

## Welcome to the 2026-27 School Year



Ben Kirby, Superintendent

As we prepare to launch another memorable school year on Wednesday, August 26, I am excited about the incredible opportunities that await our Hawks, Huskies, and Rangers. The work that we do as educators is rooted in the human need for relationships. At the heart of education lie the connections we build between teachers and students, families and schools, and among our entire community.

Relationships matter because meaningful connections are the foundation of everything we do. Our caring staff understands that learning flourishes when students feel valued, supported, understood, and cared for. Based on feedback from our experience surveys completed by families, staff, and students, we are implementing strategies to improve communication about your individual student and to share gratitude, to name a few.

Our talented educators bring passion and expertise to create educational excellence through learning experiences that engage, challenge, and inspire every student. Using technology and dynamic learning environments, we ensure every child has opportunities to explore their passions, develop critical thinking and communication skills, and prepare for their bright futures. Learning for all means every student will experience education that unlocks their individual potential. Our classrooms buzz with discovery, wonder, and growth as we adapt to different

learning styles and celebrate diverse strengths. From staff professional development and learning about ways to grow our readers, scientists, and mathematicians to engaging in hands-on learning in the classroom, we are all lifelong learners.

Education is an active community partnership, and we invite you to be involved in your child's learning journey. Volunteer in classrooms, attend athletic events and musical performances, participate in open houses, support school initiatives, and learn about the Forest Hills Public Schools Foundation. Your engagement enriches your child's experience and strengthens our entire school community.

Trust and safety remain priorities. You entrust us with your most precious gifts daily—your children. We do not take this trust lightly; we care for them as if they are our own. We conduct routine drills, work closely with local law enforcement and

first responders, have a safety committee, and partner with our three school resource officers. Everyone plays a role in safety. If you see or know something, say something. From bus drivers to front office staff, coaches, paraprofessionals, and all educators, we remain committed to creating safe and secure environments.

This year brings exciting innovation and growth, including additional preschool options, many facility improvements, Project Lead the Way, and changes at the secondary level to prepare students for careers in STEM and health occupations. Both of these employment fields are high-growth and high-demand in Grand Rapids and across Michigan.

We approach this school year with tremendous optimism, knowing it will be filled with incredible possibilities for growth, discovery, and memory-making. Our dedicated staff creates nurturing environments where

*(continued on page 2, column 1)*

### Enroll Today!



### First Day of School is Wednesday, August 26

Students (and the district's mascots) enjoyed the Pages & Popsicles book event at the Forest Hills Fine Arts Center in July. See more photos from that day on page 13.

# District News

## Welcome

(continued from page 1, column 3)

every student feels welcomed, supported, and encouraged to take risks in their learning while promoting a growth mindset.

We are deeply grateful for our community's continued support of bond and millage proposals. Your unwavering commitment helps enhance our facilities. These investments demonstrate our shared commitment to providing world-class educational opportunities, technology, and infrastructure, as well as playgrounds and spaces we can all enjoy. There were eight major projects started this summer, and we are excited for our students and community to see the progress.



Superintendent Kirby congratulated Class of 2026 graduates as they received their diplomas in May.

Our ultimate goal is simple: Success for every student. Success looks different for each child, but our commitment remains to provide the support, resources, and opportunities every learner needs to cultivate possibility and achieve their individual potential.

As we embark on this new academic year guided by the power of relationships, we do so with tremendous excitement and optimism. Together, we will build the foundation for lifelong learning and success.

Here's to a wonderful 2026-27 school year! We cannot wait to welcome our Huskies, Hawks, and Rangers back to school on Wednesday, August 26!

Warmest regards,

Ben Kirby, Superintendent

## Welcome New Members of the Forest Hills Public Schools Leadership Team

The district is pleased to welcome five new administrators to our district's leadership team. We are happy to have them with us.

### Robert Coon, Assistant Principal, Northern High School



Robert Coon

Robert Coon brings more than a decade of experience in secondary education, instructional leadership, and student support. Coon began his teaching career at Grand Blanc High School, then spent four years as a social studies teacher at Portage Central High School. For the last four years, he served Mattawan High School as the dean of teaching and learning, where he evaluated and coached classroom teachers, led professional development, and oversaw data-driven student support systems, including Multi-Tiered System of Supports interventions, professional learning community curricular cycles, and restorative behavioral practices. He has experience facilitating IEP, 504, and student support meetings to ensure strong family collaboration and effective accommodations, among other accomplishments. Coon holds a master's degree in education administration from Michigan State University and a bachelor's degree in political theory and constitutional democracy, also from MSU.

### Dr. Gabrielle (Gabbie) Kokenakes, Principal, Ada Elementary School



Dr. Gabrielle Kokenakes

Gabrielle Kokenakes is not a newcomer to our community. She has called Forest Hills home throughout most of her career, teaching third through sixth grade at Knapp Forest

Elementary, serving as a Multi-Tiered System of Supports district instructional coach and gifted services coordinator, and most recently leading as the supervisor of student support systems at Ada Elementary. Kokenakes holds a doctorate in educational leadership from Michigan State University, along with a master's and bachelor's degree from MSU. Her professional philosophy is grounded in the belief that the best schools are where staff feel supported, students feel known, and leadership is shared. She is passionate about helping students find joy in learning and is deeply committed to working alongside teachers and families as true partners in that work.

### Andrew Ley, Assistant Principal, Central Middle School



Andrew Ley

Andrew Ley has served Forest Hills Public Schools since 2022, most recently as the district's JK-12 math Multi-Tiered System of Supports instructional coach, where he has built relationships across all grade levels, modeled lessons, and collaborated with principals and teachers to support tiered instruction for students in need of enrichment and intervention. He also has helped lead district-wide vertical teams in math, science, and social studies, and has supported new teachers through coaching conversations and coaching cycles. Before FHPS, he spent 10 years as a classroom teacher at Marshall Elementary School in Byron Center and coached high school baseball. His career also includes classroom experience at an environmental science magnet school in Ogden, Utah. Ley earned both his master's and bachelor's degrees from Michigan State University in teaching and curriculum and elementary education and social studies, respectively.

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# New Members

(continued from page 2, column 3)

## Dr. Jennifer Mackie, Director of Secondary Instructional Services



Dr. Jennifer Mackie

Jennifer Mackie brings a wealth of experience in educational leadership to Forest Hills. Most recently, she served as director of secondary education for Portland Public Schools, where she led curriculum development, instructional coaching, and district improvement initiatives for grades six through 12. Prior to that role, she served as middle/high school principal and kindergarten through 12th grade curriculum director at Vestaburg Community Schools, where she guided academic programming, staff evaluation, and school culture initiatives across the district. She earned her doctorate of educational leadership from Michigan State University, where her research focused on supporting early career principals. She also holds a master's degree from the University of Arizona and a bachelor's degree in education from Central Michigan University.

## Joshua White, Assistant Principal, Eastern High School



Joshua White

Joshua White joins Eastern High School as assistant principal, working alongside Jason Yelding, Eastern's existing assistant principal, and Dan McElheny, principal. White served as a pre-kindergarten through eighth grade principal at Orchard Park Academy in Westminster Public Schools in Denver, Colorado, where he led instructional and cultural transformation through student-centered learning, restorative practices, and strong family partnerships. He holds a master's degree in educational leadership from Eastern Michigan University and a bachelor's degree in education from Siena Heights University. His collaborative, people-first approach and his experience building strong student support systems will be a wonderful addition to Eastern's leadership team.

# FHPS Board of Education Welcomes You to Another Year of Learning and Growth

The Forest Hills Public Schools Board of Education works collaboratively with the superintendent in crafting strategies to execute the district's mission and vision. The board is an elected body that meets monthly to conduct board business. Duties of the board include:

- Adopt district bylaws and policy;
- Employ and evaluate a superintendent; and
- Adopt and oversee a budget.

The board does not manage day-to-day operations. The board works with the superintendent to ensure district policies, procedures, and programs are continually assessed against the shared vision for the district.

## Mission, Vision, and Guiding Principles

### Mission

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.

### Vision

All learners achieving individual potential.

### Guiding Principles

We believe Forest Hills Public Schools is a learning organization, built upon integrity, and to this end we are committed to the following guiding principles:

- Caring
- Collaboration
- Open Communication
- Diversity and Inclusiveness
- High Expectations
- Learning
- Respect
- Trust

## Board of Education Meetings

The Forest Hills Public Schools Board of Education meets each month at the administration building, located at 620 Forest Hill Ave. SE, unless noted. Board meeting notices, agendas, minutes, and board policies, as well as committee meeting schedules, are available online at [www.fhps.net](http://www.fhps.net).

| Date, Time, Location |           |                 |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Aug. 10, 2026        | 6:30 p.m. | Admin. Building |
| Sept. 14, 2026       | 6:30 p.m. | Admin. Building |
| Oct. 12, 2026        | 6:30 p.m. | Admin. Building |
| Nov. 9, 2026         | 6:30 p.m. | Admin. Building |
| Dec. 14, 2026        | 6:30 p.m. | Admin. Building |
| Jan. 11, 2027        | 6:30 p.m. | Admin. Building |
| Feb. 8, 2027         | 6:30 p.m. | Admin. Building |
| March 8, 2027        | 6:30 p.m. | Admin. Building |
| April 19, 2027       | 6:30 p.m. | Admin. Building |
| May 17, 2027         | 6:30 p.m. | Admin. Building |
| June 14, 2027        | 6:30 p.m. | Admin. Building |

## Current Board Members



Kristen Fauson  
President



Maggie Terryn  
Vice President



Malorie Ninemeier  
Secretary



CJ Michaud  
Treasurer



Shawn Colley  
Trustee



Holly DeBoer  
Trustee



Kelly Kermode  
Trustee

Visit the FHPS website @  
**fhps.net**

# Regular School Election: Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026

This November, Forest Hills Public Schools residents will have an important decision to make at the ballot box: who will serve on our board of education for the next six years. Two FHPS board seats have terms expiring in 2026, which means voters will elect two board members on the Nov. 3 ballot. Those elected will begin their six-year terms on Jan. 1, 2027, running through Dec. 31, 2032.

Three community members have filed to run for the two open seats. They include Claire Horlings, Brian Spratke, and Maggie Terryn.

To appear on the ballot, each candidate was required to file an Affidavit of Identity and

Petition, backed by 40 to 100 valid signatures, or pay a \$100 filing fee with the Kent County Clerk / Election Coordinator. The filing deadline was 4 p.m. on Tuesday, July 21, 2026.

## Why It Matters

Board of education members play a vital role in shaping the future of our schools, setting policy, approving budgets, and ensuring FHPS continues to provide an excellent education for all learners across our district. As One Forest Hills, we encourage every community member to learn more about the candidates and vote on or before Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026.

# Schools' Start and End Times for the 2026-27 School Year

It is important that our students are on time to start their school day. Please make note of your school's start and end times for this year. The following times are for full days of instruction. Please visit our website for release times on half days or reach out to your student's school. In addition, please contact your school to determine what time the school doors open in the morning for students. Some doors may not open until 15 minutes prior to the start of school.

## Start and End Times

Ada Elementary School  
8:45 a.m.-3:45 p.m.  
(FHPS Preschool 9-11:30 a.m. M-F)

Ada Vista Elementary School  
8:10 a.m.-3:10 p.m.

