleveland, OH 44115 Telephone: (216) 522-4970 Facsimile: (216) 522-2573 Email: OCR.Cleveland@ed.gov

THE MCKINNEY-VENTO ASSISTANCE ACT

Federal Legislation requires school districts to address problems that homeless children and youth face in enrolling, attending and succeeding in school. Anyone who lacks a "fixed", "regular" and "adequate" nighttime residence may qualify as homeless. Protections are in place so that children and youth facing homelessness have exposure to the same achievement standards of all students. Districts are required to abide by the laws, regulations, practices and policies to avoid any barriers to the education of children. If you believe a member of your household fits homeless eligibility criteria, please contact us immediately to obtain the necessary paperwork.



REQUIRED ANNUAL NOTICES AUGUST 2022 continued ...

Jesús Santillán, Homeless Liaison Forest Hills Public Schools 6590 Cascade Road SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546 616-493-8800 jsantillan@fhps.net

THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA)

IDEA is a United States federal law that governs how states and public agencies provide early intervention, special education and related services to children with disabilities. It requires school districts to identify all children with disabilities from birth through 25 years of age. By identifying children with disabilities, the school district can provide them with the support and services they need to succeed in school. This also includes children attending private school, being homeschooled or children who are wards of the state. It is very important that we identify children who may need service as research clearly indicates that children do better when they attend school.

SECTION 504 OF THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES REHABILITATION ACT

This is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities. This law ensures that children with disabilities have equal access to an appropriate education. Unlike the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 does not require the school to provide an individualized educational program (IEP) that is designed to meet the child's unique needs and provides the child with educational benefit. Under Section 504, fewer procedural safeguards are available to children with disabilities and their parents than under IDEA. Section 504 is a consideration if a student requires additional support to have equal access to educational opportunities.

STUDENT DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The board designates as "student directory information" the following: a student's name; address; telephone number; photographs or videos depicting a student's participation in school-related activities; date and place of birth; major field of study; grade level; enrollment status; dates of attendance; participation in officially recognized activities and sports; weight and height of athletic team members; degrees, honors, and awards received; and the most recent educational agency or institution attended. The Board further designates District-assigned student email addresses as directory information for the limited purposes of: (1) facilitating the student's participation in and access to online learning platforms and application; and (2) inclusion in internal school and District email address books. Directory information will not be released for purposes of solicitation.

Parents, guardians and adult students may refuse to allow the district to disclose any or all such "directory information" by returning the Directory Information and Opt-Out form to the district within 10 days after receipt of this public notice. Notification should be

sent to the office of the school building in which the student attends.

The district must provide United States Armed Forces recruiters at least the same access to the high school campus and to student directory information as is provided to other entities offering educational or employment opportunities for the purpose of informing students of educational and career opportunities available in the armed forces of the United States and the service academies of the Armed Forces of the United States.

FEDERAL LAW REQUIRES RELEASE TO MILITARY AND INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION RECRUITERS

Federal law requires the District to release a secondary school student's name, address, and telephone number to U.S. Military recruiters and institutions of higher education recruiters upon their request.

If you do not want Forest Hills Public Schools to disclose name, address, and telephone number to military and/or higher education recruiters, you must notify the school office in writing by completing the Directory Information and Opt-Out Form by September 9, 2022.

Male students age eighteen (18) or older are required to register for the selective service within 30 days of their 18th birthday.

"Armed Forces of the United States" means the Armed Forces of the United States and their reserve components and the United States Coast Guard.

SCHOOL VISITORS

The board of education welcomes and encourages visits to school by parents, other adult residents of the community and interested educators. In order for the educational program to continue undisturbed when visitors are present and to prevent the intrusion of disruptive persons into the schools, it is necessary to establish visitor guidelines. During the times when school is in session, all visitors are required to report to the main school office to check in prior to visiting any other location in the school.

