

Welcome Back to School!

A Message from Superintendent Gary W. Meier



Dear Ferndale Schools Community Members:

We have reached my favorite time of year: welcoming all of our students and staff back to school this coming Tuesday, September 6 for the start of a great new year.

I'm beginning this school year with a great deal of optimism knowing the accomplishments we've made and the quality school programming we will continue to have in place for our students in 2011-2012. I always want to remind our school community of our district's commitment to remaining full service. You have my commitment that in our classrooms, all our students will continue to benefit from a full-service school district, including quality instructional programming, instruction in foreign language in Grades 5-12, instrumental music in Grades 4-12, art, music, physical education, and special education at all grade levels from preschool through high school. We are also committed to maintaining our All-Day Kindergarten program and fully supported athletics program. We will not ask our student athletes to pay to play.

This year, even though our state's public schools were dealt with significant, permanent budget cuts, the Ferndale Schools remain committed to maintaining the financial stability of our school district and will continue our focus on improving instructional services. Our school structure allows us to adjust budgets and staffing in a balanced, equitable manner that sustains the full-range of services to all students.

I look forward to a great school year and look forward to seeing you and your children throughout the year at our many district events.

Sincerely yours,

Gary W. Meier, Superintendent
Ferndale Public Schools

TONIGHT - Come out and show your Eagle pride.

Join WXYZ Channel 7 at tonight's Ferndale High School football 'Game of the Week!' Cheer on the Eagles at their first home game as they take on Bloomfield Hills Lahser at 7 pm, and see the FHS Golden Eagle Marching Band debut their show, (No) Strings Attached!

School Starts September 6 - Full Day of School!

Sept 6.....School Starts, Full Day!

Sept 6.....Roosevelt First Day of School Celebration, 8-10 am

Sept 6.....JFK Welcome PTA Coffee, 8-10 am

Sept 8.....FMS Sports Physicals, 3-5 pm, \$15 w/Dr. George

Sept 10...**Eagles Pledge College Success Tailgate** for FHS 11th and 12th grade students and their families, 11 am - 1 pm, Elephant Steps @ FHS. See flyer on page 7 for more details - FREE lunch provided + opportunities to enter a scholarship drawing!

Sept 10...FHS Marching Band Mini-Camp, 10 am - 5 pm

Sept 12...African American Parent Network Mtg, 6:30 pm, FHS

Sept 13...Grant Head Start Parent Orientation, 10 am-12 pm

Sept 13...Grant Preschool Parent Orientation, 1:30-3:30 pm

Sept 13...JFK Multi-Age Family Diner/Kick-Off Mtg, 6-7:30 pm

Sept 13...JFK PTA & PAC/MAP Mtgs, 6:30/7:30 pm

Sept 13...FE PTA Mtg, 7 pm Roosevelt

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What is the Measure of a School?

Over the past decade, state and federal reporting systems have been created that provide schools and the public with analysis of standardized test scores and other factors related to school performance. There are so many measures that are defined based on success or failure that on any given day a school may be labeled successful or not. All of us, parents, citizens, and educators alike, face a challenge to look at public school systems and really know how we're doing.

This summer, several measures were released: Raw data on MEAP and ACT/MME results; the Education Yes! Michigan School Report Cards; Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP); the Michigan Department of Education's ranking of all public schools on its Top-to-Bottom List; and the Federal list of Persistently Lowest Achieving Schools (PLA List). All of these measures provide helpful information to guide schools on where and how we can improve our teaching and learning. Our Instruction Department takes every measure seriously by conducting a thorough analysis of each data point. Then we implement a systematic approach to address any areas of concern. And, in doing so, we have consistently succeeded

in focusing on the achievement of every student, every day.

For example, I want to celebrate the hard work of the teachers and students at University High School and Ferndale High School. At FHS, they have achieved the target goal of making AYP two years in a row, removing them from the threat of federal sanctions. This is the result of concentrated effort to realign the curriculum, improve teaching methods, and increase support of students. It is a success worth heralding. At UHS, intensive effort over the past year resulted in nearly tripling the student's MME math scores, and an improvement on the Top-to-Bottom list from the 11th percentile in 2010 to the 64th percentile this year. We recognize there is still work to do, and have added math and reading support to students' class schedules to provide the support they need to improve even more.

In many ways, the Top to Bottom List creates more questions than it does answers. These lists should not be used to compare schools, especially when our Roosevelt Primary School can receive a National School of Character Award for its outstanding service to children, including recognition for student achievement,

receive a B on the School Report Card, make AYP, and yet end up ranked in the 4th percentile in our state.