Collins Elementary School  
8:45 a.m.-3:45 p.m.

Knapp Forest Elementary School  
8:45 a.m.-3:45 p.m.  
(FHPS Preschool 9-11:30 a.m. M-F)

Meadow Brook Elementary School  
8:45 a.m.-3:45 p.m.

Orchard View Elementary School  
8:45 a.m.-3:45 p.m.

Pine Ridge Elementary School  
8:45 a.m.-3:45 p.m.

Thornapple Elementary School  
8:45 a.m.-3:45 p.m.

Central Woodlands 5/6 School  
8:45 a.m.-3:45 p.m.

Northern Trails 5/6 School  
8:45 a.m.-3:45 p.m.

Goodwillie Environmental 5/6 School  
8:10 a.m.-3:10 p.m.

Central Middle School  
7:50 a.m.-2:45 p.m.

Eastern Middle School (grades 6-8)  
7:45 a.m.-2:40 p.m.

Northern Hills Middle School  
7:50 a.m.-2:45 p.m.

Central High School  
7:45 a.m.-2:45 p.m.

Eastern High School  
7:40 a.m.-2:35 p.m.

Northern High School  
7:45 a.m.-2:40 p.m.

Transition Center  
7:35 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

ECSE Program  
AM: 8:55 a.m.-11:45 a.m.  
PM: 12:40 p.m.-3:35 p.m.

# FHPS Receives Certificate of Excellence from International Association

Congratulations to the FHPS business office and financial team! The district is the recipient of the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Association of School Business Officials International for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. This marks the 28th straight year FHPS received this award! FHPS is one of approximately 17 schools that received this award out of 538 public school districts and 295 charter schools in the state of Michigan. Additionally, the district also received an unmodified opinion from Maner Costerisan for the year ending June 30, 2025. This is also the highest opinion a school district can receive.



# Parents, Report Student Absences

## Three Ways to Inform Your School: Call, Email, or Use PowerSchool

For the safety and welfare of all students, we require that a parent or guardian inform the school office on any day a child is absent. Procedures for reporting student absences are the same at all of our schools: call the school office (24-hour attendance line numbers are on page six), email the school office, or use the Attendance Monitor tab in PowerSchool to send a message to the school. If your child is absent from school, please explain the reason for the absence. Messages should be made/sent as soon as possible during the late evening or early morning hours, preferably before 9:30 a.m. If your child will be absent from school for any reason other than illness, please inform 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.

## Annual Verification of Information and Completion of All Student Forms in PowerSchool

It is essential every year for families to log in to PowerSchool and verify their student's information for the school year. This process is required for all FHPS students. Ensuring we have accurate and up-to-date information for all students for the 2026-27 year is imperative.

**If you have yet to verify your student's forms and log in to PowerSchool, please follow these essential steps:**

1. Log in to your PowerSchool account online at [ps.fhps.net/public](https://ps.fhps.net/public).
2. Select "Forms" on the left navigation menu.
3. Verify and update all of your student's information.
4. Verify contact information including address and phone numbers.
5. Complete all required school forms.
6. If you have more than one student, you must complete and verify the information for each student.

**You must complete and verify all the forms for several reasons:**

1. Transportation: If your student requires FHPS busing, the transportation request section must be completed.

*(continued on page 8, column 1)*

## Remember ...

Emergency contacts **MUST BE** people other than those listed in PowerSchool as a parent/guardian.

# Attendance Matters: Why Students Thrive When They're Here

As our Huskies, Hawks, and Rangers settle into the new academic year, we want to remind our families: attendance matters! Students should be in school "All Day, Every Day!"

## The Power of Being Present

Amazing things happen when our students are in school all day, every day—staying home only when they're truly sick. Research consistently shows that attendance plays a crucial role in academic achievement, and students who are present for learning experience fewer gaps in their education and more substantial overall progress.

Starting in junior kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school. Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read. Before you know it, just one or two days a month can add up to nearly 10 percent of the school year.

"Being here matters," said Raeanne Hart, assistant principal at Northern Hills Middle School. "When our Huskies, Hawks, and Rangers are in their classrooms, they're not just learning academic content, they're building relationships, developing confidence, and creating positive momentum that carries them forward. They also learn the importance of being on time and present in school and life."

## Building Better Attendance Habits

FHPS encourages families to adopt proactive strategies to maximize school attendance:

- **Schedule strategically:** Request medical and dental appointments after school hours or during school breaks whenever possible.
- **Plan vacations wisely:** Coordinate family trips with scheduled school breaks to avoid pulling students out of classes during crucial learning periods.
- **Develop backup transportation plans:** Establish reliable alternatives for getting students to and from school when regular transportation falls through.
- **Prioritize punctuality:** Arriving on time ensures students don't miss important

morning instruction and helps establish consistent routines.

- **Set routines:** Establish regular bedtime and morning routines. Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.

## When to Keep Your Child Home

Kids do get sick, and it's important to use common sense. Please keep your child home when they have a fever of 100 degrees or higher, diarrhea, vomiting, a sore throat, or a continuous "barking" or deep chest cough. Before returning to school, students must be fever-free for at least 24 hours without medication.

Keep in mind that complaints of stomach aches or headaches can sometimes be signs of anxiety. If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to the teacher or school counselor for advice on making your child feel more comfortable and excited about learning.

## Communication is Key

Let the school know when your child is absent and explain why they are absent. Let the school and teacher know in advance that your child will be out and gather any homework that must be completed.

Have conversations with your child about the importance of attending school every day, all day. Talk to them about why education is important to you, and take an interest in their schoolwork and activities.

"Every day our students are here, healthy and ready to learn, is a day of possibilities," Hart said. "We're committed to partnering with families to ensure our Huskies, Hawks, and Rangers don't miss out on the incredible learning opportunities and connections that happen in our schools daily."

Together, schools and families can ensure that every student receives the full benefit of their educational experience and builds the foundation for success. If families need assistance getting their student to school on time and/or help to ensure their student is in school all day, every day, please contact your school counselor or principal. They are there to help.

# FHPS Phone Numbers, Principals, Building Contacts

**Administration Building** ..... 493-8800  
620 Forest Hill Avenue SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
Superintendent: Ben Kirby

## Elementary Schools

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

**Ada Vista Elementary** ..... 493-8970  
**Attendance Line:** ..... 493-8976  
7192 Bradfield Street SE  
Ada, MI 49301  
Principal: Allison Woodside de Carrillo

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

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

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

**Orchard View Elementary** ..... 493-8930  
**Attendance line:** ..... 493-8936  
2770 Leffingwell Avenue NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49525  
Principal: Rose Charles-Maher

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

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

## 5/6 Schools

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

## 5/6 Schools (continued)

**Goodwillie Environmental 5/6** ..... 493-8633  
8400 Two Mile Road NE  
Ada, MI 49301  
Principal: Jason Yelding

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

## Middle Schools

**Central Middle School** ..... 493-8750  
**Attendance line:** ..... 493-8762  
5810 Ada Drive SE  
Ada, MI 49301  
Principal: Jeff Simon  
Assistant Principal: Andrew Ley

**Eastern Middle School** ..... 493-8850  
**Attendance line:** ..... 493-8856  
2200 Pettis Avenue NE  
Ada, MI 49301  
Principal: Kristine Yelding  
Assistant Principal: Kris Hop

**Northern Hills Middle School** ..... 493-8650  
**Attendance line:** ..... 493-8666  
3775 Leonard Street NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49525  
Principal: David Simpson  
Assistant Principal: Raeanne Hart

## High Schools

**Central High School** ..... 493-8700  
**Attendance line:** ..... 493-8712  
5901 Hall Street SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
Principal: Jonathan Haga  
Assistant Principals: John DeStefano  
and Jacob Strotheide

**Eastern High School** ..... 493-8830  
**Attendance line:** ..... 493-8836  
2200 Pettis Avenue NE  
Ada, MI 49301  
Principal: Dan McElheny  
Assistant Principals: Joshua White  
and Jason Yelding

**Northern High School** ..... 493-8600  
**Attendance line:** ..... 493-8610  
3801 Leonard Street NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49525  
Principal: Heather McKinney-Rewa  
Assistant Principals: Robert Coon  
and Rick Wiersma

## Additional Numbers

**Student Services/  
Special Education Offices** ..... 493-8660  
640 Forest Hill Avenue SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
Director: Sarah Dawson

**Transition Center** ..... 493-8660  
640 Forest Hill Avenue SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

**Communications** ..... 493-8800  
620 Forest Hill Avenue SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
Director: Elizabeth Brink

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

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

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

**Community Enrichment** ..... 493-8950  
Community Enrichment and Aquatic Center  
660 Forest Hill Avenue SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

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

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



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

Goodwillie Environmental 5/6 School



Knapp Forest Elementary School  
Orchard View Elementary School  
Eastern Middle School  
Eastern High School

Transition Center



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



**FOREST HILLS**  
— PUBLIC SCHOOLS —



620 Forest Hill Ave. SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
616-493-8800 | [www.fhps.net](http://www.fhps.net)

## IMPORTANT DATES

### First Day of School

Wednesday, August 26 (full day)

### Last Day of School

Wednesday, June 9 (1/2 day)

### First Semester

Aug. 26-Dec. 18, 2026

### Second Semester

Jan. 4-June 9, 2027

### No School for Students

Sept. 4-7: Labor Day Weekend  
Oct. 16: Staff Professional Learning  
Oct. 19: Fall Break  
Nov. 25-29: Thanksgiving Break  
Dec. 19-Jan. 3: Winter Break  
Jan. 18: Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
Feb. 15: Mid-Winter Break  
March 12: Staff Professional Learning  
April 1-11: Spring Break  
May 7: Staff Professional Learning  
May 31: Memorial Day

### 2-Hour Early Release Days for Students (Building-Level Learning)

Monday, Sept. 21  
Thursday, Oct. 15  
Monday, Nov. 9  
Friday, Jan. 15  
Friday, Feb. 12  
Monday, March 22  
Thursday, May 6

### 1/2 Day of School for Students

Students attend in a.m./exams  
Dec. 16-18  
June 7-9

# DISTRICT CALENDAR 2026

| JULY |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S    | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|      |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |
| 5    | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12   | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19   | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26   | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |

| AUGUST |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|--------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S      | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|        |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |
| 2      | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 9      | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16     | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23     | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30     | 31 |    |    |    |    |    |

| SEPTEMBER |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S         | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|           |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |
| 6         | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13        | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20        | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27        | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |

| OCTOBER |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S       | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|         |    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  |
| 4       | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 11      | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18      | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25      | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

| NOVEMBER |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S        | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|          |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |
| 2        | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |    |
| 8        | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15       | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22       | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29       | 30 |    |    |    |    |    |

| DECEMBER |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S        | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|          |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |
| 2        | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 9        | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16       | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23       | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30       | 31 |    |    |    |    |    |

# 2027

| JANUARY |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S       | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|         |    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  |
| 3       | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |
| 10      | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17      | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24      | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31      |    |    |    |    |    |    |

| FEBRUARY |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 9        | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16       | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23       | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30       |    |    |    |    |    |    |

| MARCH |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| 30    | 31 |    |    |    |    |    |

| APRIL |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| 17    | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24    | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

| MAY |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| 23  | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
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| JUNE |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| 9    | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16   | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23   | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30   |    |    |    |    |    |    |

## 2026-27 Commencement Dates

The 2026-27 school year commencement dates will be as follows at Van Noord Arena, Calvin University:

### Central High Graduation

Tuesday, May 11, 2027

### Eastern High Graduation

Wednesday, May 12, 2027

### Northern High Graduation

Thursday, May 13, 2027

## Annual Verification

*(continued from page 5, column 1)*

2. Student health: These forms ensure that buildings have accurate information in case of an emergency and that we can continue to provide a safe and secure learning environment.
3. Communication: Accurate information ensures you receive important communication from your child's school and the district, such as school closings due to inclement weather or other school-related occurrences.

