



FENNVILLE FORWARD

WINTER 2023 EDITION

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

COMMUNITY ATMOSPHERE

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE



Fennville Alumni Return to Share with Future Graduates

Fennville Middle School and Fennville High School recently brought back alumni to speak to all 6th-12th grade students through hosting an alumni panel event in both schools. This event provides our students the opportunity to hear from past graduates about their experiences after high school, to gain advice about how to navigate life in and after school, and to learn more about what can be done in school to prepare students for what life looks like after graduation.

We invited back alumni who have taken a variety of paths since graduating from FHS with the hope that our students would see that whether you choose college, trade, military, or the workforce paths you can meet a need in the world, provide for your family, contribute positively to your community, and use your unique skillset in an engaging, enjoyable career.

(Continued on Page 5)

Important Information

Central Office Hours:

7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

School Hours:

Elementary School

Monday

7:45 a.m.-2:20 p.m.

Tuesday-Friday

7:45 a.m.-2:45 p.m.

Middle and High School

Monday

7:50 a.m.-2:25 p.m.

Tuesday-Friday

7:50 a.m.-2:50 p.m.

A NOTE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Greetings, Fennville Community!

The first semester of the 2022-2023 school year is behind us and second semester underway. The school years seem to go by so quickly. Seniors anticipating graduation often reflect that it does not feel like four years since they started high school. But for younger students, graduation seems so far away.

In this issue you will read about some recent graduates who have returned to Fennville High School and Fennville Middle School to share their personal experiences after graduation. The alumni panels expose future graduates to opportunities and give examples of Fennville alumni who have chosen various paths.

As an educator, I find great encouragement from seeing former students pursuing their passions and becoming successful adults. It is particularly gratifying to have alumni return to their alma mater as employees to continue the work of educating the next generation. This year we have welcomed several staff members who are proud Fennville alumni.

This year the District is completing a strategic planning process to identify goals and strategies to prioritize our work for the next three to five years. Thank you to all members of the community who completed the survey or participated in the community forums. The advisory committee will be compiling the results and preparing a plan for approval by the Board of Education by the end of the school year.

Thank you for your interest and support of Fennville Public Schools. The investment in our youth is an investment in the future success of our wonderful community.

Sincerely,
Jim Greydanus

ADMINISTRATION

SUPERINTENDENT JIM GREYDANUS
5 MEMORIAL DRIVE
PHONE: 269-722-3350

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL BETH AYOTTE
8 MEMORIAL DRIVE
K-2 PHONE: 269-722-3900
3-5 PHONE: 269-722-3850

MIDDLE SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL BRENT POTTS
1 MEMORIAL DRIVE
PHONE: 269-722-3550

HIGH SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL ALBERT LOMBARD
4 MEMORIAL DRIVE
PHONE: 269-722-3450

PEARL ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

PRINCIPAL BRENT POTTS
5 MEMORIAL DRIVE
PHONE: 269-722-3580

SPECIAL EDUCATION

DIRECTOR ASHLEY RISTAU
5 MEMORIAL DRIVE
PHONE: 269-722-3350

FOOD SERVICE DEPARTMENT

DIRECTOR VALERIE WOHLWEND
5 MEMORIAL DRIVE
PHONE: 269-722-3363

TRANSPORTATION

DIRECTOR JERRY OETMAN
3 MEMORIAL DRIVE
PHONE: 269-722-3820

COMMUNITY ATHLETIC CENTER & ATHLETICS

DIRECTOR WENDELL HUGHES
4 MEMORIAL DRIVE
PHONE: 269-722-3450

BUILDING & GROUNDS

DIRECTOR DARREN BROWNING
5 MEMORIAL DRIVE
PHONE: 269-722-3368

FENNVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Schedule

(3rd Monday of each month)

January 16, 2023

February 20, 2023

March 20, 2023

April 17, 2023

May 15, 2023

June 19, 2023

July 17, 2023

August 21, 2023

September 18, 2023

October 16, 2023

November 20, 2023

December 18, 2023

Board of Education Members

President Tobias Hutchins

Vice President Manuel Sanchez

Secretary Ross Thiele

Treasurer Paul Hapke

Trustee Juliet Michele

Trustee Natalie Bustillos

Trustee Angie Pena-Smith

The public is invited to attend all Board of Education meetings.