In the final analysis every school district can probably find examples of outliers in the data used by state and federal governments to measure success and failure. In Ferndale, we are respectful of the need for accountability and improved student achievement, but do not believe the ideal metric has yet been identified that measures success or failure in a comparative way. Most importantly, the data points from multiple measures allow our instruction team, our principals, and our staff the opportunity to inform instruction so that every child, every school, and the district as a whole show continuous improvement.

In the weeks ahead, I will be meeting with parents and citizens in community-based forums to discuss, among other things, the interpretation of data and student achievement in the Ferndale Schools.



Gary W. Meier, Superintendent
Ferndale Public Schools

Welcome, New Ferndale Schools Administrators



Ray Locke,
*Director of
Special Education*

Ray Locke joined the Ferndale Schools in July as the Director of Special Education.

Ray comes to the Ferndale Schools from Whittemore-Prescott Schools in Whittemore, Michigan where he was the Director of Special Services. His duties at Whittemore-Prescott included running the Special Education Department, 504 Coordinator, Title I Coordinator, and Early Childhood Center Principal.

Ray completed his undergraduate work from Madonna University, and Master's degree from Saginaw Valley State University. He is looking forward to helping lead Ferndale students to be responsible participants in their lives and community.

"I appreciate all of the support and guidance I have received so far and I have been made to feel very welcomed," he says.



Renée Heard,
*School Improvement
Specialist*

Renée Heard brings extensive experience to her position as the new district School Improvement Specialist. She will work with the Curriculum Office and Ferndale Schools staff to help improve student learning and achievement.

Renée earned her Bachelors degree from the University of Michigan and her Master's degree from George Washington University.

Before coming to the Ferndale Schools, Renée was the Diplomas Plus, Inc. National Communications Manager. She has also worked as a City Year Inc. Program Manager, and a middle and high school teacher at University Prep Academy in Detroit.



Kiada Watts,
*Grant Site
Supervisor*

Kiada Watts has been with Ferndale Schools for almost four years as a teacher at Coolidge, but has over ten years experience working with children. Much of her career was spent in Detroit as a Kindergarten teacher. However, she has held various positions from Lead Teacher and Early Childhood Consultant in a preschool setting to an Educational Specialist. Kiada obtained her Bachelors Degree in Psychology, and a Masters Degree in Family and Child Studies. She is currently in pursuit of an Administrator's Certificate.

Kiada is thrilled to be the new Site Supervisor for Grant Early Childhood Center. She is dedicated to revitalizing the environment and reconnecting with the community-at large. Kiada says, "It is a pleasure being a part of the Ferndale Public School family mostly due to its dedicated, supportive families, teachers, support staff, and administration."



**André Buford, UHS
Administrative Intern
Assistant Principal**

André Buford is a familiar face at University High School. He has been an English teacher there since the school opened in 2005. André has also been the boys head varsity basketball coach at UHS, and is now stepping into the role of Assistant Principal as an Administrative Intern. André also founded and heads the UHS school culture committee.

Prior to UHS, André was an English teacher in the Detroit Public Schools. He received his undergraduate degree from Oakland University, his Master's degree from Wayne State University and is currently pursuing his Ed Specialist Certificate from Oakland University.



**Pauline K. Nagle,
John F. Kennedy
School Principal**

Pauline K. Nagle began her career as an elementary teacher in Waterford, Michigan. From there, she became a literacy specialist, teaching Reading Recovery for 1st grade and coaching teachers K-5th grade on their literacy instruction. She completed her administration degree at Oakland University, and became a principal in Wayne-Westland Community Schools.

She came to the Ferndale Schools in 2008 and served (and still serves) as the Coordinator of Elementary Instruction, prior to becoming Principal at Kennedy in 2011.

Pauline says, "I quickly found out that Ferndale Public Schools is a beautiful gem. I often tell friends and colleagues that I have found a great "home" in Ferndale. With that said, it is a pleasure to step back into the principal role and be in the building on a day to day basis."



**Lisa Williams,
FHS Executive
Vice Principal**

For the last four years, Lisa Williams has been employed with the Ferndale Public Schools as one of the Assistant Principals at Ferndale High School. Previously she taught Language Arts with the Detroit and Oak Park School Districts. She was also a Department Chairperson, Interim Assistant Principal and Dean of Students at Oak Park.

Lisa enjoys working with the students, staff and parents and is extremely excited about the new position. She is looking forward to a POSITIVE, PRODUCTIVE and PHENOMENAL school year for all!