Finally, there is a PowerSchool mobile app available on Apple's App Store and Google's Play Store. The PowerSchool app is designed for parents/guardians to check students' attendance, homework, and grades. You can also register to receive alert notifications. Parents of middle and high school students primarily use the app for this purpose. Additional information about this app can be found on the district's website, [www.fhps.net](http://www.fhps.net).

If you have questions or need assistance with PowerSchool or using the app, please email [parentportal@fhps.net](mailto:parentportal@fhps.net) or call FHPS at (616) 493-8550. If you need further assistance, please get in touch with the registrar at your student's school.

## Cell Phone Use Policy

Students may not use cell phones or other electronic devices (including earbuds, headphones, and smart glasses) during school hours (including lunchtime). Cell phones or other electronic devices must be stored out of sight and powered off during school hours if a student chooses to bring them to school.

Students are personally and solely responsible for the security of their cell phones and other electronic devices. The district is not responsible for theft, loss, or damage of any cell phone or other electronic device.

Phones are available in the school office should a student need to contact their parent/guardian. Additionally, if a parent/guardian needs to get a message to their student, they may do so by calling the main school office number. If a student brings a cell phone to school for after-school use, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that their phone remains off and stored in their locker (or backpack if the student is choosing not to use their assigned locker) during the school day.

### Advantages of Non-Use

Some of the benefits of not having students on cell phones during the academic day are:

- Improved grades
- Increased focus
- More social interactions
- Increased positive mental health
- Increased dependency on district-available technology

- Supports anti-cyberbullying laws
- Less anxiety
- Fewer distractions

### Consequences for Misuse

Should a student violate the FHPS cell phone policy, the following will occur:

- **First Offense:** A staff member secures the device and turns it in to the main school office. The student may pick up the device from the school office at the end of the school day. A notification will be emailed home.
- **Second Offense:** A staff member secures the device and turns the device into the main school office. A parent/guardian will be required to pick up the device from the school office.
- **Third Offense:** A staff member secures the device and turns it in to the main school office. The student will receive disciplinary action, which may include detention(s), social probation, or other consequences. A parent/guardian will be required to pick up the device from the school office.
- Additional offenses may result in the loss of school privileges, additional school-level consequences such as, but not limited to, detentions or suspension.

If you have questions pertaining to cell phone use, please contact your child's principal.



# Communication Guidance

The board of education provides the following communication guidance to students, families, and the community. Please contact the appropriate staff member following the sequence below so that the district can respond promptly and appropriately.

## On Matters Involving INSTRUCTION/ CURRICULUM

1. Classroom Teacher
2. Building Principal
3. Assistant Superintendent for Instruction
4. Superintendent
5. Board of Education

## On Matters Involving SPECIAL EDUCATION

1. Special Education Teacher
2. Building Principal
3. Director of Student Services
4. Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
5. Superintendent
6. Board of Education

## On Matters Involving STUDENT DISCIPLINE

1. Classroom Teacher
2. Assistant Principal/Supervisor of Student Support Systems
3. Building Principal
4. Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
5. Superintendent
6. Board of Education

## On Matters Involving ATHLETICS

1. Coach
2. Athletic Director
3. Building Principal
4. Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
5. Superintendent
6. Board of Education

## On Matters Involving TRANSPORTATION

1. Bus Driver
2. Director of Transportation
3. Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations
4. Superintendent
5. Board of Education

## On Matters Involving FOOD SERVICE

1. Building Principal
2. Food Service Director
3. Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations
4. Superintendent
5. Board of Education

## On Matters Involving CHILD CARE/ PRESCHOOL

1. Site Director
2. Child Care Supervisor
3. Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
4. Superintendent
5. Board of Education

## On Matters Involving FACILITIES/ GROUNDS/BUILDINGS

1. Building Principal
2. Director of Operations
3. Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations
4. Superintendent
5. Board of Education

## On Matters Involving PERSONNEL CONCERNS

### Support Staff

1. Immediate Supervisor of Employee (typically the building principal)
2. Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
3. Superintendent
4. Board of Education

### Professional Staff

1. Immediate Supervisor of Employee (typically the building principal)
2. Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
3. Superintendent
4. Board of Education

### Administrative Staff\*

1. Building Principal (for Athletic Director or Assistant Principal)
2. Appropriate Assistant Superintendent (based on department)
3. Superintendent
4. Board of Education

\*Concerns regarding Assistant Superintendents should be addressed to the Superintendent.

\*Concerns regarding the Superintendent should be addressed to the Board of Education President.

\*Concerns regarding Board Members should be addressed to the Board President (or the Vice President if the concern is regarding the Board President).

# Communication Tools

As another school year begins, it is important that our schools and school district remain in contact with our families. While nothing is better than face-to-face communication, there are times we need to rely on technology to communicate. 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 FHPS website, [www.fhps.net](http://www.fhps.net), is your go-to source for everything happening across our district, from calendars to program highlights and family resources, keeping our community connected, informed, and engaged as One Forest Hills. Be sure to bookmark the page so you always have quick access throughout the year!

## 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, the principals' weekly school newsletters, nonemergency 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 Apple devices. Please note, this communication tool is the primary method for schools to communicate information to families. Parents should always

*(continued on page 18, column 1)*

# New K-5 Literacy Curriculum Launches Across Forest Hills

This school year, Forest Hills elementary schools will introduce Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) Third Edition, a new kindergarten through fifth-grade literacy curriculum grounded in the Science of Reading. CKLA is designed to help every student grow into a confident reader, writer, speaker, and thinker, skills that form the foundation for success in every subject and, ultimately, in life beyond the classroom.

CKLA pairs explicit reading instruction with rich, knowledge-building content in science, history, literature, and the arts. As students strengthen their reading skills, they're also building the background knowledge and vocabulary that help them truly understand what they read.



## How the Curriculum Grows with Students

In kindergarten through second grade, students build foundational reading skills, phonemic awareness, phonics, decoding, and fluency, while growing their knowledge through engaging stories and informational texts. They also develop speaking, listening, and early writing skills, learning sound-spelling patterns for lasting understanding rather than memorizing weekly word lists.

In third through fifth grades, students continue to strengthen literacy skills while delving deeper into content across science, history, literature, and the arts. They read and analyze increasingly complex texts, expand academic vocabulary, and write summaries, responses, essays, and opinion pieces. Spelling patterns, word parts, prefixes, suffixes, and Greek and Latin roots are taught explicitly and applied in real reading and writing, not through rote memorization.

"This new curriculum builds on a strong literacy framework that our teachers have been developing for years," said Kim Van Antwerp, director of elementary instructional services. "We've also increased the amount of time devoted to literacy instruction each day, giving students more opportunities to read, write, and talk about what they're learning. This isn't just a new set of materials. It's a deeper investment in how we teach reading and writing across every elementary classroom."

## An Investment in Literacy

"Strong literacy skills benefit the entire Forest Hills community," said Van Antwerp. "They're foundational to student achievement, workforce readiness, and life. This curriculum reflects our district's ongoing commitment to ensuring all learners achieve their individual potential, grounded in current, research-based reading instruction."

Families of elementary students will receive caregiver letters throughout the year with updates on what their child is learning and ideas for supporting learning at home.

"We're proud to bring this next chapter in literacy instruction to Forest Hills Public Schools," Van Antwerp concluded. "We're incredibly proud of the work our elementary teachers have already put into this transition, and working together with our students and families, we cannot wait to see the growth that lies ahead."



## Hand2Hand Partnership: Fighting Weekend Hunger, Together

FHPS is proud to partner with Hand2Hand, a West Michigan nonprofit dedicated to closing the gap between Friday's school lunch and Monday's breakfast. Hand2Hand supports students at Orchard View, Collins, Meadow Brook, and Northern Trails 5/6 elementary schools, sending kids home with backpacks full of nutritious, shelf-stable food to carry them through weekends and school breaks.

By bringing this partnership to FHPS buildings, we are joining a growing network of schools working together to make sure every student has what they need to learn, grow, and thrive because no child should have to face Monday on an empty stomach.

If you have a student at Orchard View, Collins, Meadow Brook, or Northern Trails who could benefit from this program, please reach out to your child's principal for more information. All inquiries are kept confidential. For more information about Hand2Hand, visit their website, [h2hkids.org](http://h2hkids.org).



Visit the FHPS  
website @

**fhps.net**

# FHPS Launches New STEAM Programming for Elementary Students

Forest Hills Public Schools is excited to announce a new experience for its youngest students. Beginning with the 2026-27 school year, elementary students in junior kindergarten through sixth grade will engage in a STEAM-focused curriculum through Project Lead the Way.

## What is STEAM?

STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. Through PLTW's nationally recognized curriculum, students will become curious thinkers, creative designers, and confident problem-solvers as they investigate real-world challenges through hands-on, inquiry-based learning. This new programming will give students the opportunity to explore concepts and to apply what they learn in meaningful and collaborative ways.

## What Students Can Expect

Across all grade levels, students will:

- Engage in hands-on, inquiry-based learning
- Develop problem-solving and critical thinking skills
- Explore concepts in science, technology, engineering, and design
- Apply their learning in meaningful and collaborative ways

### Jr. K - Second Grade STEAM & Science

**Learning:** For the youngest learners, STEAM class will provide instruction for all

science standards. Science will remain part of daily learning in the classroom, embedded into literacy instruction.

### Grades Third - Sixth STEAM & Science

**Learning:** Students in grades third through sixth will learn science through both their STEAM special and their classroom instruction, giving them even more opportunities to explore, investigate, and apply scientific inquiry.

FHPS is rolling out this new programming thoughtfully. In the first year of implementation, the STEAM curriculum will focus on science and engineering. Additional STEAM components will be introduced in each year that follows, allowing teachers and students to build a strong foundation before expanding into new areas. This new elementary STEAM experience is part of Forest Hills Public Schools' ongoing effort to prepare students with the curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking skills they need for the future, big ideas, creative minds, and endless possibilities, right here in Forest Hills.



# Teaching in the Age of AI: How Forest Hills is Approaching This New Tool

Artificial intelligence is changing the world around us, and classrooms are no exception. As AI tools become more common in daily life, Forest Hills Public Schools has been thoughtful and intentional about how and when this technology should be used in our schools.

At the heart of the district's approach is a simple belief: the most important factor in student learning isn't a tool or a platform, it is the skill of the teacher and the relationship they build with each student. AI is not here to replace that. It's here to support it.

To guide this work, FHPS has developed a Guiding Vision for AI use in the classroom, along with a Spectrum of AI Use and accompanying rubric. These resources help teachers think through when AI use makes sense for a lesson and when traditional instruction serves students better, because the right answer often depends on the grade level, the subject, and the learning goal.