All regular meetings are held at 7:00pm in our Administrative Offices located at 5 Memorial Dr, Fennville, MI 49408.

All Special Meetings and Work Sessions will be scheduled as necessary. Upon request to the Superintendent, the District shall make reasonable accommodation for a person with disabilities to participate in this meeting.

The Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of religion, race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its program, activities or employment. Further, it is the policy of this District to provide an equal opportunity for all students, regardless of race, color, creed, age, disability, religion, gender, ancestry, national origin, place of residence within the boundaries of the District, or social or economic background, to learn through the curriculum offered in this District.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

Fennville Public Schools would like to thank Mr. Rico Ponce for his years of service to the students, staff and community here at FPS.

During his time on the Board of Education, Mr. Ponce helped navigate a pandemic, a school bond issue and construction. We are grateful for his time, energy, and efforts to continue moving Fennville Forward.



WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER

We would like to welcome to the Board of Education, our newly elected member, Angie Pena-Smith.

Angie is a parent, elementary PTO member and a small business owner in the Fennville community.

She has also volunteered as a Fennville Community Recreation coach since 2014. She has coached t-ball, soccer and most recently was an assistant coach for her daughter's basketball team. Now she looks to serve the Fennville Community by being a part of the Board of Education.

FENNVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SHOW ACADEMIC SUCCESS FOR SEMESTER 1

Students will be recognized using levels of distinction and honor. These Latin honors were first used in the 1800's by Harvard University and can be found in high schools, colleges and universities across the world today.

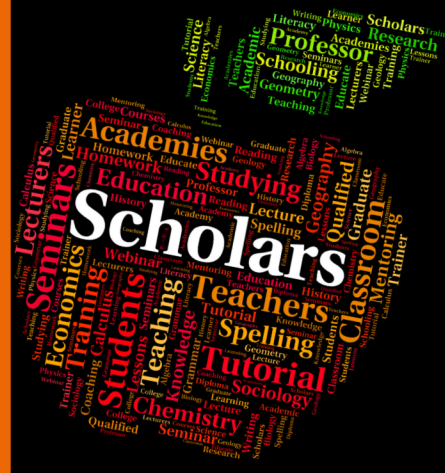
Those who have displayed academic achievements during the course of the first semester will be honored by using the following criteria:

Cum Laude: 3.25-3.49

Magna Cum Laude: 3.50-3.89

Summa Cum Laude: 3.90-3.99

Scholar Blackhawk: 4.0+



Cum Laude: 3.25-3.49

LUCAS ACHTERHOF
JACQUELINE ALVAREZ
SANDOVAL
WINTER ANGELES
KAYLI BAKER
SAMUEL BALDER
KYLI BUSHEE
ANTHONY CALDERON
ALEXANDER CHAVIS
TYLER COFFINDAFFER
TAYLOR CORREA
EMMA CRIFFIELD

ZUREHMI DELACRUZ
BRIANNA DELGADO
ROSELYN DELUCAS
PERALES
MARISOL DIAZ MENA
ULYSSES ESTRADA
HANNAH GOODING
IMMANOL HERNANDEZ-
CHAVEZ
DASALY HERRERA
MICHAEL HERRERA

CHRISTOPHER HOPKINS
KALEE KRAMER
BAILLIE LOWING
AMI MARTINEZ-
HERNANDEZ
TIFFANY MCELROY
JORDAN NEAD
BROOKLYN NEAD
JASON NYBOER
JESIRETH PERALES
ECHAVARRIA
SETH PROTTENGEIER

VIVIAN RASMUSSEN
ELIA RUIZ-IZQUIERDO
LILIANA SALAMANCA
ROSA SALINAS MUNOZ
JESUS SALINAS QUIROZ
ANAHI SANCHEZ
ELIZETTE SANCHEZ
CHELSEA STEVENS
AMY TORRES MORENO

Magna Cum Laude: 3.50-3.89

AUSTIN ACHTERHOF
JOSYLYN ANDRADE
NATHALI ARIZMENDI
MORGAN BAILEY
JENNIFER BANDA
JOANNA BENITEZ
RACHEL CALLEJAS
SETH CIOKIEWICZ
JOSELYNE DIAZ
AVA ELLIS
CRISTIAN ESPINO