The superintendent or the principal has the authority to prohibit the entry of any person to a school of this district or to expel any person when there is reason to believe the presence of such person would be detrimental to the good order of the school. If such an individual refuses to leave the school grounds or creates a disturbance, the administrator in charge is authorized to request from the local law enforcement agency whatever assistance is required to remove the individual.

Parents/Guardians, who are registered sex offenders and wish to participate in their child's school activities, may be allowed on campus at the discretion and under the direction of the principal. Conditions may be imposed, including but not limited to the following: must have prior permission, must check in, must have approved escort in building or at event, must leave premises immediately upon conclusion of business, and may not visit while school is in session.

Non-staff access to students and classes must be limited and only in accordance with a schedule, which has been determined by the principal after consultation with the teacher whose classroom is being visited. Classroom visitations must be non-obtrusive to the educative process and learning environment and should not occur on an excessive basis.

HANDICAPPED ACCESS

Forest Hills Public Schools will make reasonable accommodations for any disabled person wanting to participate in events. Service animals used by persons requiring this type of assistance shall be permitted in all district facilities and at all school events. Certain restrictions may be applied when necessary due to allergies, health, safety, disability other issues of those attending the event. The goal shall be to provide all attendees with the same access and participation provided to other members of the public.

TITLE I PROGRAM INFORMATION

Parents/Guardians in Title I schools may request the following information about of their child's teacher: state licenser requirements for the grade level and content areas taught; the current licensing status of your child's teacher; and baccalaureate/graduate certification/degree. Parents may also request the qualifications of an instructional paraprofessional who serves your child in a Title I program. This information may be requested from the Human Resources Department by calling 616-493-8800 or sending a letter of request to the Human Resources Department, 6590 Cascade Road SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.

DRUG PREVENTION

The board of education recognizes that the misuse of drugs is a serious problem with legal, physical, and social implications for the entire school community. As the educational institution of this community, the schools should strive to prevent drug abuse and help drug abusers by educational, rather than punitive, means.

For purposes of this policy, "drugs" shall mean: all dangerous controlled substances as so designated and prohibited by Michigan statute; all chemicals which release toxic vapors; all alcoholic beverages; any prescription or patent drug, except those for which permission to use in school has been granted pursuant to board policy; "look-alikes," performance-enhancing drugs as determined annually by the Department of Community Health, and any other illegal substances so designated and prohibited by law.

The board prohibits the use, possession, concealment, or distribution of any drug at any time on district property or at any district-related event.

PERMANENT EXPULSION POLICY

State law requires the permanent expulsion of any student who physically assaults a school employee, or who commits an act of rape or arson on school property, at a school event, or on school transportation. Students also may be expelled for assault, drug violations or other disciplinary reasons.

REQUIRED ANNUAL NOTICES AUGUST 2022 continued ...

DANGEROUS WEAPONS, FALSE ALARMS AND BOMB THREATS

The board of education will not tolerate the possession of weapons by anyone while on school property or at a district-related event. In implementing this policy, the district will comply with M.C.L. 380.1313 which prohibits students from possessing a dangerous weapon, including but not limited to, a firearm, dagger, dirk, stiletto, knife, pocket knife opened by a mechanical device, iron bar, brass knuckles, or other devices capable of inflicting bodily harm while in attendance at school or a school activity, or on a school bus.

Students may also be expelled for actions such as false fire alarms, bomb threats, or intentional calls to falsely report a dangerous condition.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

The board of education charges school authorities with the responsibility of safeguarding the students in their care. In the discharge of that responsibility, school authorities may search school property such as lockers used by students or the person or property, including vehicles, of a student in accordance with Policy 5103.

USE OF DETECTION DOGS

The District may use detection dogs, without a warrant or consent, to sniff property in an effort to locate illegal drugs or contraband according to Board Policy 3107's protocol. Detection dogs will not be used to search a person unless the search is otherwise authorized by law or Policy.

The District will inform students and personnel over the public address system when a detection dog is being used and may direct students and personnel to remain in place or relocate.