Just as we do not expect a kindergartner and a high school senior to learn the same way, we do not expect AI to be used the same way across all grade levels. Younger students need more foundational skill-building before layering in AI tools,

*(continued on page 12, column 3)*

# Forest Hills Students Reach New Heights in Advanced Placement Achievement

Every May, thousands of Forest Hills Public Schools students sit down for Advanced Placement (AP) exams, challenging, college-level tests that offer the opportunity to earn college credit while still in high school. Results arrived at the district level in July, and once again, our students have something to celebrate.

## Exam Numbers Continue to Climb

FHPS students took an impressive 3,276

AP exams in 2025-26, spanning 35 different subject areas, from art history and computer science to physics, psychology, and studio art. That is a jump from the 1,953 exams taken just five years ago in 2021-22, and more than double the number taken a decade ago.

Just as encouraging is the growth in student participation. Back in 2015-16, about 30% of FHPS students in grades nine through 12 took at least one AP exam. This year, that number has climbed to 53%, meaning more

than half of our high schoolers are challenging themselves with rigorous, college-level coursework.

## Excelling, Not Just Participating

Growth in numbers is only part of the story. FHPS students are also performing at a high level on these exams. The average score across all exams this year was 3.6 (on AP's 1-5 scale), with 86% of students scoring a 3 or better, the threshold many colleges and

*(continued on page 12, column 1)*

## A Caring Adult in Every Student's Corner:

# FHPS Partners with KidsHope USA

Every child deserves a champion, someone in their corner who shows up, listens, and cheers them on. That's why Forest Hills Public Schools is excited to welcome KidsHope USA, a proven mentoring program, to two of our elementary schools this year.

Ada Elementary and Knapp Forest Elementary are now home to KidsHope USA programs, made possible through generous partnerships with Ada Bible Church and Amway. Since 1995, KidsHope USA has

**"I'm so glad my daughter can meet with her mentor every Wednesday to get some extra help. She never misses school on a Wednesday, no matter what, because she can't miss seeing her mentor!"**

– KidsHope USA Parent

equipped and mobilized caring adults to walk alongside students, connecting community-focused organizations and churches with their neighborhood schools. Each week, trained mentors spend one hour with their student during the school day. Together, they might play games, read a book, work through homework, or simply talk about their week. It's a small window of time that makes an outsized difference, helping students grow academically, socially, and emotionally, and reminding them that they are valued, seen, and supported.



KidsHope USA mentors give kids their time to help them grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

Consistent mentoring isn't just a nice idea. The research is clear. Students with a mentor see real gains in social and emotional skills, academic performance, behavior, and self-control. In short, every student benefits from having one more caring adult in their corner.

While the district celebrates this new partnership at Ada and Knapp Forest, we recognize that not every FHPS elementary school has a mentoring program in place... yet! Our goal is to bring KidsHope USA to every elementary school in our district. If you have a connection to a local business or organization that might want to offer this opportunity to their employees or congregation, let's talk. Together, we can make sure every Forest Hills elementary school has a KidsHope USA program for its students.

## Get Involved

**Families:** If your student at Ada Elementary or Knapp Forest Elementary could benefit from a KidsHope mentor, reach out to your child's principal for more information. All inquiries are kept confidential.

**Volunteers and Community Partners:** Individuals or organizations interested in learning more about becoming a mentor or bringing KidsHope USA to another FHPS elementary school can contact partnerships@kidshopeusa.org or email Kennedy Rees at krees@kidshopeusa.org.

Every student deserves a caring adult in their corner, and we're just getting started!



Be a champion for a student and learn how to become a mentor through KidsHope.

## New Heights in AP Achievement

(continued from page 11, column 3)

universities use to award credit.

That strong performance is reflected in this year's AP Awards, which recognize students who excel across multiple exams:

- **233 AP Scholars** (up from 201 in 2025)
- **148 AP Scholars with Honor** (up from 122 in 2025)
- **315 AP Scholars with Distinction** (up from 245 in 2025)

Among this year's Distinction recipients, 206 earned the honor for the first time, while 109 students earned it for the second or third time, a testament to sustained excel-

lence across their high school careers.

These numbers tell a clear story: Forest Hills students are embracing academic challenge, broadening their horizons across dozens of subject areas, and excelling once they get there. Every exam taken, every subject explored, and every score earned represents a student investing in their future, and potentially saving real time and money on the road to a college degree.

Congratulations to all of our teachers who prepare our students for these rigorous subject areas, and our AP students. As One Forest Hills, we're proud of what our students continue to achieve.

## Teaching in the Age of AI

(continued from page 11, column 3)

while older students are better positioned to use AI thoughtfully as one resource among many.

For students in grades seven through 12, the district has introduced a best-practice guide to help them explore AI responsibly, understanding both its potential and its limits as they build the academic skills they will need long after graduation.

AI tools and best practices are evolving quickly, and FHPS is committed to keeping pace as much as possible. Throughout the

(continued on page 13, column 1)

## Teaching in the Age of AI

(continued from page 12, column 3)

year, teachers will continue to receive training designed to sharpen their judgment, not just in how to use AI, but also in knowing when not to. That professional expertise remains the constant, even as the tools around it change.

Forest Hills is approaching AI the way we approach any new tool in education: with curiosity, care, and a clear focus on what matters most, our students and the educators who guide them. We're excited for a year of learning and growing together, using AI to augment great teaching, never to replace it. If you would like to learn more about the district's guiding vision for AI or to obtain a copy of the AI rubric, please email Aaron Romoslawski, director of AI strategy and instructional innovation, [aromoslawski@fhps.net](mailto:aromoslawski@fhps.net).

### A Note About AI

FHPS has a Guiding Vision for the use of AI in the classroom. We firmly believe the most important aspect for learning in the classroom is the teacher's skill and relationship with our students. We also believe that at different grade levels, there should be different expectations for AI usage. That is reflected in our Spectrum of AI Use and AI Rubric. Throughout the year, there will be continued training for teachers so that they continue to use their expertise for when to, and when not to, use AI in the classroom. For students in grades seven through 12, we have a Best Practice Guide to support our learners as they explore this new technology. We look forward to a great year of learning and growing with AI as a tool to augment teacher expertise, not replace it.



## Champions of Hope and Leadership Podcast: New Episodes Are Dropping Soon

What does it look like when someone truly leads with heart? Find out on Champions of Hope and Leadership, a monthly podcast hosted by Ben Kirby, Superintendent of Forest Hills Public Schools.

Each episode celebrates the remarkable people who show up every single day for kids, families, and communities—the educators, leaders, and difference-makers who build relationships, lift others up, and leave a lasting mark on everyone they meet. These are the champions you might not always hear about, but whose impact you absolutely feel.

Whether you're an educator, a parent, a community member, or simply someone

who believes in the power of people to change the world, this podcast is for you. Get ready to be inspired, encouraged, and reminded of what's possible when passion meets purpose.

New episodes are dropping soon. Previous episodes include interviews with Mary Vonck, former FHPS board member; former FHPS elementary principals Melanie Hoeksema and Mitch Balingit; and FHC teacher and coach, Brad Anderson. Podcasts are available on the district website: [www.fhps.net](http://www.fhps.net), and wherever you get your podcasts, like Spotify, Apple, YouTube, and more!

## Pages & Popsicles Event at the FAC is Always Popular Each Summer

It was a sweet morning at Pages & Popsicles! This free annual FHPS event brought smiles to young readers as they picked out a book to call their own and cooled off with a frozen treat. Students entering junior kindergarten through fifth grade came out with a special grown-up in tow for a morning of book browsing and friendly fun, building home libraries one favorite story at a time, thanks to literacy grants. Special community partners and organizations joined in the celebration as well, adding to the day's festive spirit.



Hundreds of district kids and their families enjoyed the Pages & Popsicles event, held last month, where they could browse through books and pick a favorite one, pet dogs from the Pride Pup program, and enjoy popsicles on the grounds of the FAC.

# FHPS Food Service Information

## Free Breakfast, Lunch This School Year

Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed Michigan's 2027 education budget into law, once again continuing free breakfast and lunch for all 1.4 million public school students statewide. The budget dedicates \$200 million to the program, saving families an estimated \$1,000 per year, per child. This marks the eighth consecutive year Whitmer has prioritized free school meals in the state budget, ensuring every Forest Hills student continues to have access to nutritious meals at no cost to families.

## Overview

Students in every FHPS school can receive one free breakfast meal and one free lunch meal on the first day of school.



## Breakfast

Before going to class in the morning, your child can stop by the cafeteria for breakfast, which consists of healthy whole grains, hearty proteins, and a variety of fresh or dried fruit. White or chocolate low-fat milk and a second option of fresh, dried, frozen, or canned fruit will be available for your child to add to their meal at no cost. Check out our updated breakfast menu at [fhps.nutrislice.com](https://fhps.nutrislice.com).

**Jr. K through fifth grade students** will receive an ID barcode card that is placed in a card holder and attached to the student's backpack. Students who want breakfast should come to the cafeteria when they arrive at school. Students must have their backpacks with them in the cafeteria for breakfast so the attached ID barcode card can be scanned by a food service employee. This process is for meal-claiming purposes only and will not charge your child's account for breakfast. During the first weeks of school, as these cards are being disseminated, children will be allowed to receive breakfast even though they may not have a card yet.

**High school, middle school, and 5/6 students** should take their student ID badge with them to the cafeteria to help expedite the lines.

**Goodwillie 5/6, Flex, and Transition students** will pre-order breakfast a week at a time using Nutrislice. Breakfast will be picked up at a designated location in your school.

## Lunch

**Jr. K-4 & Jr. K-5 Elementary Schools:** Your child will have a choice of three main entrees daily, including a hot vegetarian option. Each lunch comes with a selection of white or chocolate low-fat milk and a variety of fresh and prepared fruits and vegetables.

**5/6 Schools, Middle Schools, and High Schools:** Students in these grade levels have many options from which to choose. The 2Mato station includes homemade pizza by the slice and hot-baked pasta dishes. Students can enjoy alternative meat options such as Impossible burgers and vegan Chik'n nuggets on the Grill station, where they will also find crispy chicken tenders, Bosco sticks, and a variety of hot sandwiches such as fresh grilled burgers, chicken sandwiches, and daily specialty sandwiches. The On the Go station includes freshly prepared items, such as freshly baked sub sandwiches, wraps, smoothies, salads, and yogurt parfaits. The Create station consists

of a variety of homestyle meals, pasta dishes, and global cuisine. Our Sono line (available at all high schools and Eastern Middle School) serves made-to-order tacos, nachos, burritos, and rice bowls. All meals include a choice of a variety of fresh and prepared fruits and vegetables and a choice of low-fat milk. We will be looking at ways to improve lunch options based on survey feedback.

**Goodwillie 5/6, Flex, and Transition Center:** Students will pre-order lunch a week at a time using Nutrislice. Lunch will be picked up at a designated location in your school.

## Milk

Milk is included at no extra cost with a free breakfast or lunch meal. Students who bring a lunch from home, or who would like an extra milk, may purchase one for 75 cents. Students must have cash or funds in their food service account to cover the purchase. Water also is available in all school cafeterias.

