From the SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Ferndale Family,

This coming spring, Ferndale Public Schools will have two items included on the ballot: a 0 mill bond proposal and a Non-Homestead millage renewal. Below we have presented the basic information for both of these initiatives. Please note that if either or both of these measures were approved by the voters, it would result in no increase to the current tax rate.

We will be hosting a community informational meeting on Wednesday, November 6th, 6:30 pm, at Ferndale High School. At this meeting we will be going into much more detail on these important measures. We hope to see everyone there!

In Education,

Dania H. Bazzi, PhD
Superintendent
Ferndale Schools

I hope to see the community at:

BOND INFORMATIONAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH
BEGINNING AT 6:30 PM
FERNDALE HIGH SCHOOL

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**O MIL BOND PROPOSAL PROPOSAL**

We are currently in the rare position to secure funding for much needed facility improvements. Ferndale Schools will be the only school district in the county to pass a bond this year. It is the maximum allowed by law. However, in the event property owners will receive a Headlee Override. This increases the millage rate above 18 mills; however, by law, more than 18 mills is never actually collected. A traditional bond proposal allows a district to sell bonds and receive funds. With a 3-series bond, Ferndale Schools has the ability to gain public authorization to sell bonds at three different times in the near future. This allows the district to create a decade long facility plan. If passed, below is the schedule for when the bonds would be sold and how much each series would yield.

- **2020**: $53M
- **2022**: $35.5M
- **2026**: $36M

Once again, a “yes” vote on the bond proposal would result in no increase, only a continuation of the current millage rate. We invite you to join us on Wednesday, November 6th, 6:30 pm at Ferndale High School for our Community Bond Information Night. At this meeting, we will be answering all of your questions! We hope to see you there.

**NON-HOMESTEAD MILLAGE INFORMATION**

Ferndale Schools collects 18 mills from our Non-Homestead Millage—taxes collected on non-primary residences. This tax rate was set in 2015 following a renewal of the Non-Homestead Millage. In other words, to maintain the full 18 mill tax rate and ensure state funding stays constant, school districts must levy a higher millage rate. This is commonly referred to as a 3-series proposal. A traditional bond proposal allows a district to sell bonds and receive funds. With a 3-series bond, Ferndale Schools will have the ability to gain public authorization to sell bonds at three different times in the near future. This allows the district to create a decade long facility plan. If passed, below is the schedule for when the bonds would be sold and how much each series would yield.

- **2020**: $53M
- **2022**: $35.5M
- **2026**: $36M

**WHAT IS A NON-HOMESTEAD MILLAGE?**

This is a tax on Non-Homestead property in our community. Non-Homestead property includes industrial, commercial, and some agricultural property as well as “second homes.” A non-homestead millage is a tax on property other than a family’s primary residence—a home lived in for more than 6 months of the year. If your family home is your primary residence, then this tax will not impact you.

**HAS FERNDALE SCHOOLS NON-HOMESTEAD MILLAGE RATE BEEN “ROLLED BACK” RECENTLY?**

Yes. Since the Non-Homestead Millage renewal was passed in 2015, our current millage rate has been rolled back every year. In 2015, our community passed a Non-Homestead Millage renewal. At that time the voters approved 30 mills, even though the maximum tax rate was only 18 mills. These additional 12 mills provided for a millage buffer in the event of a Headlee rollback. Following subsequent annual roll backs ever since the passing of the 2015 renewal, our current millage is at 18.3851. This is more than 18 mills, however, by law, more than 18 mills is never actually collected. If this trend continues, we anticipate our Non-Homestead Millage Rate would drop below 18 mills.

This year, the Non-Homestead Millage accounted for more than 10% of our total budget (about $4.6 million.) This year, Ferndale Schools collected more than 10% of our total from the Non-Homestead Millage (about $4.6 million.) This increase above 18 mills only serves as a buffer of mills in the event of a Headlee rollback to ensure that the portion of our budget provided by the state of Michigan continues to be fully funded. This year, Ferndale Schools collected more than 10% of our total from the Non-Homestead Millage (about $4.6 million.) This increase above 18 mills only serves as a buffer of mills in the event of a Headlee rollback.