MARIA FERNANDEZ-
ROMAN
CHASE FUNCKES
JESSICA GARCIA
MITZY GARCIA
JENNIFER GARCIA
RYLEE GEISTER
BRYTON GIMBEL
WENDY GONZALEZ
RAMON HERRERA
MADISYNN JEFFERSON

GAVIN KEMPKER
CHEYENNE KING
ARIEL LATCHAW
HANNAH LOMBARD
ANA MARIANO-
CHAVEZ
ELEA MARTI
MAY-LING MENDOZA-
HUYNH
ZOE MINAKER
ERICK MORALES

LESLIE OLVERA
ZACHARY ONKEN
REBECCA PARENTE
ZSI ZSI RIOS
VALERIA ROSAS
ROCIO ROSAS-
BAHENA
QUINN ROSEMA
AUTUMN ROSENCRANS
JULISSA SANCHEZ
KIANA SCHOLTEN

ALAINA SMOTHERS
YOHANA TORRES-
MARTINEZ
DESIRAE TRULL
ANNABELLE VANDERSCHEER
ARIANA VELAZQUEZ-GARCIA
VANESSA VILLANUEVA

Summa Cum Laude: 3.90-3.99

LILY ACHTERHOF
MICHAEL ADAMS
ADDYSON BROWN
SAUL CARRIZALES
ALIYANA CAVAZOS
PHILIPPE CLARK
MACKENZIE DALTON
VIVIANNA ESPINO

ALEXANDER FERRARI
NATHAN GRIFFIN
AMAYA HERRERA
ABRACA HOPSON
CAMILLA KOXHAJ
CRUZ MEDRANO II
ISABELLA MICHELE
CARLY MOKMA

YAMI OSORIO
RENATO RECILLAS
ABIGAIL REYES
LILA ROSEMA
MITCHELL SHIPPY-THRASH
CLAUDIA SUAREZ
SERENA TAIT
VICTORIA TORRES

MICHELLE
TORRES-MARTINEZ
KALLIE WYMAN

Scholar Blackhawk: 4.0+

XIMENA AGUILAR
CAL ALSTAD
JAQUELINE BENITEZ
REID BLOOM
FELICITAS GELLERT

SAMANTHA GILES
MEGAN HOYT
YASID IZQUIERDO
NIDIA MARTINEZ
ROSALIO RUIZ

MARISSA SANCHEZ
ALEXANDRA SOLIS-SARAT
NATALIE WYMAN

(CONTINUED FROM COVER)

Thank you to our alumni who took the time out of their lives to reach back and uplift our students. Your time, wisdom, and perspective were impactful to FMS and FHS students. The Fennville Community is incredibly proud of all you have worked toward and accomplished since graduating and continues to cheer on your future endeavors!



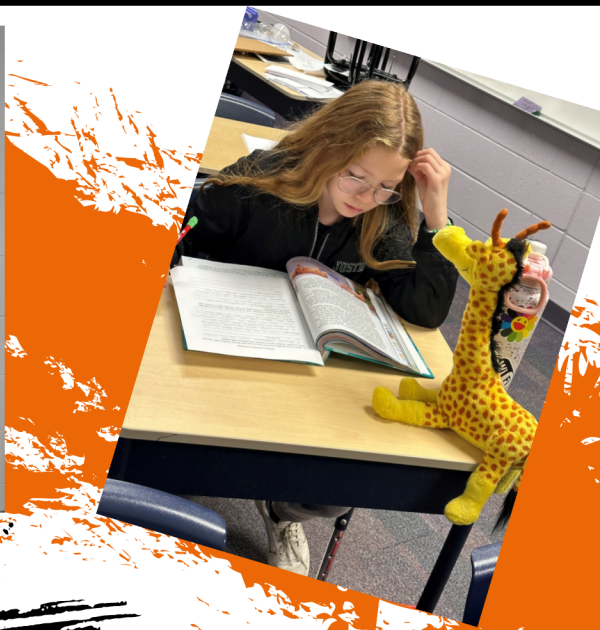
HIGH SCHOOL PANELISTS:

- a. **Amalia Suarez** (2021) is a student at Michigan State University in the James Madison College and Honors College with a major in Comparative Culture Politics focused on Latin America and minor in Chicano Latino Studies.
- b. **Ricky Ponce** (2022) is a student at Hope College on the pre-dental path.
- c. **Violet Price** (2019) became a certified welder by returning to the Allegan Tech Center after graduation to achieve her certification and now works as a welder at Porter Corp in Holland, MI.
- d. **Leonardo Almanza** (2017) attended Ferris State University from 2017 through 2021. He currently works for Kent County as a Community Service Assistant.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PANELISTS:

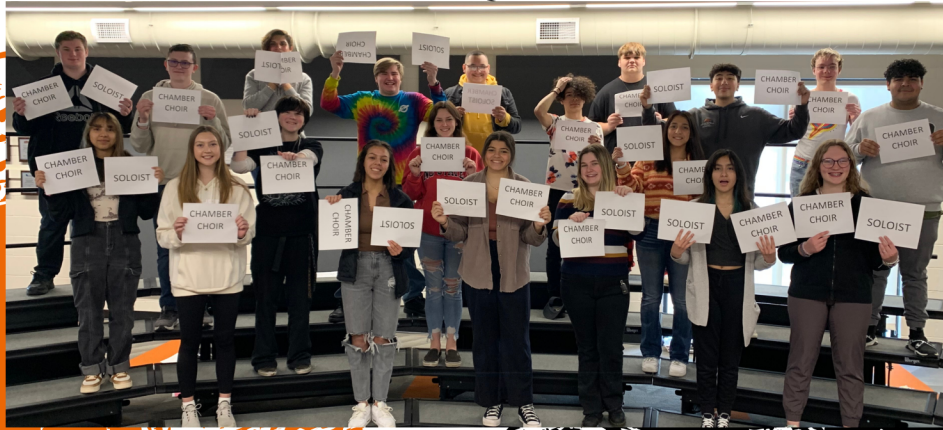
- a. **Aaron Overhiser** (2015) is a Doctor of Physical Therapy and attended the University of Findlay from 2015 through 2022.
- b. **Violet Price** (2019) became a certified welder by returning to the Allegan Tech Center after graduation to achieve her certification and now works as a welder at Porter Corp in Holland, MI.
- c. **Coryne Howard** (2020) is a student at the University of Michigan Student studying Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience.
- d. **Ahnyjea Everette** (2020) is a student at Ferris State University student studying Social Work.
- e. **Jessica Sanchez** (2022) is a student at Indiana Wesleyan University student studying Spanish Education.
- f. **Guillermo Suarez** (2017) is running his family tree cutting business called Gill's Tree Service.





GO





HAWKS



FENNVILLE **ALUMNI** RETURN TO HELP CULTIVATE NEXT GENERATION OF **BLACKHAWKS**

This school year we have continued to welcome alumni back to be a part of our staff and play pivotal roles in helping Fennville Public Schools move forward. We thank them, and all our staff for their work for our kids and community.

Andres Garcia (2017)
Director of Bands



Kelsy Overhiser (2016)
MS Art Teacher



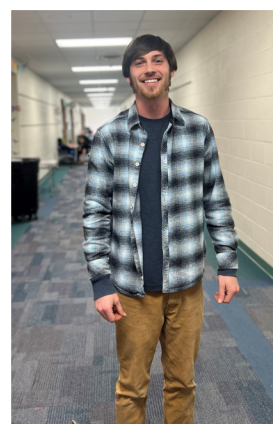
Kortny Scovill (2016)
Post-Secondary Counselor



Bryan Garcia (2022)
Paraprofessional



Robert Liddiard (2015)
Grounds



www.fennville.org/jobs

Apply At

In order to recognize and inspire excellence at Fennville Public Schools, the Distinguished Alumni program honors truly outstanding graduates of Fennville High School. To be eligible for recognition as a Distinguished Alumnus, a graduate will have demonstrated true excellence in an achievement, a series of achievements, or over a career. Recognition as a Distinguished Alumnus is the highest honor Fennville Public Schools bestows upon a graduate.

NOMINATION PROCESS

The submission of a name for consideration will be made in one of eight categories. Nominees in these categories must have demonstrated high levels of achievement, award recognition, and/or significant contributions in their field, including (but not limited to) information provided as guidance in each category. Nomination submission can be made by visiting www.fennville.org/alumni.