## Additional Snacks

At the 5/6, middle school, and high school levels, your child can purchase à la carte items such as bottled drinks, packaged snacks, and homemade cookies. All snacks meet the USDA requirement for Smart Snacks in Schools. Student accounts cannot enter a negative balance to purchase snack items. All snack items must be purchased with cash or account funds.

*(continued on the next page)*



**Breakfast and Lunch is Offered Beginning the First Day of School, Wednesday, August 26.**

# FHPS Food Service Information (continued)

## Add Money to an Account to Purchase Milk and Snacks: Meal Magic

The online Meal Magic Family Portal, accessed at [foresthills.familyportal.cloud](https://foresthills.familyportal.cloud) is your one-stop site for managing your child's meal account. You will want to create an account so your child can purchase milk if they bring lunch from home, purchase extra milk if they want more milk with their free breakfast and/or lunch, and purchase additional snack items. The best way to get started is by going to [foresthills.familyportal.cloud](https://foresthills.familyportal.cloud), where you can log in to your current account or create a new account. Click on "How-To Videos" or "Instructions" for help. 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 for as long as your child remains in the FHPS district.

On the Meal Magic Family Portal site, you can do the following:

- View your child's detailed purchase history
- View current account balance
- Make an online deposit
- Transfer funds between your children
- Access and change parental controls, such as a daily spending limit and set low balance reminders



## What's on the Menu for the Day?

Daily, weekly, and monthly menus are published on Nutrislice. Visit the site, [www.fhps.nutrislice.com](http://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.

## Food Allergies and Special Diets

Our food service team members receive allergy training through the National FAREcheck Allergy training program. Our assistant director, who is registered dietician eligible, creates menus that accommodate your child's dietary needs, 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 or Accommodations. This form must be completed and signed by your child's healthcare provider and delivered to the FHPS food service department via interoffice or regular mail. A new form must be submitted for any changes in your child's dietary needs and when requested by the food service office. If you have questions, please call the food service office at 616-493-8774.

## Importance of Completing Information for Free or Reduced-Price Meals Even Though Breakfast and Lunch Are Free

Although breakfast and lunch are free for all students this school year, families are still encouraged to apply for free or reduced-price meals. This information is critical in determining the amount of money our school district receives from various state and federal supplemental programs, including, but not limited to, instructional supports, non-instructional services, professional learning for staff, parent and community engagement supplies and activities, and technology. Your family may also receive benefits outside of school, such as reduced fees for activities, discounted internet service, and more. For more information about food assistance in Michigan, please visit [www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/assistance-programs/food](http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/assistance-programs/food).

## Do You Still Have Questions?

If you need additional assistance, please email the food service office at [foodservice@fhps.net](mailto:foodservice@fhps.net), or call 616-493-8774.



# FHPS Transportation Information

## The School Bus App, My Ride K-12, and RFID Bus Cards

The FHPS transportation department uses a system so that families can track the location of their student's school bus. The My Ride K-12 app is for families of students who ride an FHPS bus to and/or from school.

### The App Tracks Students When They Enter and Exit Their School Bus

The app syncs with each student's RFID or radio frequency identification card, and a card reader is installed on each FHPS school bus. When boarding the bus, students "tap" their card on the card reader at the top of the bus steps. Similarly, students "tap" their card on the card reader when they exit the school bus. When students "tap" their card, it lets the computer tablet know the student has boarded or exited their bus and will notify the parent/guardian via the app. If you are using the app, please ensure the app notifications are enabled on your device.

Students who rode an FHPS bus last year and still have their RFID cards should use their cards on the first day of school. If a student does not have an RFID bus card on the first day of school, or during the first few weeks school, that is o.k. Students will board their school bus and tell their driver their name so that the driver can check that the student is on the correct bus. We encourage families not to worry during the first weeks of school as the RFID cards get distributed to those needing them. No student will be left at a bus stop if they do not have

a bus card. If your student does not have a bus card, they will be given a card soon!

### Download the My Ride K-12 App if You Don't Already Have It on Your Device

For security purposes, FHPS does not publish bus routes. We encourage families to download the My Ride K-12 app. The app helps improve communication between parents and FHPS transportation staff and provides tools that help keep parents informed about their student's daily journeys on FHPS buses. Parents/guardians can securely use the My Ride K-12 app to see bus stop location, their student's assigned route, scheduled pickup time, and when to expect the bus each day.

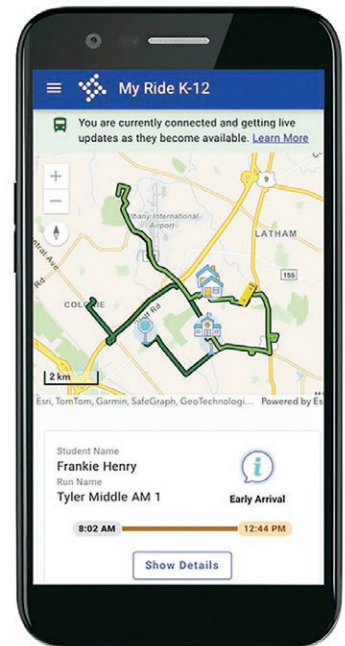
Parents can access their student's transportation-related information either through the My Ride K-12 app on their mobile device or through the My Ride K-12 website, [myridek12.tylerapp.com](http://myridek12.tylerapp.com). The mobile app is available for Apple and Android devices. Find the app in the Apple App Store and on Google Play. Please visit the FHPS website, [www.fhps.net](http://www.fhps.net), for instructions on how to download the app, set it up, and other helpful hints.

### Questions?

If you have questions regarding bus routes or need additional assistance, please call the FHPS transportation department at 616-493-8785.



Look for This App,  
My Ride K-12



App Available for Apple and Android  
Mobile Devices



# FHPS Transportation Information (continued)

## Driving a Student to School? Car Line Etiquette Reminders



### Ride a School Bus the First Day of School

Families are encouraged to use school buses as the main form of transportation to and from school. According to the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration:

- School buses are designed to be safer than passenger vehicles in avoiding crashes and preventing injury.
- School buses are the safest mode of trans-

portation for getting children back and forth to school.

- School buses keep an annual estimated 17.3 million cars off roads surrounding schools each morning.

### Driving Your Kids to/from School

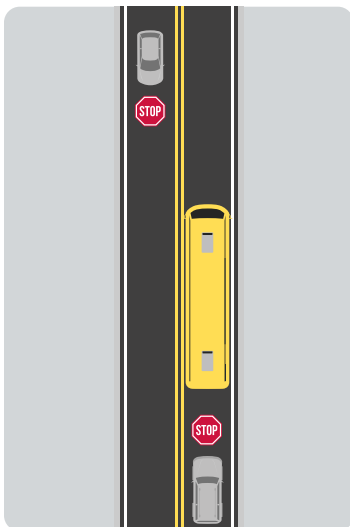
If families decide to provide their own transportation for their child to and from school, please remember that the pick-up and drop-off areas can be very congested.

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 to "quickly grab" their child, wave to their 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.

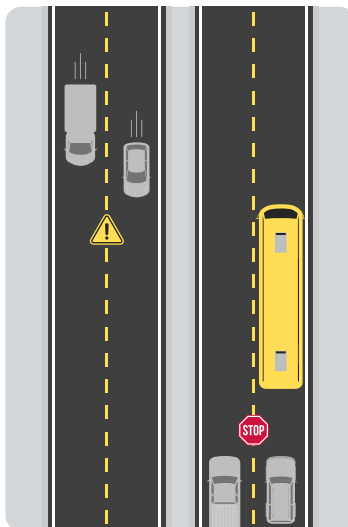
## When Drivers Need to Stop for School Buses

Understanding when a motorist is required to stop for school buses that are picking up or dropping off children can help keep students safe. Drivers need to stop when a school bus has flashing lights and an extended stop sign. Here are some common situations and the state laws.



### 2-Lane Road

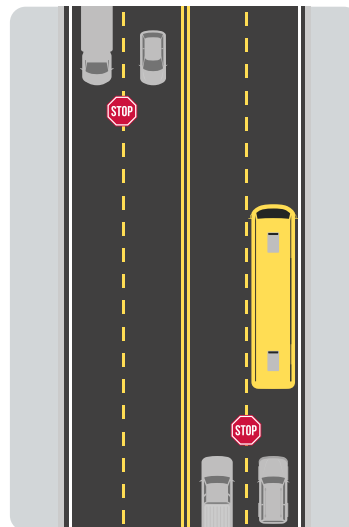
All Vehicles **STOP**



### 4+ Lanes with Median

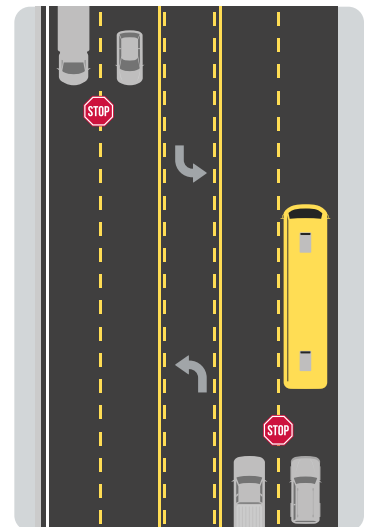
Vehicles Behind Bus **STOP**

Opposing Vehicles Proceed Cautiously



### 4+ Lanes without Median

All Vehicles **STOP**



### 4+ Lanes w/Center Turn Lane

All Vehicles **STOP**

SOURCE: State Driver's License Manual and Education Week.

# Communication Tools (continued)

(continued from page 9, column 3)

contact their child's school to update their phone number and email contact information if or when a change occurs.

## PowerSchool

Parents can access PowerSchool, our student information system, through the Parent Portal. It is important that you access PowerSchool because all district forms for enrollment are accessed through this system. In addition to enrollment forms, for our elementary school families, you are able to view contact information, important school information, and student atten-

dance. For our seventh- through 12th-grade families, you may also view student's grade history, teacher comments, and more. 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

Stay connected with FHPS on Facebook and Instagram, where we share a glimpse into the great learning and activities happening across our schools every day!



## Volunteering in Our Schools

Volunteers are an important part of our school community. We have a proud tradition of providing a wide variety of high-quality activities for students and families. Since many of our activities would not be possible without the involvement of family volunteers, we encourage family members to learn about the many opportunities to get involved in their schools.

In our ongoing effort to keep our schools safe, we require each volunteer parent and community member to have a criminal background check provided by the Michigan State Police through their Internet Criminal History Access Tool, or ICHAT. All individuals volunteering in our schools must complete a form to initiate a background check and any response will be kept confidential. You must complete a new volunteer consent form each year. Electronic forms are available at your student's school. If you have questions, please ask your student's school administrative assistant.

## District Website Redesigned for Better Ease of Use, Accessibility

A new FHPS website is launching soon at the same familiar address, [www.fhps.net](http://www.fhps.net)! Look forward to a fresh new design, improved accessibility, smarter calendar tools, and a robust search menu, all designed to make finding what you need faster and easier. Keep your eyes open for the new reveal at [www.fhps.net](http://www.fhps.net), as One Forest Hills cele-

brates all that makes our Hawks, Huskies, and Rangers great!