A detection dog alerting on a person's property constitutes reasonable suspicion to search the property. Anything found during a search that violates Policy, school rules, school handbook, or state or federal law may be seized and used as evidence in a disciplinary proceeding. Any illegal drugs, dangerous weapons, and other illegal items found during a search will be tagged and identified by a District administrator and turned over to law enforcement.

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS IN SCHOOLS AND ON SCHOOL SITES

For the safety and security of all students, staff, family members, and volunteers, video surveillance cameras are used in all schools, school buses, and all school sites. Personal information and activities recorded are collected and may be disclosed for disciplinary and/or law enforcement purposes.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

Forest Hills Public Schools is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, or sexual orientation), marital status, disability, or other legally prohibited 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 1972, 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 616-493-8800

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

- The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
- The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
 - The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational



interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20202-4605

PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (PPRA)

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) requires that the District notify you and obtain your consent, or allow you to opt your students out of, participating in any school survey analysis, or evaluation that involves one or more of the following 8 subjects (protected information surveys"):

- 1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
- Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
- 3. Sex behavior or attitudes:
- Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
- Critical appraisals of others with whom the student has close family relationships;
- Legally recognized privileged relations, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
- Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parents; or
- 8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

The notification and opt-out requirement also applies to the collection, disclosure, or use of a student's personal information for marketing purposes ("marketing surveys") and certain physical exams and screenings.

You have the right to review a protected information or marketing survey before it is given to your student to determine whether you want your student to participate. If you want to review materials that will be used in a protected information or marketing survey please submit your request to the building principal. The building principal will let you know where and when you may review those materials.

If the District schedules a protected information or marketing survey after the school year starts, the



REQUIRED ANNUAL NOTICES AUGUST 2022 continued ...

District will notify you within a reasonable amount of time and give an opportunity to consent or opt your student out. The District also will give you an opportunity to review the newly scheduled surveys or instructional materials upon request.

NOTIFICATION OF ASBESTOS PLAN

As required in 1989, our school district conducts an asbestos survey of all buildings. Based on these findings, a comprehensive management plan was drafted. This plan details the response actions the district would take regarding any asbestos materials found in our buildings.

Every three years, we conduct a full inspection of any remaining asbestos containing material. This inspection is required under the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act.

This plan is available for inspection at our Operations Department without cost or restriction during normal business hours. If you want a personal copy, it will be mailed to you upon request. Please contact the Operations Department, 493-8780, with any questions.

PESTICIDE APPLICATION ADVISORY TO ALL PARENTS/ GUARDIANS

As part of its integrated pest management program, the District annually notifies its students' parents/guardians that they will be given at least 48 hours' advance notice before the non-emergency application of a pesticide on school grounds (other than application pursuant to a bait or gel formulation).

Notice will be provided by posting at the school's entrances and by posting in a public, common area of the school, other than the entrances. In addition to this notice, and upon request only, parents/guardians are entitled to receive notice by first-class mail postmarked three days before an application. Requests for this additional notice must be in writing and directed to the director of operations.

Pesticides may be applied without advance notice in an emergency. The District will promptly notify parents/guardians as set forth herein after any emergency application.

The District's integrated pest management program and pesticide application records are available for review. The person responsible for the school's pesticide application procedures is:

Name: Stephen King, Director of Operations Phone: (616)493-8780

Email: sking@fhps.net

Please contact the director of operations if you have any questions regarding pesticide application.



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 have taken the necessary steps to receive the information.

District Website and Online School Information

The district website, www.fhps.net, contains a wealth of information. The website is a portal to all school pages where you will find important upcoming activities and events, reminders, announcements, and school news. The website is a public place of information for students, parents/guardians, staff, families, community members, and the public atlarge.

SchoolMessenger

SchoolMessenger is used to communicate a variety of information. This push notification system is an automated messaging service. The district uses this system to inform families of school delays or closures, when there is an emergency at a school, and information from the superintendent.

