

THE FITZ HERALD

FITZGERALD PUBLIC SCHOOLS: FOCUSED, PROGRESSIVE, SUCCESSFUL



Ms. Smith and the high school advanced TV students go on set at TV Warren. They will also travel to Washington, DC to attend the Student Television Network Convention in March 2020.

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DISTRICT NEWS

Message from the Superintendent

A Time for Appreciating our Community ~

Fitzgerald remains a wonderful and supportive community. Thank you for your continued support with the recent passing of the *Sinking Fund Millage Renewal* and *Non-Homestead Operating Millage Restoration*. Both renewals will allow the district to continue improving our buildings, school security, upgrading technology and providing revenue toward the day-to-day operation of our schools. This is truly a blessing!



Our Back to School Fairs and Open Houses welcomed students and parents with updates and highlights at each building. Fitzgerald continues in being committed to providing a curriculum that is rigorous, relevant, and teaches our students to apply real world concepts and skills. There is a strong focus on reading, writing and math at all levels. We are building strong foundations at each elementary and reinforcing those basics at the middle and high school level. We also continue to offer career technical course opportunities, early college and honor courses at the middle and high school buildings. We are committed to providing a solid base for post secondary opportunities so our students are well rounded and ready to face the world after high school.

We will continue to focus and support the following areas so our students are advancing. We know that parents are an important component to the learning process at every grade level.

Please **GET** involved ~ **BE** involved ~ **STAY** involved

Student Achievement: Achievement takes hard work, commitment, persistence, dedication and continuous effort from teachers, students and parents.

School Safety: Abiding by the rules, policies and procedures aids in learning and supports our safety initiatives.

Student Attendance: Coming to school each day is important. Recent data concluded the following regarding school attendance and academic achievement:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Average # of Days Absent</u>
A+	3.83
A	4.45
A-	5.68
B+	6.61
B	7.13
B-	7.69
C+	7.73
C	7.77
C-	7.96
D+	8.38
D	9.03
D-	10.04
E	18.37

It is evident that the data shows the more you attend school and apply yourself, the greater impact you have on learning and achieving.

Working together is critically important as each of you wants what is best for our students. We all remain devoted to your child's success, safety and future.

Thank you for being a significant part of Fitzgerald Public Schools. Wishing you and your loved ones peace, health, happiness and prosperity. Enjoy the holiday season.

~Laurie Fournier

DISTRICT NEWS

2019 Bond Update

Since May 2019, the district has been busy with Series I projects. To date, we have progressed with the following projects:

DISTRICT

- Four (4) new school busses purchased
- Technology equipment and installation
- Planning and designing phase of the Neigebaur Building renovations

FITZGERALD HIGH SCHOOL

- Planning and designing phase of a newly constructed weight room
- Camera system improvements

CHATTERTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Renovations have started to update the Planetarium

MOUND PARK UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Planning and designing phase of the renovation of the Main Office
- Lighting and roof replacement planning

WESTVIEW LOWER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Planning and designing phase of all restroom upgrades and renovation

SCHOFIELD EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

- Playground fencing installed
- Stage improvement planning

The bond proposal is designed to:

- Enhance safety and security by remodeling and equipping school buildings, playgrounds and other facilities.
- Improve energy efficiency with roofing, lighting and mechanical system replacements.
- Update and remodel classrooms and school facilities.
- Upgrade technology and technology infrastructure.
- Replace school busses as they reach the end of their useful lives.

To check the status of the projects, visit the district website, www.fitz.k12.mi.us and click on the 2019 BOND icon.



One of the first projects to be completed this March will be an upgrade to the Chatterton Planetarium. This includes replacement of the 50 year old projection system. The upgrades will bring state-of-the-art laser projection to the district. The lighting and sound systems will also be replaced to provide more energy efficient operation. The new equipment will enhance and invigorate astronomy, earth science and biology instruction for grade levels across the district.



Existing Chatterton Projection System



Proposed State-of-the-Art Projection System

DISTRICT NEWS

School Parking Lots

When teachers, students, staff and parents follow arrival/dismissal expectations, we all work together to keep everyone safe. School parking lots can be incredibly busy places in the morning when children arrive and in the afternoon during dismissal. Safety is a primary concern of the school staff, but it requires everyone's participation.