## School Safety and Security

The safety and security of students is our highest priority. It takes all of us to keep students safe. The district has a director of school safety and security, Ryan Kimball, along with three School Resource Officers (SROs). The SROs are through the Kent County Sheriff's Department. These indi-

viduals 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 Cory Czaika services

the Eastern side of the district, and Deputy Jim Svoboda services the Central side of the district. All individuals have experience working with school-aged children and are excited about continued opportunities to impact young lives through educational programming and more.



Deputy Cory Czaika



Deputy Ben Dunneback



Deputy Jim Svoboda



Ryan Kimball,  
Director of School Safety and Security

## Visiting Our Schools

We welcome and encourage family members to visit their children's school. Please check with your child's teacher for the best time to visit. When you arrive, you will have to press the "buzzer" in the school vestibule with a security camera to gain entrance. Then, be sure to sign in with the school's administrative assistant and secure a visitor's pass from the school office. For security reasons, we do not permit unauthorized visitors.

## OK2SAY: 24/7/365

At the start of every school year and throughout the months ahead, our School Resource Officers and staff remind students that if they see or hear anything suspicious or if they are worried about something, they can always talk to a trusted adult and/or contact OK2SAY via text, 652729 (OK2SAY) or call 8-555-OK2SAY, or call 911. We encourage families to have conversations about safety and security and to talk to students to speak up if they feel uneasy or hear or see anything that does not make them feel safe.

## School Safety Reminder:

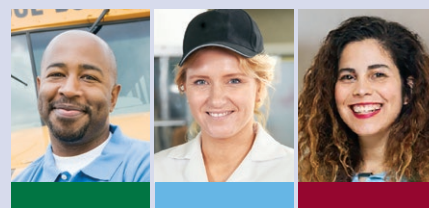
## Please Refrain from Using Our School Campuses While School is in Session

Even though it still feels like summer, fall is around the corner. We love seeing people outside and active in our community! Please remember that for the safety of our students and staff during the school day and when school is in session, please refrain from being on school grounds and using

the playground or outdoor school facilities. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated and plays an essential role in our collective efforts to maintain safe learning environments for students and staff. Should you have any questions, please contact your child's building principal.

## Come Join the FHPS Team!

Looking for an excellent employment opportunity at Forest Hills Public Schools? Consider joining our team as a bus driver, custodian, maintenance person, food service worker, paraprofessional, playground/recess paraprofessional, and many more. We have several positions open (full- and part-time) and offer employment year-round. Find one that fits your schedule. For a complete list of available positions, please visit: [fhps.schoolspring.com](http://fhps.schoolspring.com).



Scan to view opportunities and apply today!



**"BUT WHAT IF I'M WRONG?"**  
**"I'M SURE IT WAS JUST A JOKE."**

**"I DON'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED."**  
**"SOMEONE ELSE WILL SPEAK UP."**

**"THERE IS NO EXCUSE TO REMAIN SILENT."**

**SCHOOL SAFETY BEGINS WITH YOU!**

Submit an **OK2SAY** confidential tip.  
We are available **24/7**.

Stop the Silence. Help End the Violence.

**8-555-OK2SAY**  
**855-565-2729**

**652729 (OK2SAY)**

**ok2say@mi.gov**

a program of **Kent ISD**

Give your child the brightest start with our –

- Home visits
- Playgroups in your school district
- Developmental & health screenings
- Connections to resources

Join us anytime and set your little one on the path to success in school and life!

Free for families with children ages 0-5 years.

Scan for more information or visit [bb.kentisd.org](http://bb.kentisd.org)

We Lead Learning

# School Safety, Standard Response Protocol: What Families Need to Know

We want our schools to be safe and welcoming learning environments that nurture students' cognitive, emotional, and physical well-being. We believe the safest schools foster a climate of support, respect, and community. How we respond to incidents is a vital component of school safety as well. Forest Hills Public Schools takes every measure to ensure the safety of all students and staff. For this reason, the district has adopted a Standard Response Protocol program based on five responses to any safety emergency.

Standard Response Protocol uses common language and is based on an "all-hazards approach" as opposed to individual scenarios. Our students and staff began training during the 2024-25 school year, and last year continued this training. Training never really ends. The premise is simple—there are five specific actions that can be performed during an incident. When communicating these, the action is labeled and then it is followed by a directive. The SRP is understood by all staff, students, and first responders in Kent County and our State of Michigan.

As a parent, guardian, and/or community member, it is important that you are also aware of these five actions. There may be times in the future when the district communicates with families about a particular action a school used during the day to handle a situation. Likewise, when family and community members are visiting our schools or attending school events, it is important for everyone to understand this protocol.



**HOLD**  
In your room or area.  
Clear the halls.

**Hold:** Students are trained to clear the hallways and remain in their area or room until the "All Clear" is announced. Students continue with "school as usual." For example, a Hold may be given if there is a medical emergency in a hallway, and the school needs to keep the hallway clear for medical assistance.



**SECURE**  
Get inside.  
Lock outside doors.

**Secure:** Students are trained to return to

the inside of their school building and will continue with "school as usual." Under a Secure, staff members are increasing situational awareness and are accounting for all students and adults in the building. An example of when a Secure may be given is if there is something happening outside the school, like a robbery at a nearby store and the suspect fled on foot, or if there is a dispute happening in a neighboring residential community, subdivision, or apartment complex.



**EVACUATE**  
To the announced  
location

**Evacuate:** Students are trained to leave books and things behind and follow their teacher to a designated area. Teachers bring their "go bags," classroom rosters, account for all students and adults, and report any injuries. An example of when an Evacuate order may occur is if a school has a gas leak during school hours, a fire, or broken water pipes in the school.



**SHELTER**  
Using the announced  
hazard and strategy

**Shelter:** Students are trained to go to their appropriate shelter areas. An example of when a Shelter may be called is in the event of a tornado warning.



**LOCKDOWN**  
Locks, lights,  
out of sight

**Lockdown:** Students are trained to move away from sight, maintain silence, and not to open the door. Adults and staff are trained to recover students from the hallway, lock the classroom door, and prepare to evade or defend.

One of the most common questions school officials receive is whether parents should come to the school and pick up their student(s) during a Secure or Lockdown.

Under a Secure, every effort is made to conduct classes as normal. Parents may be asked to stay outside during a Secure event. Should the approved adult need to pick up their child for an appointment while the school is in a Secure response, the situation

will be assessed if it is safe to release the child or not.

A Lockdown is only initiated when there is an active threat inside or very close to the building. The natural inclination for parents is to go to the school during a Lockdown. Understandable, but problematic. If there is a threat inside the building, law enforcement will be responding along with many other first responders. It is unlikely that parents will be granted access to the building or campus. **Please refrain from coming to campus during a Lockdown.**

What about texting during a Lockdown? The school recognizes the importance of communication between parents and students during a Lockdown event. Parents should be aware though, during the initial period of a Lockdown, it may not be safe for students to text their parents as students need to be as quiet as possible and listen for instructions. As the situation resolves, students may be asked to update their parents on a regular basis. In some cases, students may be evacuated and transported off-site for student-parent reunification.

If families would like additional information, they are encouraged to contact their student's principal, contact the FHPS director of safety and security, Ryan Kimball, at [rkimball@fhps.net](mailto:rkimball@fhps.net), or any of the three School Resource Officers. Deputy Ben Dunneback services the Northern side of the district, Deputy Cory Czaika services the Eastern side of the district, and Deputy Jim Svoboda services the Central side of the district. Working together we can keep our students, staff, and everyone on our school campuses safe.

**SAVE**

**STANDARD  
RESPONSE  
PROTOCOL**

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The "I Love U Guys" Foundation



**HOLD**  
In your room or area.  
Clear the halls.



**SECURE**  
Get inside.  
Lock outside doors.



**EVACUATE**  
To the announced  
location



**SHELTER**  
Using the announced  
hazard and strategy



**LOCKDOWN**  
Locks, lights,  
out of sight

# Communication During a School Emergency



## What Families Need to Know

When an emergency occurs at our schools, often the messages that are first circulated come from non-official sources. For example, a student texts a parent about an emergency and then the parent posts the text on Facebook, and the post is then shared by other parents, etc. So, why does it take longer for the school district to send out an official message? Here's what is going on in the communications office during an emergency.

**Gathering facts:** When an emergency happens, the district strives to communicate factual information to the public as quickly as possible. But, as no two situations are alike, often there are details we need to verify. This can involve talking to multiple parties (such as the police or fire department, or families directly involved with the emergency) and this information-gathering phase takes time. Please know we're working hard to get an accurate account of the situation and communicate facts.

**Limited on what we can share:** Depending on the situation, there are times we are limited on the details we can share. This could be because of privacy laws or an active law enforcement investigation. It is not our intention to seem vague when we say, "We are unable to share specifics regarding XYZ." Please know that we strive toward proactive communication while balancing the privacy of others.

**Getting the message out:** Once we have the message ready to send, our primary way to disseminate communication to FHPS enrolled families is using SchoolMessenger

to send a text and email message, and sometimes a phone message.

**Email:** If you regularly receive non-emergency emails from the district and your school, that means we have an up-to-date email address for you. If you have not received an email from the district through SchoolMessenger, please update your notification settings in PowerSchool or contact your student's school registrar or secretary. If we do not have a current email address for you, you will not receive information via email in an emergency.

**Text:** We are limited to character counts when sending texts, so often the text is an abbreviated version of the email. If you regularly receive non-emergency text messages from the district or your student's school, that means we have an up-to-date cell phone number for you and you have opted in to receive text messages. If you have not received a text message from the district or your student's school, please update your contact information with your student's school registrar or secretary. If we do not have a current mobile phone number for you, and you have not opted in to receive text messages, you will not receive information via text in an emergency.

**Website:** We post timely messages about emergency situations on the district's homepage and/or will post where to receive timely updates.

**Phone:** We rarely activate our automatic phone system, but will do so when we want to ensure our families receive urgent communication. We primarily use phone messaging for school closures due to inclement weather. Our automatic phone system will call the phone number we have on file for you. Please check your student's PowerSchool account to make sure we have an up-to-date phone number for you. If we do not have a current phone number for you, you will not receive a phone call in an emergency.

Note, we generally do not post information about emergencies to our district social media accounts. The algorithms of the various social media platforms make it impossible for us to know when or even if members of our community might see these posts. Therefore, in an emergency, we rely on the more immediate and direct methods of communication outlined above.

## What Should You Do During an Emergency Situation?

- DO NOT come to the school unless or until you are directed to do so.
- Refrain from calling or texting your child. Doing so may put them in danger. Staff will let children know when it is safe to call or text and will direct them to do so.
- Follow the instructions given in our message from the district and/or school. This might include an alternate pick-up location for your child or a change to the schools' dismissal times.
- Help keep the schools' phone lines open by not calling in and asking for additional information. We will send updates through SchoolMessenger.
- To help cut down on misinformation in the community, share the district's message with local friends and neighbors who might not have received it—especially those without children attending FHPS.  
**Please only post the factual information from the district rather than speculations.**
- Lastly, please make sure your contact information is always up to date in PowerSchool. Your email address and phone number(s) listed in your PowerSchool account are the ones that will receive our messages.

Thank you for doing your part to keep the communication lines open and for sharing accurate and factual messages with those around you.

## In Emergencies, Rely on Trusted Sources



FHPS Communications  
via FHPS Channels

## NOT

On Other Neighborhood's  
Social Media Accounts. They  
Could Contain Inaccurate/  
Unverified Information.