SchoolMessenger is also used by each of our schools to communicate, primarily through email, non-emergency information, school reminders, and activity updates. SchoolMessenger allows families to set preferences on how messages are received, such as an email, text and/or phone call. You can manage your preferences through the Parent Portal of PowerSchool. To "opt in" to text messages you must text "YES" to 67587 from your mobile device. There is also a SchoolMessenger app available to download. The app provides families with a powerful way to stay engaged with their school and the district. The app is available for both Android and iOS devices. Please note, this communication tool is the primary method for schools to communicate information to families. Parents should always contact their child's school to update their phone number and email contact information if or when a change occurs.

PowerSchool

Parents and guardians can access PowerSchool, our student information system, through the Parent Portal. For our kindergarten through sixth-grade families, you are able to view contact information, important school information, and student attendance. For our seventh- through 12th-grade families, you may also view student's grade history, teacher comments, and more. Parent Portal is also used to update your SchoolMessenger preferences as mentioned above, or you can install the SchoolMessenger app.

Please be sure to update your child's school with any changes to your contact information. This includes telephone numbers as well as email addresses.

Social Media

The district posts news and updates on social media channels such as Facebook, Twitter, and Vimeo. Please make sure to like and follow us on the following channels: Facebook, Twitter, Vimeo, and LinkedIn.

Canvas

Canvas is a web-based learning management system, or LMS. It is used by learning institutions, educators, and students to access and manage online course learning materials and communicate about skill development and learning achievement. Canvas includes a variety of customizable course creation and management tools, course and user analytics and statistics, and internal communication tools. Information about how to access Canvas as a student and as an observer is available on our website.

FHPS Phone Numbers, Principals, Building Contacts



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Collins Elementary493-8900 4368 Heather Lane SE Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Knapp Forest Elementary493-8980 4243 Knapp Valley Drive NE Grand Rapids, MI 49525 Principal: Kristen Schukow

Meadow Brook Elementary493-8740 1450 Forest Hill Avenue SE Grand Rapids, MI 49546 Principal: Dawn Heerema

Orchard View Elementary493-8930 2770 Leffingwell Avenue NE

Grand Rapids, MI 49525 Principal: Christina Mendoza

Principal: Mitchell Balingit

Pine Ridge Elementary493-8910

3250 Redford Avenue SE Grand Rapids, MI 49546 Principal: Nathan Peltz

Thornapple Elementary493-8920 6932 Bridgewater Drive SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49546 Principal: David Lyon

5/6 Schools

Central Woodlands 5/6493-8790 400 Alta Dale Avenue SE

Ada, MI 49301

Principal: Amy Burton-Major

Goodwillie Environmental 5/6493-8633 8400 Two Mile Road NE

Ada, MI 49301

Principal: Jason Yelding

Northern Trails 5/6493-8990

3777 Leonard Street NE Grand Rapids, MI 49525 Principal: Susan Gutierrez

Middle Schools

Central Middle School493-8750

5810 Ada Drive SE Ada, MI 49301 Principal: Jonathan

Principal: Jonathan Haga Assistant Principal: Jeff Simon Eastern Middle School493-8850 2200 Pettis Avenue NE

Ada, MI 49301

Principal: Kristine Yelding

Northern Hills Middle School493-8650

Grand Rapids, MI 49525 Principal: David Simpson

Assistant Principal: Heather Fix

High Schools

Central High School493-8700 5901 Hall Street SE Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Principal: Steve Passinault Assistant Principals: Kristy Loughin-Vance and John DeStefano

Eastern High School493-8830

2200 Pettis Avenue NE Ada, MI 49301 Principal: Amy Pallo Assistant Principals: Dan McElheny and Jason Yelding

Northern High School493-8600 3801 Leonard Street NE Grand Rapids, MI 49525 Principal: Amena Moiz

Assistant Principals: Aaron Romoslawski and Steve Harvey

Additional Numbers

Administration Building493-8800 6590 Cascade Road SE Grand Rapids, MI 49546 Superintendent: Dan Behm

