

A Newsletter for the Community of Fitzgerald Public Schools

# Fitzgerald

586.757.1750 • [www.fitz.k12.mi.us](http://www.fitz.k12.mi.us)

## ENROLL NOW...

If you have recently moved into the Fitzgerald Public School district or have a child who will be in kindergarten in the Fall of 2014, please register your child at your neighborhood school office.

### To enroll, you MUST BRING:

- **Proof of Residency:** Required in the form of a current rental agreement or mortgage statement AND two current utility bills (electric and gas) with your name and address printed on them. A driver's license is not valid proof of residency.
- **Original Birth Certificate:** The student's original birth certificate must be presented at the time of registration.
- **Immunization "Shot" Record:** All immunizations must be up-to-date prior to beginning school.
- **Transcripts:** Students entering grades 10-12, must provide a copy of the student's most recent transcript.
- **Report Card:** Students entering grades 1-9, must provide a copy of the student's most recent report card.
- **IEP:** Applicable only if special education certified.
- **Hearing and Vision Screening:** Required prior to beginning school for KINDERGARTEN students only.
- **Guardianship Paperwork:** If applicable.
- **Valid Photo Identification:** A Michigan driver's license or State ID card of parent/guardian with current address on it.

## Message from the Superintendent

Fitzgerald Public Schools has a long standing tradition of making decisions that set the standard for other districts in Macomb County and across the state. From selecting the first female superintendent in Michigan, to rallying parents and elected officials to appropriately fund special education, to transitioning to trimesters, this district does not shy away from identifying what is best for our students. Our high school has become a model for other districts in Macomb County and across the state when it comes to implementing interventions for struggling students and providing opportunities for high performing students. This tradition of challenging the status quo continues as our Board of Education considers the concept of a balanced or adjusted school calendar.

A committee of staff, parents and Board members met this fall to study a balanced school calendar. The adjusted calendar would have the same number of days as the traditional calendar but reorganized differently to minimize the extended vacation time during the summer. A balanced school calendar is based on ten and a half months rather than the traditional nine and a half months. Regardless of the calendar, the curriculum in a balanced calendar and the traditional calendar is the same.

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## New Board of Education Member Appointed

FPS is proud to introduce our new Board of Education Trustee, **Terry Wisniewski**.

Wisniewski was appointed as a Board Member on March 6, 2014; his term will expire November 2014.



## Discover, Experience, and **ACHIEVE!**



Fitzgerald Early Childhood Center is currently accepting preschool applications for the 2014-15 school year. For students who meet the criteria, we offer **FREE** preschool for three and four year olds, part-day and full-day school. These programs are grant funded through Title I and State of Michigan Great Start Readiness Program. In addition, an Early Childhood Special Education program is offered for three and four year olds who have developmental delays. If your child will be three or four by October 1, 2014, please call 586.757.3343 to inquire about the enrollment process.



## Fifth Grade Students Transition to Middle School

As spring approaches, students begin to ponder the next school year. Fifth grade students begin to think about middle school. Recognizing how important a smooth transition is to our incoming students, Chatterton Middle School has worked diligently with all elementary staff to plan a number of activities to get students off to a great start.

To start off these transition activities, during the month of March, fifth grade students will have an opportunity to see Chatterton's band perform. Students interested in participating in band during sixth grade will be fitted for instruments. Our instrumental music program provides an exciting new opportunity for middle school students. Band students learn to challenge themselves and grow as individuals while creating strong friendships with students from all our elementary schools.

On May 29, all fifth grade students will have the opportunity to visit the middle school. During our initial orientation, students will tour the building, meet with staff and have time to ask questions they may have about middle school. School rules, expectations and procedures will also be discussed.

In addition, during the summer months, Chatterton will be hosting *Orientation Days* to better prepare both students and parents for the middle school experience. During the summer, information regarding these activities will be mailed to incoming sixth grade families. Our middle school and elementary staff are available to respond to questions from parents and students regarding this transition.

### ✓ Mark Your Calendar...

- **HALF DAY:** April 4, 2014
- **SPRING BREAK:** April 7 - 11, 2014  
Classes resume April 14, 2014
- **NO SCHOOL:** April 18, 2014



## Fitzgerald High School Earns Reward School Status

FHS earned Reward School Status for the second consecutive year (only school in Macomb County) and is also recognized as an AP Honor Roll School.

## FHS Freshmen Transition Program

While research shows that the transition between eighth- and ninth-grade can be a slippery slope for many students, Fitzgerald High School is working to ensure that our students find success. The FHS administration and staff continue to work at making the incoming freshmen class feel welcomed and prepared. On February 4, a group of FHS counselors spent the day at Chatterton Middle School meeting with the current eighth-graders and shared how the high school scheduling process works. In the evening, FHS administration hosted the parents of the eighth grade students to a forum on what to expect for the upcoming school year. The Eighth Grade Parent Forum was well attended and allowed for many parents to ask questions regarding the scheduling process, athletics, graduation requirements and school discipline code. The next scheduled school activity for incoming freshmen will be in the spring when students are transported to the high school for the eighth grade Fly-Up. This event allows students to take a tour of the building while school is in session and hear from current FHS students.

The final piece to the FHS Freshmen Transition Plan was the hiring of Mr. Gary Skop as the Freshmen Transition Coordinator. This new grant funded position was created as a dedicated resource for the freshmen students at FHS. He has worked closely with students to ensure both academic and behavioral success. Since his arrival, the high school has seen a significant decrease in student suspensions; and, he continues to work with students on performing at the top of their game academically. The FHS administration looks forward to tracking the success of the transition program and hopes to continually look for ways to improve the experience for our incoming students.