**WHAT IS A HEADLEE OVERRIDE EXACTLY?**

To learn the full story on the Headlee Amendment, we recommend reading the full explanation from Michigan State University. Here is a portion of that article:

> In 1978, Michigan voters approved an amendment to the Michigan Constitution known as the Headlee Amendment. This amendment included a number of provisions related to state and local taxation. Among them was a statute that limited the revenue a state entity can collect to the amount the millage originally was supposed to generate (with factor for inflation). The property tax revenue limitation requires that if the assessed value of a local tax unit’s total taxable property increases by more than the inflation rate, the maximum property tax millage must be reduced so that the local unit’s total taxable property yields the same gross revenue, adjusted for inflation.

In other words, to maintain the 14.8 mill tax rate and ensure state funding stays constant, school districts must levy a higher millage rate. This is commonly referred to as a 3-series proposal. A traditional bond proposal allows a district to sell bonds and receive funds. With a 3-series bond, Ferndale Schools has the ability to gain public authorization to sell bonds at three different times in the near future. This allows the district to create a decade long facility plan. If passed, below is the schedule for when the bonds would be sold and how much each series would yield.

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**BOND INFORMATIONAL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH**

**BEGINNING AT 6:30 PM**

FERNDALE HIGH SCHOOL
News Flash

FHS BLOOD DRIVE

The need for blood is constant, and only volunteer donors can fulfill that need for patients in our community. Nationwide, someone needs a unit of blood every 2 to 3 seconds. Most of us will need blood at some point in our lifetime.

To help contribute to the effort, Ferndale High School will be hosting an all day (8:00 am – 2:00 pm) blood drive in the Media Center on October 29th, 2019.

Contact Ms. Oliver at 248-548-8600 for more info.

ELIGIBILITY

Must be 16 years of age or older. - See Ms. Oliver for the blood drive consent form that you will need signed by a parent or guardian prior to your appointment.

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

see Ms. Oliver in room 227 or The Dale

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT ONLINE

Thank you for supporting the American Red Cross blood program!

OAKLAND COUNTY FORCES ALIGN BEHIND VAPING EDUCATION

FROM OAKLAND COUNTY HEALTH DIVISION

Oakland County, Oakland Schools, and the Alliance of Coalitions for Healthy Communities announced a strategic partnership to align resources to improve youth vaping prevention education efforts.

“This partnership is focused on providing education, advocating for changes in public policy, and creating a healthier environment,” said Oakland County Executive David Coulter. “By working together, we can move the needle on how many teens are endangering themselves by using e-cigarettes.”

In 2017, 44.5% of Michigan high school students reported using e-cigarettes in comparison to the 31.3% of who reported smoking traditional, combustible cigarettes. Most e-cigarettes contain nicotine - the addictive drug in regular cigarettes, cigars, and other tobacco products. Some e-cigarette products can contain as much nicotine as 20 regular cigarettes. Nicotine exposure during adolescence can harm the developing brain, which continues to develop until about age 25, and can impact learning, memory, attention and increase the risk for future drug addiction. In addition to nicotine, the aerosol that is inhaled and exhaled from e-cigarettes contains harmful substances such as heavy metals which can be inhaled deeply into the lungs.

PLEASE READ THE FULL PRESS RELEASE

GAME & INVENTION CHALLENGE

Oakland Schools and the Oakland Schools Education Foundation are proud to introduce the Oakland County Game & Invention Challenge to all schools in our county. This event will be held at Oakland Schools on March 7, 2020 and is intended to inspire students in grades 1-12 to use their creativity, critical thinking, and STEM skills to develop games, apps or inventions that solve problems that children/families face in their daily lives. Students will have a chance to demonstrate their games or inventions to a team of judges.

Students can enter individually or in a team of up to 5 members. The challenge is limited to 50 individuals or teams.

We hope that this event will appeal to educators who want to involve their students in a hands-on STEM related activity or individual students being mentored by a parent or other adult.

Awards will be given in the following categories:

» MOST MARKETABLE GAME CONCEPT

» MOST CREATIVE CONCEPT (FOR THE YOUNGER AGES)

» MOST OUTSTANDING PRESENTATION

» BEST INVENTION

» BEST SOLUTION FOR A PROBLEM THAT PEOPLE EXPERIENCE

» TECH CENTER CHALLENGE WINNER

Registration is $25. For more information, including resources to help you get started, please visit the OSED Foundation website: OSEDFOUNDATION.ORG

Contact Andrea Berry with questions at andrea.berry@osedfoundation.org or at (248) 209-2434.