FORE KIDS CLASSIC

September 21, 2011

A Four-Person Golf Scramble

Fieldstone Golf Club,
Auburn Hills MI

The **Fore Kids Classic** benefits the students of the Ferndale Public Schools and is sponsored by the Ferndale Education Foundation and the Ferndale Schools Fine Arts Boosters.



The 2011-12 Curriculum Team, L-R: Renee Heard *School Improvement Specialist*, Ray Locke *Director of Special Education*, Barb Evoe *Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction*, Sue Clippert *Coordinator of Secondary Instruction* and Pauline K. Nagle *Coordinator of Elementary Instruction*

Register for Latchkey First Day of School

Register for Latchkey on the first day of school at Roosevelt or JFK. The registration fee is \$40/family. PM latchkey will be available on the first day of school, but AM latchkey will not. Find out more information by visiting our Child Care section of our website: www.ferndaleschools.org/parents/childcare.html

The Ferndale Schools 2010-2011 annual reports are available on our website, on the Publications page:

www.ferndaleschools.org/publicationsreports/index.htm

Check out the flyers at the end of this newsletter!

Pg 5 | FEF Golf Outing Brochure

Pg 7 | Eagles Pledge College Success Tailgate - Sept 10

Pg 8 | Immunization Information from the Oakland County Health Division



Like the Ferndale Schools on Facebook!
Search: Ferndale Public Schools



Follow us on Twitter! @FerndaleSchools

Back to School FAQs

When will I know my child's class assignment?

Each school creates its class assignments in August, and will mail a letter home or post the class lists at school prior to the beginning of the school year.

How will I find out my child's bus stop and time?

Bus assignment letters were mailed this week - check your mailbox for your stop and pick-up time. Call the Transportation Department at 248/586-8890 with any questions.

When can I access Zangle for this school year?

When will I receive my Zangle password?

The Ferndale Schools is in the process of rolling over the school year inside of Zangle. When this is complete, Zangle Parent and Student Connect will be back up and available to all district families (approximately September 10). Passwords will be mailed during September, after school has begun.

How will I know what time school starts?

The bell schedules are posted on page 1 of our district calendar. A PDF of the calendar is posted online at: <http://www.ferndaleschools.org/calendar.html>

You are invited to the
Ferndale Education Foundation & Ferndale Schools Fine Arts Booster's Fore Kids Classic Golf Outing! Sign up now - brochure at end of this newsletter



GOLFER INFO

Golfer 1	Name: _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Please include me in a foursome.
	Company: _____
	Daytime Phone: _____
	Email: _____
Golfer 2	Name: _____
	Company: _____
	Daytime Phone: _____
	Email: _____
	Golfer 3
Company: _____	
Daytime Phone: _____	
Email: _____	
Golfer 4	
	Company: _____
	Daytime Phone: _____
	Email: _____
	Buffet Only
Company: _____	
Daytime Phone: _____	
Email: _____	

Any Questions?

Call: Gary Sophiea, 248.586.8615

LOCATION

Fieldstone Golf Course

1984 Taylor, Auburn Hills MI

248-370-9354

Directions

Follow I-75 N to Exit 83, Joslyn Rd south,
Turn Left at Taylor Rd,
Go 1 Mile to Course Entrance on the Right



EVENTS

- 7:30 am.....Registration
Continental Breakfast
- 9 amShotgun Start
Scramble Begins
Lunch at the Turn
Refreshments on the Course
- After Golfing Dinner Buffet
approximately 2 pm
Recognitions
Awards Program
1st & 2nd Place Teams
Special Event Prizes
Closest to Pin
Longest Drive
Inside the Rope
Skins



FORE KIDS CLASSIC

September 21, 2011

A Four-Person Golf Scramble

Fieldstone Golf Club,
Auburn Hills MI

The **Fore Kids Classic** benefits the students of the Ferndale Public Schools and is sponsored by the Ferndale Education Foundation and the Ferndale Schools Fine Arts Boosters.



You are invited to the Ferndale Education Foundation & Ferndale Schools Fine Arts Booster's Fore Kids Classic Golf Outing!

The **Fore Kids Classic** supports Ferndale Public Schools students and you can too by playing a round of golf, sponsoring a hole or sending in a donation. Share our commitment to the young people of this community, and join us in making **Fore Kids Classic** golf outing a success.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday, September 21

Fieldstone Golf Club, Auburn Hills.

The day will include morning refreshments, 18 holes of golf + cart, lunch, prizes and a dinner buffet.