# Students' Health Needs During School

## Health Concerns

If your child has a medical condition such as a cardiac condition, diabetes, seizures, asthma, acute allergies (food, insect bites, etc.), or a physical disability, and/or requires treatments or procedures during school hours, please alert the school. Please submit the action plan from your child's doctor to school or upload it to PowerSchool. Your child's school will be sure to involve the district nurse if needed.

## Dispensing Medicine at School

Medication consent forms are needed for **ALL** medications and treatments at school and must be signed by both the physician and the parent/guardian. Any medicines, either prescription or over-the-counter, must be in their original container. Medications must be brought to the school by a parent/guardian, not by the student.

Download the medicine dispensing guidelines and consent form from the PowerSchool Parent Portal:

- FHPS Administering Medicine to Students Guidelines
- Medicine Consent/Medicine Self-Carry Form

## What Happens When My Child Gets Sick?



When your child is ill, don't send them to school. Please call the school's attendance line and report that your child will be absent due to an illness. When calling the school's attendance line, please tell us the name of the student, what grade the student is in, who the student's teacher is, and please briefly tell us the symptoms. Before a student returns to school, they should be fever-free for at least 24 hours without medication.

If your child comes to school sick or becomes ill at school, we will call you and ask that

you pick up your child. If we cannot reach you, we will call your emergency contact person to pick up your child. Please make sure that your contact information is always up to date. If there is an extreme emergency regarding your child, 911 will be called.

## Student Insurance Available

Forest Hills Public Schools provides student medical insurance coverage for any student injured at school or during a school-related activity, including athletics. This coverage is secondary to any student or family medical insurance. In effect, the district's medical insurance will cover medical costs for school-related injuries that are not covered by the family's medical insurance as long as the injury falls within the range of coverage. If a family wishes to improve upon the district's plan, additional options are available for individual purchase. All necessary information will be made available to students at the beginning of school. Any family wishing to subscribe should complete the form and return it to their school. To obtain the insurance form, please call your child's school.

## FHPS Preschool Openings Still Available

Forest Hills Public Schools is pleased to offer a traditional preschool program for the district's youngest learners, and limited openings remain for the 2026-27 school year at two locations: Ada Elementary, 731 Ada Drive SE, and Knapp Forest Elementary, 4243 Knapp Valley Drive NE.

FHPS' traditional preschool is a tuition-based program operated directly by Forest Hills Public Schools. Both locations are state-licensed and designed to give preschool-age children a strong foundation for future learning. In a warm, nurturing environment, students grow socially, emotionally, physically, and intellectually through activities that build both skills and confidence, whether that is zipping up their coats by themselves for the first time or learning to recite the alphabet. At the heart of the program is a commitment to individualized attention, support, and

encouragement for every child.

Preschoolers have plenty to do along the way: running and playing; taking things apart and putting them back together; singing and dancing; and listening to stories and sharing their own. These everyday experiences help develop the aptitudes and attitudes children need as they prepare for kindergarten and beyond.

### Program Details

- A.M. Session (5 half days): Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–11:30 a.m.
- Offered at both Ada Elementary and Knapp Forest Elementary
- Follows the Forest Hills Public Schools district calendar
- Transportation to and from the program is the responsibility of parents/guardians

Space is limited, and families are encouraged to register soon. Registration is available online at [fhps.net](https://fhps.net), and those with questions can contact the FHPS child care office at (616) 493-8787 for more information.



# Severe Weather and School Closings

The superintendent's office continuously monitors the weather and weather conditions. When school is closed, announcements will be made on local television stations. There will also be an automated message sent to families via SchoolMessenger using telephone, email, and text. Closings and delays will also be posted on social media platforms such as Facebook, and will be posted on the district's website.

When school is closed due to winter weather conditions, all after-school activities for the day will be canceled unless indicated otherwise by the superintendent. In the event of early dismissal, notice will be immediately provided via SchoolMessenger, the district's website, and local media stations. When school is closed, all programs run through Community Enrichment and our aquatic center are closed.



## Tornado Watch/Warning

When the National Weather Service issues a tornado watch or a thunderstorm warning while school is in session, students remain in school. Outdoor activities, such as recess are moved inside the building when possible, and staff continue to monitor the weather. After-school activities and/or athletic activities could be postponed. When the National Weather Service issues a tornado warning for any region encompassed by the geographical area of the Forest Hills Public Schools, the district will use the Standard Response Protocol of Shelter. People will be moved to designated shelter areas and all routine operations will be suspended until the warning has expired (this may include delay of the starting and ending of the school day).

(continued on page 32, column 2)

# Construction Work: Summer 2026

## Construction Work in Progress

### Ada Elementary Learning Environment:

Construction began in June 2026 with a scheduled completion date of August 2028. Light renovation work is underway this summer in the media center and gymnasium areas and will move to some classrooms starting in August.

### Meadow Brook Elementary Learning Environment:

Construction began in June 2026 with a scheduled completion date of August 2028. Renovation work is underway this summer on the first floor in the office area, gymnasium, cafeteria, and some classrooms. It will move to additional classrooms on the first floor in August.



Construction at Meadow Brook Elementary School.

### Northern Hills Middle Learning Environment:

Construction began in June 2026 with a scheduled completion date of September 2028. Renovation work is underway this summer in several classrooms and will move to the core of the building in August.

### Central High Learning Environment:

Construction began in June 2025 and is scheduled to be completed in August 2027. Classroom renovation work continues on both the first and second floors.

**Central High Athletics:** Construction began in June 2026 to turf the baseball and softball fields. It is expected to be completed in January 2027.



Central High School's auxiliary gym floor was resurfaced this summer.

**Eastern High Athletics:** Construction began in spring 2026 to install a new auxiliary turf field located near the newly constructed baseball/softball fields. This project is expected to be completed in October 2026.

**Northern High Athletics:** Construction began in spring 2026 to relocate the softball field to a space near the baseball field, turf both fields, and create a new, large student/campus event parking area. This project is expected to be completed in the spring of 2027.

**New Aquatic Center:** Construction began in February 2026 on a new state-of-the-art aquatic center located near the Fine Arts Center. The center includes a 50-meter competition pool and a 25-yard warm-water pool to serve both our students and our community. It is scheduled to be completed in July 2028.



Construction is underway at the new aquatic center site.

## Construction Work Done During the Summer of 2026

**Flex Center:** A new roof was installed this summer on our Flex program facility as a part of our life-cycle replacement schedule.

**Central Middle Mechanical:** Work began in June 2026 to update the mechanical system, including new air handling units, unit ventilators, exhaust fans, a pump, and diffusers. This work is scheduled to be completed in August 2026.

**Operations Facility Mechanical:** An update to the mechanical system at our operations facility as part of our life-cycle replacement schedule, occurred this summer.

If you are interested in the project schedule, please check out the district's website, [www.fhps.net](http://www.fhps.net).



# Required Annual Notices

## August 2026

Dear Forest Hills Families,

Public school districts are required to send to the Parents 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. Updated and 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

### ANTI-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:

- 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 build-

ing 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 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, national origin, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual

orientation, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, age, height, weight, familial status, marital status, military service, veteran status, genetic information, 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 educational 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:

#### Tom Hosford, Title IX Coordinator

Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources  
Forest Hills Public Schools  
620 Forest Hill Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
(616) 493-8800  
thosford@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:

#### Kara Green, Student Section 504 and Special Education Coordinator

640 Forest Hill Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
(616) 493-8660  
kagreen@fhps.net

#### Tom Hosford, Section 504 Coordinator (non-student)

620 Forest Hill Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
(616) 493-8800  
thosford@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:

#### Tom Hosford, Civil Rights Coordinator

620 Forest Hill Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
(616) 493-8800  
thosford@fhps.net

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

(continued on page 25, column 1)

# Required Annual Notices (continued)

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**

1244 Speer Boulevard, Suite 310  
Denver, CO 80204-3582  
Telephone: (303) 844-5695  
Facsimile: (303) 844-4303  
Email: OCR.Denver@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.

**Tamasha James, Homeless Liaison**

Forest Hills Public Schools  
620 Forest Hill Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
616-493-8800  
tjames@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 home-schooled 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 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 4, 2026.**

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, assistant superintendent, or 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, 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 educational 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.

*(continued on page 26, column 1)*

# Required Annual Notices (continued)

## TITLE I PROGRAM INFORMATION

Parents in Title I schools may request the following information about their child's teacher: state licensure 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, 620 Forest Hill Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.

## TITLE I PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY (Board Policy 5401)

The District encourages Parent involvement in their student's education (Board Policy 5401). Title I funding is used to offer support services to students who need extra time and instruction to master grade level curriculum. Title I schools are identified through a state formula each year. Families with students in identified Title I buildings will receive communication directly from the school.

## PERSONAL CURRICULUM

### What is a personal curriculum?

The personal curriculum (PC) is a process to modify specific Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) high school credit requirements and/or content expectations based on individual learning needs and post-secondary goals. It is designed to serve students who want to accelerate or go beyond the MMC requirements and students who need to individualize MMC requirements to earn a high school diploma.

### Who may request a personal curriculum?

- The Parent of a student for whom a personal curriculum is sought
- The student, if the student is of the age of majority
- An emancipated minor
- A teacher who is currently teaching the student (who currently teaches in, or whose expertise is in, a subject area proposed to be modified by the PC, or who is determined by the principal to have qualifications otherwise relevant to developing a PC)
- A school counselor or school employee is qualified to act in a counseling role.

If the request for a PC is made by the student's Parent or, if the student is at least age 18 or is an emancipated minor, by the student, the school district shall develop a PC for the student under the parameters outlined in 380.1278b(5).

### When may a personal curriculum be requested?

If the student has an Individualized Education Program (IEP), the personal curriculum request may be submitted before 9th grade. If the student does not have an Individualized Education Program (IEP), the personal curriculum request may

be requested after the student has completed 9th grade.

## 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.

## 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.

To help protect Michigan families, particularly children, from the tragedies of gun violence and unintentional firearms injuries, visit the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services website regarding the best practices for the safe storage of firearms, [www.michigan.gov/mde/services/health-safety/topics/school-safety/safe-storage-law](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/services/health-safety/topics/school-safety/safe-storage-law).

## 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.

## LOCKER SEARCHES

Lockers are district property and may be made available for student use. Lockers are assigned to students on a temporary basis, and district administration may revoke a student's locker assignment at any time. The district retains ownership of lockers notwithstanding student use.

Students have no expectation of privacy in their lockers. The building principal or designee may inspect lockers without any particularized suspicion or reasonable cause and without advance notice. Upon the request of the building principal or designee, law enforcement may assist with searching lockers.

During a locker search, student privacy rights will be respected for any items that are not illegal or against Board Policy.

## 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 the protocol outlined in Board Policy 3107. 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, national origin, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, age, height, weight, familial status, marital status, military service, veteran status, genetic information, disability, or other legally protected

(continued on page 27, column 1)

# Required Annual Notices (continued)

basis 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:

**Tom Hosford**

Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources  
Forest Hills Public Schools  
620 Forest Hill Ave. 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:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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 to 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 per-

forming 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;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom the student has close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged relations, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
7. 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 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, (616) 493-8780, with any questions.