MARCHING BAND DINNER & A SHOW

The Ferndale High School Marching Band is having their annual Dinner & a Show on Wednesday, October 23. Come to the FHS Commons for a delicious bowl of soup and then go out to the football field to watch a free performance of this year’s show “Sounds of Silence” at 8:30 p.m. All proceeds benefit the Marching Band.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23RD

FERNDALE HIGH SCHOOL COMMONS & FOOTBALL FIELD

FERNDALE HIGH SCHOOL CHOIRS & ORCHESTRAS PRESENT: HIJINX & HILARITY CONCERT

OCTOBER 24, 2019

Join us for a night of fun-filled, all-ages entertainment. Come early for the chili cook off; dress up and stay for our costume parade.

CHILI COOK OFF

5:30pm

FHS Commons

CONCERT

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

FHS Auditorium

FERNDALE VFW SPONSORING SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

The VFW is dedicated to promoting patriotism and investing in our future generation. If you are a democracy-loving high school student interested in a $30,000 college scholarship or a patriotic middle school student interested in winning $5,000, these scholarships may be for you.

Ferndale VFW Post 1407 will be sponsoring the local Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen contests this year.

VIEW MORE DETAILS

Entries must be submitted by October 31st.

Finished submissions can be sent to Bill Good at BILL.GOOD@FERNDALESCHOOLS.ORG.
FERNDALE ELEMENTARIES HONORED WITH “WHOLE CHILD AWARD”

We are very excited to announce that Ferndale Lower and Upper Elementary Schools have received the 2019-2020 Whole Child Award from Michigan ASCD!

“The selection committee has chosen Ferndale Elementary as the recipient of the 2019-2020 Michigan ASCD Whole Child Award in conjunction with MEMSPA, Michigan Assessment Consortium, and Learning Forward Michigan! Your application is the embodiment of theWSCC tenant: Supported, and we are excited to recognize you.”

LEARN MORE

UHS INDUCTS NEW NHS MEMBERS

BY: JENNIFER WEJE, UHS NHS SECRETARY

The official University High School Induction began with the arrival of our inductees and their families. Once the ceremony began, Elizabeth Gillespie gave an opening address and afterwards superintendent Dr. Bazzi gave a powerful speech which invigorated the crowd. Following after, Amanda Goodson announced the new NHS officers of the year individually. The officers lit a candle and recited the fundamental principles of being a member of this prestigious society. Finally, the 20 new inductees were called upon to receive their certificates of membership.


Once everyone received their membership award, we began to further celebrate this achieving moment with refreshments. It is accurate to assume everyone went home feeling more successful than they previously came. Congratulations to all new members!

LOWER STUDENTS BOB INTO APPLE CRUNCH DAY

On October 11th, Ferndale Lower students joined over 1.8 million apple crunchers around the region for Great Lakes Apple Crunch Day! All 513 students received an apple and students wore red, yellow, and green apple colors to celebrate the day. 1st and 2nd grade students voted and chose red apples as our favorite kind. Ask your child which color of apple they chose to try!

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

Volunteers are working hard each day at Ferndale Lower Elementary. Students in this second grade class are motivated and engaged during a lesson taught by volunteer and former teacher, Mrs. G.

Thank you to all of our volunteers. You are making a difference!

FUEL STUDENTS LEAD THE WAY

FUEL’s 2019-2020 Student Leadership Team (under the guidance of Mr. Takach and Mr. Davis) met last week to discuss our plans for the year. Our first assignment is the “All For Books” fundraiser. Our goal is to raise enough money so that every child at FUEL can get a free book. The fundraiser begins next week, October 21st and continues the following week with Spirit Week.

For this fundraiser students are encouraged to bring in a specific type of coin each day! Spirit Days for All For Books begins October 28th. Here are the days with the themes and coins students are encouraged to bring in:

- Monday—Penny Day—Crazy Sock Day
- Tuesday—Nickel Day—Sports Day
- Wednesday—Dime Day—Sweats Day (wear sweats/jogging suits)
- Thursday—Quarter Day—90s Day
- Friday—Dollar/Silver Dollar—Hair Day

FHS & UHS STUDENTS LEARN THE DANGERS OF DISTRACTED DRIVING

This week at Ferndale High School and University High School students heard presentations by Joel Feldman on the dangers of distracted driving. Mr. Feldman’s talks were sponsored by Lear Corporation, a global automotive seating company that is based out of Southfield. The speaker, Joel Feldman, is a father and an advocate who has appeared on national news programs and spoken to thousands of teenagers at hundreds of schools, just like ours. His daughter was killed by a distracted driver. Mr. Feldman provided a powerful message to our students. He hopes to ultimately save lives by spreading this very important message. After the presentation students signed the banner promising to keep their minds on driving and their hands on the wheel and received bracelets as a reminder of their pledge.
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20TH
3:00 PM
Ferndale Community Concert Band
Ferndale High School Auditorium
881 Pinecrest Dr, Ferndale, MI 48220