SUPPORT THE EVENT

Businesses and organizations have several opportunities to underwrite the event costs - there are many ways for you to be involved:

- **Event Sponsor**
- **Sponsor a Hole**
- **Special Events Sponsor**
- **Golf**
- **Sponsor a Student Golfer**
- **Join us for Dinner**

The **Ferndale Education Foundation** supports excellence in education through innovative programs initiated by Ferndale Schools teachers & staff. The **Ferndale Schools Fine Arts Boosters** supports, encourages and promotes any and all of the Ferndale Schools fine arts programs through parental and community involvement.

In the past five years, these groups combined donated over \$170,000 to programs, equipment and grants benefiting the Ferndale Schools students.

SPONSORSHIP GOLFING INCLUDED

Event Sponsor \$800

This sponsorship includes **four tickets**. Your company receives exclusive signage and your name will appear in the Tournament Program.

Hole Sponsor + Golf \$500

This sponsorship includes **four tickets**. Your company will be the sponsor of a hole with a sign at the tee and your company's name will appear in the Tournament Program.

Golfer \$110

You will golf as part of a foursome. Your fee includes a two-person power cart, continental breakfast at registration, a lunch buffet, beverages on the course, and a buffet dinner after golfing.

Sponsor a Student Golfer \$110

If you are not able to golf, you may make a donation to underwrite the cost of a Ferndale Public Schools student to participate in the Fore Kids Classic.

SPONSORSHIP NON-GOLFING

Special Events Sponsor \$250

Your company's name appears on a sign marking one of the Special Events (Longest Drive, etc.) and in the Tournament Program.

Hole Sponsor \$150

Your company will be the sponsor of a hole with a sign at the tee and your company's name will appear in the Tournament Program.

Benefactor (cash or in-kind) \$60

Your company's name will appear in the Tournament Program.

Buffet Dinner Only \$50

Even if you won't be golfing with us, you are welcome to join us at the buffet following the outing.

Patron (cash or in-kind) \$25

Your name will appear in the Tournament Program.

The Ferndale Education Foundation and Ferndale Schools Fine Arts Boosters are registered 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organizations

SPONSORSHIP

Send this form in with your check made payable to **FEF** by September 12 to:
 Ferndale Education Foundation (FEF)
 attn: Golf Outing Committee
 2920 Burdette, Ferndale, MI 48220

Event Sponsor \$800

Company Name: _____

Email: _____

Hole Sponsor + Golf \$500

Company Name: _____

Email: _____

Golfer **Sponsor a Student Golfer \$110**

Name: _____

Email: _____

Special Events Sponsor \$250

Company Name: _____

Email: _____

Hole Sponsor \$150

Company Name: _____

Email: _____

Benefactor (cash or in-kind) \$60

Name: _____

Email: _____

Buffet Dinner Only \$50

Name: _____

Email: _____

Patron (cash or in-kind) \$25

Name: _____

Email: _____

Please complete additional information on other side of form.

FHS college success

TAILGATE

sponsored by The Eagles Pledge

Wear Your Favorite
College Spirit Wear

For Families with
Juniors & Seniors

Sat. September 10, 2011

11 am-1 pm: 11:30 am lunch, 12:15 pm presentation

FHS Courtyard/Elephant Steps

Luncheon (FREE): Hot Dogs, Chips, Pop, Vegetarian Option

Bring the Family!

Meet the FHS College Success Advisor

Guiding students through college life, helping with financial aid, tutoring, work, etc...Helping students get into college, scholarships, help families fill out financial aid forms and more!

Add Student Names to Scholarship Raffle!

\$500 awarded at the 2012 graduation ceremony / \$250 for a Junior, Class of 2013!

Learn About The Eagles Pledge

A group dedicated to supporting the FHS college team, raising money to provide scholarships for FHS graduates and creating a culture of college bound FHS students.

www.theeaglespledge.org

Facebook: The Eagles Pledge



FERNDALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OPPORTUNITY THROUGH EDUCATION



Protect Your Child: Keep Immunizations Up-To-Date

What Can Happen:

- Your child could be at risk of catching a serious disease.
- Your child could infect others.
- Preventable diseases could be transmitted throughout the community.
- Your child may be excluded from school or child care during disease outbreaks. This means exclusion from events and activities.

Oakland County Health Division strongly encourages you to immunize your child. If you have any concerns, please discuss them with a trusted health care provider.

The Oakland County Health Division will not deny participation in its programs based on race, sex, religion, national origin, age or disability. State and Federal eligibility requirements apply for certain programs.

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