## Fitzgerald High School Makes Connection with Parents

If you have a student at Fitzgerald High School, there is a good chance that you will be seeing Mrs. Crystal White in the near future. Mrs. White joined FHS in 2013 as the Student Interaction and Parent Engagement Consultant. Since her arrival, she has begun to steadily build relationships with both students and parents. By hosting activities such as Parent University, Parent Power Up, and assisting with Parent Teacher Conferences, Mrs. White has truly made her presence felt. She has also created a Fitzgerald High School Parent Facebook page to help keep parents informed on upcoming school events. Therefore, if you haven't seen Mrs. White at one of the many FHS events this year, please check out the Facebook page below to make sure that you keep up to date:



[www.facebook.com/pages/Fitzgerlad-High-School-Parents/578880222165683](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Fitzgerlad-High-School-Parents/578880222165683)

## Message from the Superintendent

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The committee reviewed the research and discovered that a balanced or adjusted school calendar offers benefits such as:

- Improved student achievement,
- Reduced summer learning loss,
- Reduced time spent reviewing previous years curriculum each fall,
- Expanded enrichment and intervention opportunities for students delivered in a timely manner and
- Flexibility in scheduling for families and staff.

The Board of Education has taken no action at this time to change to a balanced or adjusted calendar. Presentations are being made to staff and parent groups across the district. Surveys will be made available to parents and staff very soon. The results of the surveys will be presented to the Board of Education before a decision is made at a future date. Information about the balanced or adjusted school calendar is posted on the web site in the S.A.I.L. Committee folder under Files and Folders. The folder includes a sample balanced calendar that was developed by the committee. I encourage you to review the information at your convenience.

I would also like to share with you that our NEW web site will be available very soon. Information has been reorganized to improve accessibility with fewer clicks! We listened to the concerns expressed by staff, students and parents and responded with a web site that is more user-friendly.

Best wishes for the remainder of the school year that is filled with academic successes. I also look forward to warmer weather!

# FPS ALUMNI STAFF HIGHLIGHTED

## Featuring... Laurie Fournier

Ms. Fournier was a resident in the Fitzgerald community her entire childhood. She attended Mound Park Elementary, Chatterton Middle School and graduated from Fitzgerald High School. Not only was Laurie an excellent high school student, she involved herself in different clubs and organizations looking for something that really interested her. She ended up taking a basic theatre class as a freshman and became involved in the school's drama program throughout high school.

Upon graduation, Fournier obtained a clerical position at Children's Aid Society in Detroit, Michigan while attending Macomb Community College in the evenings. It was a childhood ambition to become an elementary teacher. After seven years of working as a secretary, Laurie made the decision to become a full-time college student and worked four part-time jobs to put herself through college. Laurie had to work hard to fulfill a dream to which no other family member had ever accomplished. She was the first person in the Fournier household to earn a college education.

In the fall of 1988, Laurie became a full time student at Wayne State University's College of Education. Just after graduating with her Bachelor's of Arts degree, Ms. Fournier began working in the Fitzgerald district and was assigned to a long-term subbing position at Westview Elementary. She was fortunate that an elementary position opened in the fall and was hired as a full time fourth grade teacher at Mound Park. Although Laurie enjoyed teaching, especially fourth grade, she knew there was more she wanted to achieve in the field of education. While working full-time as an elementary teacher, she decided to



obtain her Master's of Arts in Educational Leadership. In addition, while teaching grades 3-5, Laurie became the supervisor of the elementary summer program called FAST. She supervised that program for several years while advancing to an administrative level. Ms. Fournier's elementary teaching career only lasted four years. She was able to work as an elementary curriculum coordinator for two years at Mound Park and Westview. This helped her learn the dynamics of being a building administrator.

In the fall of 1999, Ms. Fournier became the principal at Mound Park Elementary. She successfully led the school into receiving the State's "Golden Apple Award" for improved MEAP scores. She was then transferred to the principal's position at Fitzgerald High School, where she worked at the secondary level for six years. Within the six years of working at the high school, Laurie decided to obtain her Educational Specialist Degree from Saginaw Valley State University. After leaving the high school, Laurie helped re-structure the Neigebaur Alternative Education Center (aka FLEX program). The following year, Laurie returned to her "roots" as principal of Schofield Elementary School. Most recently, and never one to be complacent, Fournier has taken on the task of being one of the principals at Chatterton Middle School.

People often ask, "Why has Laurie never left Fitzgerald?" Her response is, "The Fitzgerald community is a great place to be. I've been successful at Fitzgerald. Fitzgerald has been good to me. I want to give back as much as I can to this wonderful community, and offer students the opportunities I was given."

### WARREN FITZGERALD HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1974 • 40 YEAR REUNION

March 29, 2014 @ Club Monte Carlo

6:00 p.m. - Midnight

For more information, contact Louise Deluca 248.496.8916  
or Lisa Zientek 586.291.7998

### FITZGERALD HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL SENIOR CITIZEN PROM

April 23, 2014 • 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Join the seniors of Fitzgerald High School in an exciting evening of theater, dinner and dancing! To reserve your FREE ticket, call Rebecca Akins 586.757.7070 X 1217

Fitzgerald Public Schools  
Superintendent's Office  
23200 Ryan Road  
Warren, MI 48091

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