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22ND
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM
FHS/FMS PTSA Meetings
FHS Main Office Conference Room
881 Pinecrest Dr, Ferndale, MI 48220

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23RD
Early Release Wednesday

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23RD
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Marching Band Dinner & a Show
FHS Football Field
881 Pinecrest Dr, Ferndale, MI 48220

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23RD
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
FYA Anger Management Program
FHS Media Center (The Nest)
881 Pinecrest Dr, Ferndale, MI 48220

Facilitator Judy Lipson will be presenting to parents and their children (8 years old and over) on the topic of anger management.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24TH
5:30 PM
Chili Cook Off
FHS Commons

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Hilarity & Hijinks Concert
FHS Auditorium
881 Pinecrest Dr, Ferndale, MI 48220

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH
BEGINNING AT 6:30 PM
Bond Informational Meeting
FHS Media Center – The Nest
881 Pinecrest Dr, Ferndale, MI 48220
**COMMUNITY CORKBOARD**

**MANAGEMENT FOR CHILDREN**

Topics of discussion will include: sensory overload, tantrums vs. meltdowns, correlation of how kids mirror their parent’s expressions, and techniques used for releasing anger.

**TO PRE-REGISTER, PLEASE CONTACT TASHA HANSON at 248-586-8704.**

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**DISTRICT DIVERSITY COMMITTEE**

**FERNDALE SCHOOLS**

**CORKBOARD**

Stop by the youth desk to sign up today. Every 75 books, come to the library to claim your prize. Read 300 books before 3rd grade! No minimum to read is required. Reduced prices are available.

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**SCHEDULE**

**FERNDALE SCHOOLS FAMILY EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

An invitation for administrators, technology directors, curriculum creators, and school leaders. Who: Discover resources and inspiration to help make a difference in your students’ and teachers’ lives, build the power of technology in the classroom with Google for Education tools.

What: You’re invited to join CDW-G at Education on Tour, an interactive event designed to help you get the most out of technology in your classroom.

WHERE: Oakland Schools, Waterford, MI 48328

WHEN: October 28, 2019, 9am - 3pm | Breakfast & registration 9 - 9:30am

**RESERVE YOUR SEAT**

**FREE**

**UPPER ELEMENTARY - Media Center**

6:30 - 8 PM

Monday, Oct 28th

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**Halloween Spooktacular**

Ferndale High School (The Nest-Media Center)

Saturday, October 30, 5 - 7 PM

Please bring your costumes and be ready to partake in fun activities - the more kids, the better the party! Fields will be monitored by the Ferndale Youth Assistance Program.

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED BUT IS APPRECIATED.**

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**FERNDALE SCHOOLS**

**2019 State Championship**

K-3 Reading Spree

**COMPETING BANDS**

- Detroit Breeze
- Muskegon High School (MCBA, Marching)
- Lake Michigan (Detroit, Marching)

**WHEN**

- Championship: Thursday, Oct. 17, 9:30am – 2:30pm, Ford Field
- District Band Contest: Tuesday, Oct. 22, 6:00pm – 9:00pm, Ferndale Youth Assistance, 24220 Rosewood St, Oak Park, MI 48237
- Preliminary: Monday, Oct 21

**WHERE**

- Ford Field (條件): 24220 Rosewood St, Oak Park, MI 48237
- District Band Contest: 24220 Rosewood St, Oak Park, MI 48237

**SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT**

Ferndale High School (The Nest-Media Center)

**WHO**

- Upper Elementary - Media Center

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**K-3 READING SREEE**

**FIND YOUR NEXT GREAT READ**

**REWARD FOR CHILDREN**

Some children enjoy reading books, while others have difficulty. A bad experience can lead to a love hate relationship that we need to help our children change. Use your library card to sign up for the K-3 reading spree. Every 75 books, go to the library to claim your prize. Sign up today!

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**COMMUNITY CORKBOARD**

**MANAGEMENT FOR CHILDREN**

Topics of discussion will include: sensory overload, tantrums vs. meltdowns, correlation of how kids mirror their parent’s expressions, and techniques used for releasing anger.