Many parents drop off and pick up students by driving or carpooling, and these safety tips can help with safe arrival and dismissal.

- Stay in designated pick up areas as directed by school personnel.
- Yield to pedestrians, crossing guards, and buses, and be aware that children who are walking home may not look both ways before venturing in or across a roadway.
- Speed on school campus is to be kept at or below 10 mph and drivers must operate their vehicles with due care and caution at all times.
- Be sure to drive the proper direction through parking lots and nearby streets.
- When waiting for students to be released, pull all the way forward on the curb to allow other cars ample room and minimize driving around.

Most important, parents should be patient, respectful, and courteous to other drivers while they pick their students up from school. Anger and frustration can lead to careless, unsafe behavior, and being a positive role model can help students learn safe procedures.

National Honor Society

Congratulations to Angela Gilchrist and the National Honor Society on their incredible Induction Ceremony! The current members who spoke on stage were very well prepared and did a fantastic job representing the pillars of Character, Service, Scholarship, and Leadership.



Juniors Class of 2021

Tazkira Amin
 Jahida Begum
 Ariyana Fields
 Jahari Hannah
 Mahisha Islam
 Natasha Islam
 Alistel Kalleth
 Afsana Qureshi
 Nor Saleh
 Ma Donna Valencia
 Sandra Zeia

Seniors Class of 2020

Mohammed Ahmed
 Ripa Begum
 Nahiyah Chowdhury
 Melina Gomez-Lopez
 Da'Quan Jones
 Neeyah Mitchell
 Mashfya Nessa
 Cynthia Ruvalcaba
 Hanna Saleh
 Destiny Scott
 Sara Shamon
 Shainah Wilson

DISTRICT NEWS

ARE YOU AWARE . . . READING IS THE MOST IMPORTANT SUBJECT IN SCHOOL

Fact: Students who do more reading at home are better readers and have higher math scores!

Reading with your child is a proven way to promote early literacy. One of the most important things you can do to prepare your child for his/her future is helping to make sure that your child is reading at grade level by third grade. You can influence your child's success in school by making reading a daily routine in your home. Research shows that students who read at least 20 minutes per day score in the 90th percentile on standardized tests.

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO TO SUPPORT THEIR CHILD:

- Read out loud to your child (with a book, tablet, phone or computer)
- Listen to your child read
- Echo read (you read a line, then they repeat)
- Read together at the same time
- Reread or retell favorite stories
- Talk to your child about the reading

AS YOU READ:

- Ask your child to share what they remember
- Ask questions about the reading
- Talk about your favorite parts
- Talk about what you have learned
- Talk about how the pictures in the book connect to the words on the page
- Help connect the reading to your child's life or other books

FREE RESOURCES:

www.readingrockets.org

www.barnesandnoble.com

www.startwithabook.org

www.starfall.com

www.scholastic.com

www.storylineonline.net

www.imaginationssoup.net

www.abcya.com

www.kids.mel.org

www.raz-kids.com



2019 FFEA Teacher Mini Grants

The Fitzgerald Foundation for Educational Advancement (FFEA) was created to assist students, teachers and members of the Fitzgerald Community with enhancing learning opportunities both inside and outside of the classroom. The FFEA works in partnership with Fitzgerald Public Schools by hosting special events to raise donations for programming needs throughout the school year.

This year's FFEA mini grants were awarded to support trips to the STN Convention, a Broadway Musical, the United Nation Conference and Pewabic Pottery. The Foundation will sponsor the 8th Grade Celebration, School Incentives, Creative Learning Classrooms, Calming Corners, Flexible Learning and a Garden Development Project. Stay tuned to future district communication for more opportunities to support the Fitzgerald Foundation for Educational Advancement.

Senior Citizen Fall Harvest Luncheon

On Friday, November 8, 2019, Fitzgerald Public Schools sponsored a Fall Harvest Luncheon for the Fitzgerald senior citizens. There were approximately 80 in attendance. Good food, good conversation along with Bingo and prizes were shared by all. Thank you State Representative Ms. Lori Stone for stopping by to visit and speak to our senior citizens.



DISTRICT NEWS

Trunk or Treat 2019

Fitzgerald students and families dressed up for our 6th annual Trunk or Treat on October 25, 2019. We had over 800 participants. Lots of fun for everyone!