Student Services/Spec. Ed......493-8660 3787 Leonard Street NE

Grand Rapids, MI 49525 Director: Jann VanAirsdale

Transition Center......493-8660

3787 Leonard Street NE Grand Rapids, MI 49525

Operations493-8780

150 Alta Dale Avenue SE Ada, MI 49301

Director: Steve King

Transportation493-8785

6001 Hall Street SE Grand Rapids, MI 49546 Director: Todd Sharp

Food Service493-8774

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160 Alta Dale Avenue SE Ada, MI 49301

Director: Sarah Hawkins

Community Services493-8950 Community, Aquatic, and Senior Center 660 Forest Hill Avenue SE Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Fine Arts Center493-8965 600 Forest Hill Avenue SE Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Child Care493-8787 150 Alta Dale Avenue SE Ada, MI 49301 Director: Jennifer Campbell

FHPS Foundation493-8500

600 Forest Hill Ave. SE Grand Rapids, MI 49546 Director: Elizabeth Brink



Ada Elementary School Pine Ridge Elementary Thornapple Elementary Central Woodlands 5/6 Central Middle School Central High School





Knapp Forest Elementary School Orchard View Elementary School Eastern Middle School (6-8 grades) Eastern High School





Ada Vista Elementary Collins Elementary Meadow Brook Elementary Northern Trails 5/6 Northern Hills Middle School Northern High School



BOARD OF EDUCATION

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WE'RE HIRING.

Forest Hills Public Schools has a number of great opportunities for your consideration. Begin the first step towards your new career today by going to fhps.net and clicking on "Careers" at the top of the page. If you have any questions about the process, call our Human Resources Department at (616) 493-8805.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

SENIOR CITIZEN CORNER

The following Learning Café program is held at Forest Hills Community Services, 660 Forest Hill Avenue. Lunch is at 12 noon; program at 12:45 pm. Cost is \$12 per person for lunch and program (\$14 for out-of-district). Please call in your reservation at 616-493-8950 or online at enjoylearning.com by the Friday prior. For a full listing of all Learning Café programs, please call to be added to the Encore Programs Guide mailing list.

SEPTEMBER 13 DOWNSIZING MADE EASY

Listen to Laura Kelso, a Certified Senior Housing Professional, provide suggestions on a systematic approach that could lessen the stress of a future move.

SCHOOL START AND END TIMES

Ada Elementary:(Preschool 9-11:30 a.m. M-F)	. 8:45 a.m3:45 p.m.
Ada Vista Elementary:	. 8:10 a.m3:10 p.m.
(Preschool 8:15-10:45 a.m. and 12:20	
Collins Elementary:	. 8:45 a.m3:45 p.m.
Knapp Forest Elementary:	. 8:45 a.m3:45 p.m.
(Preschool 9-11:30 a.m. M-F)	
Meadow Brook Elementary:	. 8:45 a.m3:45 p.m.
Orchard View Elementary:	. 8:45 a.m3:45 p.m.
Pine Ridge Elementary:	. 8:45 a.m3:45 p.m.
Thornapple Elementary:	. 8:45 a.m3:45 p.m.

Central Woodlands 5/6: 8:45 a.m3:45 p.m.
Northern Trails 5/6: 8:45 a.m3:45 p.m.
Goodwillie Environmental 5/6: 8:10 a.m3:10 p.m.
Central Middle School (grades 7-8): 7:50 a.m2:45 p.m.
Eastern Middle School (grades 6-8): 7:45 a.m2:40 p.m.
Northern Hills Middle School (grades 7-8):7:50 a.m2:45 p.m.
Central High School:7:45 a.m2:40 p.m.
Eastern High School:7:40 a.m2:35 p.m.
Northern High School:7:45 a.m2:40 p.m.
Transition Center: 7:35 a.m2:45 p.m.
ECSE Program:AM 8:55-11:45 a.m. PM 12:40-3:35 p.m



In partnership with our community, Forest Hills Public Schools will provide all learners with opportunities to acquire the knowledge, skills, and experiences necessary to build meaningful and productive lives.