## PESTICIDE APPLICATION ADVISORY TO ALL PARENTS

As part of its integrated pest management program, the District annually notifies its students' Parents 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 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 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:

**Cory Anderson, Director of Operations**

Phone: (616) 493-8780

Email: coanderson@fhps.net

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

**Any revisions to these notices can be found on the district's website.**

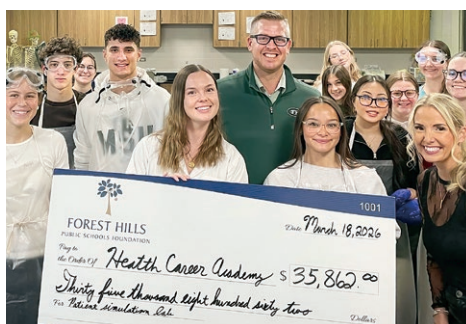
# FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION



www.fhpsf.org | (616) 493-8500

## Supporting Students and Educators

We support what state funding can't.



In the 2025-26 school year, the Foundation awarded 65 classroom and building grants totaling over \$250,000, which FHPS teachers and staff used to enhance Forest Hills education and positively impact more than 9,000 students.

## How to Support

Join our monthly giving club to make an impact today in classrooms across the district.

The FHPS Foundation helps educators go above and beyond through grants and scholarships that support literacy, STEAM, the arts, wellness, adaptive equipment, and so much more in our schools. Make your monthly gift today!



## CHARLIE ANDERSON MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

September 23 / 11 am - 6 pm / Thornapple Pointe Golf Course

Don't miss out on the last taste of summer golf and excitement!

Join us on September 23 for the annual Charlie Anderson Memorial Golf Tournament hosted by The Foundation. Swing into action and make a difference—every dollar raised goes directly towards grants for teachers and staff throughout the 2026-27 school year!

Gather your winning foursome and register now!



FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
FOUNDATION



# THE ULTIMATE FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT SERIES

## PIFF THE MAGIC DRAGON

WITTY.  
WILD.  
TOTALLY  
UNPREDICTABLE.



SEPTEMBER 26

## THE PEKING ACROBATS



BREATH-taking.  
BEAU-tiful.  
UNBELIEVABLE.

FEBRUARY 21

## Frost

A CIRQUE  
HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA

DAZZLING.  
THRILLING.  
PURE HOLIDAY  
MAGIC.



DECEMBER 20

THREE INCREDIBLE SHOWS. ONE UNFORGETTABLE SEASON.



Forest Hills Public Schools

**FineArts**  
Center

PERFECT FOR ALL AGES!



600 Forest Hill Ave. SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

616-493-8965



[fhfineartscenter.com](http://fhfineartscenter.com)  
for tickets



2026-27

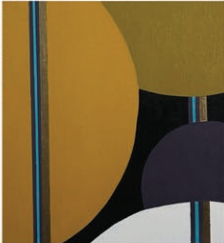
# HIGH SCHOOL PRODUCTIONS

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>FH NORTHERN</p> <p>Disney</p> <h2 style="margin: 0;">HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL</h2>  <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; background-color: black; color: white;">NOV. 19-21</div> | <p>FH EASTERN</p> <p>THE</p> <h2 style="margin: 0;">SPONGEBOB MUSICAL</h2>  <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; background-color: black; color: white;">FEB. 4-6</div>           |
| <p>FH CENTRAL</p> <p>TBA</p> <p>STAY TUNED!</p> <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; background-color: black; color: white;">MAR. 18-20</div>                                                                                                                    | <p>SUMMERSTOCK PRESENTS</p> <p>Disney</p> <h2 style="margin: 0;">FROZEN</h2>  <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; background-color: black; color: white;">JUNE 29-JULY 1</div> |

FOREST HILLS FINE ARTS CENTER

# Artist Exhibit Schedule

2026-2027

|                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p style="color: red;">MARGARET KRIEGBAUM</p>                                                                          |  <p style="color: blue;">PAULETTE CARR</p>           | <p style="color: red;"><b>MARGARET KRIEGBAUM</b></p> <p>September 1 – October 2</p> <p>Reception: September 17 • 6–7:00 pm</p>                                                       |
|  <p style="color: red;">ANGELA GREEN</p>                                                                                |  <p style="color: blue;">JIM GABBARD</p>             | <p style="color: purple;"><b>STAFF &amp; COMMUNITY EXHIBIT</b></p> <p>November 11 – December 11</p> <p>Reception: November 12 • 6–7:30 pm</p>                                        |
|  <p style="color: blue;"><b>BETWEEN TWO SHORES BY COLLABORATE</b></p> <p><i>An All Women Artist Group</i></p>         |  <p style="color: green;">PLEIN AIR EXHIBITION</p> | <p style="color: orange;"><b>ANGELA GREEN &amp; JIM GABBARD</b></p> <p>January 5 – February 5</p> <p>Reception: January 6 • 6–7:00 pm</p>                                            |
| <div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 10px; border-radius: 10px;"> <b>GALLERY VIEWING HOURS:</b><br/> Monday–Friday 9:00 am–4:00 pm<br/> Check website or call 616–493–8965 </div> |                                                                                                                                        | <p style="color: blue;"><b>BETWEEN TWO SHORES BY COLLABORATE</b></p> <p><i>An all Women Artist Group</i></p> <p>February 10 – March 19</p> <p>Reception: February 10 • 6–7:30 pm</p> |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                        | <p style="color: red;"><b>FHPS STUDENT EXHIBIT</b></p> <p>March 25 – May 7</p> <p>Reception: April 14 • 6–7:30 pm</p>                                                                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                        | <p style="color: green;"><b>PLEIN AIR EXHIBITION</b></p> <p>May 19 – June 25</p> <p>Reception: May 27 • 6–7:30 pm</p>                                                                |

## Summerstock's "Momma Mia"



FHPS' Summerstock production of "Momma Mia" was presented on the FAC's stage from June 24-26, 2026.

# FHPS Community Enrichment

## See What's New for Fall 2026!

### 21 New Classes for Adults

- Introduction to Glass Fusing
- Custom Fused Glass Set
- Fused Glass Suncatcher and Watercolor Card Set
- Fish Face (mixed media art class)
- Art Club: Rediscover the Joy of Making
- Single-Session Oil Painting
- Morning Bells
- The Big Stretch
- Pilates Mat 101
- The Thursday Yogi
- Simply Nourished: Easy Cooking and Lifestyle Strategies for Longevity
- Royal Icing 101: The Fab Four
- Stack, Fill, and Frost (cake decorating)
- Three Roses, One Piping Bag
- Trim the Tree: Royal Icing Workshop
- Adult/Child/Infant CPR/AED and First Aid
- Mahjongg Learning Series
- Bridge for Advanced Beginners
- Learn to Knit
- Knitting: Pick Your Project
- Fluid Motion (aquatic class for adults)
- ... and many returning favorites, too!

### 16 New Classes for Youth

- Mommy & Me Paint Party: Jack-o'-Lantern Canvas
- Mommy & Me Christmas Paint Party: Snowman Canvas
- Kids' Glow-in-the-Dark Ghost Paint Party
- Kids' Holiday Paint Party: Drop and Shop
- Drawing 101
- Fused Glass Ornament/Suncatcher
- Bricks 4 Kidz: Air, Land, and Sea: Fantastic Vehicles
- Bricks 4 Kidz: Portal to Adventure
- Out-of-This-World Cupcake Decorating
- Is It Pancakes? (cake decorating)
- North Pole Cookie Crew
- Flavor Lab (cooking class)
- Knit Club: Learn to Knit and Pick Your Own Project
- Boys' Youth Basketball League
- Girls' Youth Basketball League
- Girls' Youth Volleyball League
- ... and many returning favorites, too!

### Senior Programs

New Learning Cafés, Speakers & Snacks, Lunches with Friends, day trips, and a returning afternoon concert at the FHFAC!



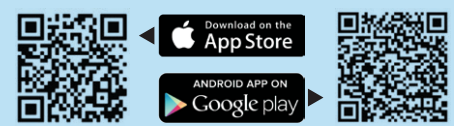
### OUR ENRICHMENT CLASS REGISTRATION APP from DAXKO

- Faster, Easier Registration
- Your Account at Your Fingertips
- View Previous Registrations



**DOWNLOAD TODAY!**

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### Look for Our Quarterly Class Catalog in Your Mailbox

**Free! Forest Hills Adult Community Band Concert**  
**Sunday, Oct. 25, 2:30 p.m., Eastern High Auditorium**

### In the Spotlight: Instructor Victoria Sterzick



Victoria Sterzick

is a National Academy of Sports Medicine Certified Personal Trainer. Her other NASM

"It's all about attitude, being a lifelong learner, and staying fit. Things to make for a happy and fulfilling life, especially as we age," says Victoria Sterzick. A long-time Ada native, Victoria

certifications include Senior Fitness Specialist, Stretching and Flexibility Coach, Integrated Balance Training, and Certified Nutrition Coach. Holding a 200-hour RYT certification from YogaFit International, she has earned additional certifications in senior yoga, pranayama yoga, and prenatal yoga, among other specialties.

This fall, Victoria will teach three classes for us: Morning Bells, The Big Stretch, and The Thursday Yogi. Please register early!

**Dueling Pianos** Dan Louisell and Noel Leaman

**Thursday, October 29, 2026**  
**Two shows: 1 p.m., 6:30 p.m.**  
**Forest Hills Fine Arts Center**

**Part Music, Part Comedy—All Entertainment!**  
Tickets: [fhfac.ludus.com](http://fhfac.ludus.com)



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— PUBLIC SCHOOLS —

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## FHPS Football: Community Festivities

### Central High School's Community Tailgate Friday, Sept. 18, at 4 p.m.

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

### Eastern High School's Hawk Rally Thursday, Aug. 27, at 4 p.m.

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

### Northern High School's Husky Fest/Homecoming Friday, Oct. 9, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Husky Fest brings together food trucks, carnival games, bounce house, dunk tank, the FHN drum line performance, and community fun—all at the high school! After Husky Fest, walk to the football field stands for the game and more FHN homecoming fun! Spectators must purchase tickets at the entrance gates. The FHN Huskies will take on Reeths Puffer High School at 7 p.m.

## CALLING ALL MEMBERS OF FOREST HILLS HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1966!

The 60<sup>th</sup> class reunion of the Forest Hills High School Class of 1966 will be held on August 28 and 29, 2026.

Mark your calendar for a weekend of reminiscing and reconnecting.

JOIN US AND SHARE THE INFO.  
WITH FORMER CLASSMATES! →

FOR DETAILS AND INFO. EMAIL ROB BEAHAN: [ROB@BEAHAN.ORG](mailto:ROB@BEAHAN.ORG)



## Severe Weather

*(continued from page 23, column 1)*

We urge families to refrain from coming to school to pick up their child during a tornado warning. The process of checking a child out of school diverts the attention of staff when their presence is needed to perform other important tasks during a warning.

Finally, children take their emotional cues from the caring adults in their lives. Please discuss with your family what should be done during periods of threatening weather. Severe weather watches and warnings are a common aspect of living in Michigan, and children are able to learn to calmly and deliberately respond to tornado watches and warnings.

If you have any questions regarding the district's procedures during a tornado watch or warning, feel free to contact your child's principal.

Visit the FHPS  
website @

**fhaps.net**

## Board of Education

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### Publication information:

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