PRESCHOOL NEWS

Apple Orchard Visit

The Great Start Readiness Program staff, students and families visited Blake's Big Apple on Thursday, October 10th. Children experienced a wagon ride through the orchards to pick apples and a pie pumpkin! Students were able to engage in hands on active learning through the Corn Field Maze which includes experiences such as a Straw Mountain, Water Duck Races, Tricycle Track, Petting Farm, Freaky Farm 3D Maze, Funhouse Terror Tunnel, Pedal Tractor Track, and The Great Escape Maze. Families were also treated to cider and donuts. A great time was had by all.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

Fitzgerald Marching Band Visits Schofield

Students at Schofield Early Childhood Center listen carefully as Zachary Donnelly explains how they can be a part of the band when they grow up! Friends enjoyed listening to the Fitzgerald Marching Band's renditions of Queen's classics.



Guided Reading

Kindergarten students engage in guided reading groups daily. The guided reading groups allow students to apply reading skills they are learning. Students are demonstrating concepts about print, working on word recognition, fluency and comprehension. It is amazing watching our Schofield Stars grow as readers.

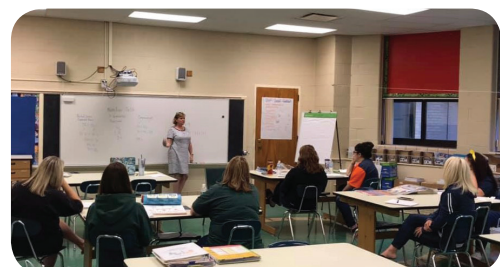
One School One Book

Mound Park Elementary loves literacy and this year we are all committed to reading the same book through the program, One School, One Book. Yes, that's right, all students, staff, families, and community members were given a copy of the award winning book *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate. Students and parents attended a kick-off assembly on September 20th where the book title was revealed. Everyone was given nightly reading assignments and daily trivia questions were read by Mrs. Nelson and answered by students on the announcements each day. The students really enjoyed reading about Ivan and his friends and they are looking forward to their second book title reveal later this year.



Staff Development

As educators we are always reflecting on how to improve our teaching practices to best serve our students. This year Mound Park teachers have made a commitment to improving our math practices for the betterment of our students through a training called "Molding Math Mindsets." Teachers have been attending coaching sessions that will continue throughout the year in order to strengthen our knowledge of how to best instruct our students in the area of math. One of the key focuses so far is a practice called **Number Talks**. Teachers learned about the practice, saw it modeled, and have now been practicing utilizing it in their classrooms.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS



Math Mindset Training for Staff Engages Students in Math

One of the best things about being a teacher is the opportunity to be a lifelong learner. Throughout the 2019-2020 school year our Fitzgerald staff in grades K-5 are participating in an intensive Math Mindset professional development program led by the founder of Strategic Intervention Solutions for Teachers. This hands on training provides our staff with new and engaging activities and manipulatives our staff can use when supporting students who struggle with numeracy skills. The training focuses on a core group of concepts and characters who each represent an important foundational mathematics skill. For example, D.C. wears a hard hat and has a mallet because he loves to smash numbers apart and build new ones. Our students are learning about these characters and how they can help them when breaking apart complex numbers into smaller more manageable ones. As we move into the second training in November our students have shared with us that they enjoy the new characters and that they make learning math fun. Engage your student in a mathematical conversation by asking your student what Math Ville character they have been talking about in their classrooms.

Westview Homework Helper Club is Now Available!

One of the concerns we often hear from our parents is that they are sometimes unsure of how to best help their students with their homework. The Westview Homework Helpers Club is a great resource for Westview students to get some extra help with their homework from our dedicated Westview teachers. The Homework Helpers Club runs every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 7:45am - 8:15am in Mr. Avoledo's classroom. Students must bring homework or an assignment with them to work on to attend the Homework Helpers Club. Mrs. Wisdom and Mr. Avoledo are available to help students with their reading, math, science, or social studies homework as they enjoy a breakfast snack together. This free program is made possible by federal grant funds. For more information about the Homework Helpers Club, please contact Mrs. Wisdom at (586) 757-5520.



Reading Intervention for All Students Focuses on "What I Need"

Each student in Fitzgerald Public Schools has a unique learning style and individual needs and supports when it comes to meeting their reading goals. One of the ways that Westview Lower Elementary and Mound Park Upper Elementary School support our students unique learning needs is through a program called What I Need (WIN) Reading Intervention. The WIN model allows district Reading Specialists to work with classroom teachers to group students into different reading intervention programs that will best support that students individual needs as they continue to grow and progress in their reading goals. Students travel to a different classroom and work with a member of our dedicated staff for a minimum of 30 minutes per day focusing on supports that are geared towards the students individual reading goals. This allows our students to get the opportunity to work together in small groups, utilize technology to enhance their learning, and get specialized support from a variety of district staff.



MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS



Don't Be a Monster

Is a non profit organization that works alongside Haunted Attractions in the United States to educate and empower youth to be leaders and show them how to stand up for their friends and peers. Chatterton has been fortunate to have this group present for three years! Our 6th graders did a wonderful job at the assembly and enjoyed Frank's Anti-Bullying message!



As a transition activity, the 5th Grade students from Mound Park Upper Elementary were invited to attend the assembly! They enjoyed the presentation, anti-bullying message and meeting Frank while enjoying their ice cream treat!

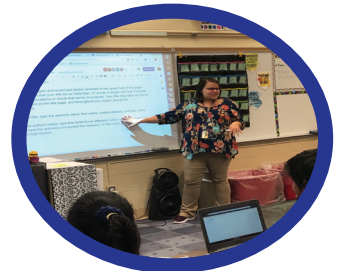


Student Advisory Support Proves to Be Effective & Positive

Middle school is a time of transition. Transitioning between schools, between social circles, and transitioning physically and socially from children into teenagers can be challenging and confusing. Advisory programs are important because they give students time that is specifically designed to help them succeed academically. Our students meet with their advisory teachers to prepare and plan for the day ahead, get a head start on homework and assignments, or study before leaving for the day. They can speak with teachers about classes or subjects that they are struggling with (especially important for students who might not be comfortable speaking up and asking questions in class). Students also meet once a month to review their grades, test data and attendance while setting personal goals for the next month. Beyond simply supporting strong academics, this also helps students develop important skills that will help them succeed throughout the rest of their lives: time management, understanding how to plan ahead, self-advocacy, and the ability to ask for help when it is needed.

District Literacy Coach

We are excited to have Jessica Crawford with us this year as our District Literacy Coach. Jessica has developed a partnership with teachers to help guide their lessons and strategies for students. She is also supporting teachers in the specific area of Disciplinary Literacy to incorporate essential literacy practices in order to make a positive impact on student learning. Mrs. Crawford will visit classrooms to experience the classroom environments, meet with teachers to determine goals, provide resources as needed, co-plan to reach goals, and support teachers in any other way they may need. This is a wonderful opportunity to help our teachers at Chatterton master a full range of strategies to accommodate the diverse set of student needs and improve reading achievement.



CMS Student Takes High School Class

Eighth grade student, Miranda Ludwick, attends Fitzgerald High to take a freshman Biology course. She attends Fitzgerald for an hour and completes the remainder of her day at Chatterton. Miranda said, "I was nervous at first but I am having a great time learning. I really enjoy being able to experience a high school course." Our plan is to expand this opportunity to additional students in hopes that we continue to challenge our students and begin to offer more freshman classes to our motivated learners.

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Great Instruction, Great Achievement

Fitzgerald High School has teamed up with John O'Connor, a 30-year veteran in the field of education, to work one on one with our teachers to take their classroom instruction from good to great. Our teachers will learn and implement new strategies to engage ALL students, promote flexibility in grouping our students, as well as increase the engagement and excitement about learning in the classroom.

Inside many classrooms at Fitzgerald High School you may find two teachers. Students in these classrooms will have a different experience than a classroom with one. These teachers can provide small group instruction to more students without having to leave the classroom. When in smaller groups with a teacher, students are more likely to participate and will be provided more immediate feedback for improvement from the teachers.

Participating staff have attended professional development and will now have Mr. O'Connor join their classroom to provide on site training with our staff and students.



Growing Opportunities for Fitzgerald Virtual Academy Students



As technology for online school continues to evolve, so do the number of families looking to enroll their students in an online program. Our virtual program has new faces in the office this year. Mrs. Sharron Yoshonis and Ms. Kaitlyn Stanley have been working to provide our students with the best opportunities possible. Choosing an online school shouldn't mean sacrificing social opportunities. FVA is now providing more face to face opportunities for students through on site tutoring, as well as field trips, to explore career options and support online learning experiences.

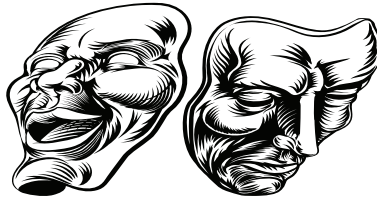
On site tutoring is available to students currently in Math, Science and Spanish. Students can schedule these free tutoring sessions around their lab time each week.

Our latest field trip for our virtual students was to Eastern Michigan University's Just Build It Day. This Construction Career Expo focused on skilled trades including: architecture, engineering, project management, skill building trades and more. These hands on experiences are getting our students excited about graduation and their futures!



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Fitzgerald High School Drama Program Proudly Presents



This Year's Musical:



January 16, 17 and 18, 2020 at 6:00 pm
At the FHS Auditorium

TICKET PRICES: STUDENTS \$3 AND ADULTS \$6

Leaping Lizards! The Fitzgerald Community will "stick up its chin and grin and sing 'Tomorrow! Tomorrow!'" when Fitzgerald Drama Club performs their rendition of Annie. Based on the popular comic strip and adapted from the Tony Award-winning best musical by Tony Award-winners, Thomas Meehan, Charles Strouse and Martin Charnin, Annie tells the story of a spunky Depression-era orphan determined to find her parents.

Annie is a heartwarming show with a important message about the true nature of family. In the show, we see how a plucky little girl transforms her entire life by making the most out of every moment.

Employment Opportunities

Fitzgerald Public Schools is seeking qualified individuals for full-time, part-time and substitute positions for the 2019-2020 school year. For a complete list of open positions and to apply, please visit fitz.k12.mi.us/human-resources/employment-opportunities or contact the Human Resource Department at (586) 757-1751.

Candidates interested in food service positions can apply at careers.aramark.com

Key Dates

- Holiday Break: Monday, Dec. 23, 2019 - Friday, Jan. 3, 2020
- First Day Back from Break: Monday, Jan. 6, 2020
- Half Day: Friday, Jan. 17, 2020
- No School: Monday, Jan. 20, 2020
- Mid Winter Break: Monday, Feb. 17 - Friday, Feb. 21, 2020
- First Day Back from Break: Monday, Feb. 24, 2020
- Spring Break: Monday, April 6 - Friday, April 10, 2020
- First Day Back from Break- Monday, April 13, 2020
- Half Day: Friday, May 22, 2020
- No School: Monday, May 25, 2020

School Contact Information

Have a question or need to report your child's absence?
Contact the main office of your child's school.

Schofield Early Childhood:	(586) 757-5150
Schofield Absence:	(586) 825-2153
Westview Elementary:	(586) 757-5520
Westview Absence:	(586) 825-2150
Mound Park Elementary:	(586) 757-7590
Mound Park Absence:	(586) 825-2146
Chatterton Middle School:	(586) 757-6650
Chatterton Absence:	(586) 825-0971
Fitzgerald High School:	(586) 757-7070
High School Absence:	(586) 758-0875



www.fitz.k12.mi.us

FPS is Social

Find Fitzgerald Public Schools on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!



facebook.com/FitzgeraldPublicSchools



twitter.com/FitzSchoolsMI



instagram.com/FitzSchoolsMI

Board of Education Meetings for 2019-2020

All meetings take place at 6:30 p.m. at the FHS Automotive and Pre-Engineering Technology Institute located at 23200 Ryan Road. The meetings for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year are January 13, February 10, March 9, April 13, May 11, June 8 and June 22. Any person with a disability who may need accommodations and/or assistance to participate in this meeting should contact Superintendent Laurie Fournier at (586) 757-1750 at least five days in advance of the meeting.

FPS is Mobile

Stay informed with text alerts! Take out the guesswork by getting an instant notification if and when the decision is made to cancel school.

Text JOIN to 67587 to sign up for:

- School closing alerts
- Parent notifications
- And other exciting news!



2020 FFEA Benefit!

- Date: March 7, 2020
- Time: 6:00-10:00 p.m.
- Location: Encore Catering & Banquet Center
21801 E. Nine Mile Rd
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080
- Cost: \$45.00 per person
- Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/26280586307>