Science, Medicine, and Technology—graduates who distinguished themselves with high regard or distinction through important medical accomplishments, the development of procedures, products, processes or research findings that benefit lives and/or communities, and/or make a significant contribution to the body of knowledge in a scientific, medical, or technology field.

Business, Industry, and Professional—graduates who are recognized, respected, influential leaders in business and/or industry, banking, scholarship, education, or the practice of law.

Arts and Entertainment—graduates who are established, well-known, or frequently published creators and/or performers of art, winners of significant awards or accolades in a field of art or entertainment, influential critics, or leaders and/or cultivators in the art or entertainment communities beyond the immediate environment of where that person lives and works.

Humanitarian and Service—graduates who have provided consistent and significant service to the local, state, national, or world communities in a way that exhibits integrity and a commitment to the interest of bettering the lives of others.

Career or Military Service Distinction—graduates who have demonstrated/attained prominence through his or her sustained effort and/or other worthy endeavors that form a record of accomplishment impressive to the citizens of Fennville.

Athletics—graduates who are standouts in a sport or sport-related career after high school beyond the immediate environment of where that person lives and works, such as all-American status, competing as an Olympian or professional athlete, or as a renowned or especially successful coach, sport specialist, promoter, or trainer.

Breaking Boundaries—graduates whose attainment of distinction includes having had to overcome significant personal, community, or cultural challenges, and/or who serve as examples of pioneers in their achievements as representatives of a historically underserved or underrepresented community.

Lifetime Recognition—graduates who may not have attained Distinguished Alumni status in another category, but whose life demonstrates extraordinary moral character and dignity.

The Distinguished Alumni Program is a cooperative effort between Fennville Public Schools, the Fennville Educational Foundation, and the Fennville Alumni Association.



www.fennville.org/alumni



Fennville Public Schools will be hosting various activities and events throughout the month of March to continue our encouragement of reading, not only during the school day, but even on nights and weekends. Reading is knowledge, knowledge is power.

Fennville Elementary School

Students at FES continue with a tradition of taking part in various reading themed events throughout the month of March. Highlights include our Family Reading Night on Thursday, March 16, a Read-a-thon, and a book that the school will be reading together throughout the month.

Fennville Middle School

Students at FMS will look to swing one out of the park this March for their Baseball themed Reading Month. From reading challenges and bookmark making contest, to the 2nd annual Spelling Bee and a Read-a-thon. At months end, students that read 20 minutes each night will get a chance to go to the Book Warehouse and pick out free books, attend a West Michigan Whitecaps game, or go see a Baseball themed movie.

New Scorers Table Welcomed to Morehead Gymnasium

Thank you to the Athletic Boosters and the Morehead family for their donations for a new scorers table. This table is to be used in the Morehead Gymnasium for the various sporting events we host. It features a video board that enhances the gameday experience for our Blackhawk Fans and our student athletes.



Squawky Looks for Updated Costume

The Fennville Athletic Boosters are looking to raise funds to get a new mascot costume to replace the Squawky costume that has seen 22 years of cheering on our Blackhawk teams and activities. If you would like to donate you can scan the QR code below, or donation buckets can be found at the concession stands at all events.



Fennville Community Recreation

Fennville Community Recreation is pleased to offer a variety of adult and youth sports opportunities throughout the year. For this upcoming season sign-ups are now available by scanning the QR code on this page.

The community rec program also offers scholarship opportunities for those in need to cover the registration cost. This is made possible by the generous donations from the Grant Rogers Burd Memorial Fund and the Burd family.



Scan for more
information



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

TUESDAY MARCH 14 FROM 1-7PM
IN THE ELEMENTARY LIBRARY

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Children who turn 5 years old by September 1, 2023 are eligible for kindergarten this fall.

If your child turns 5 between September 1 & December 1, waivers are available, please inquire.

Students who are currently in a preschool program here at FES will be given an enrollment packet for parents to fill out and return to the office.

Questions? Call or email
Julie.Cossey@fennville.org
269-722-3900

Fennville Elementary School
Home of the Blackhawks!



WHAT TO BRING?

- BIRTH CERTIFICATE
- IMMUNIZATION RECORD
- PROOF OF RESIDENCY*

*mortgage/rent paperwork or water bill



PRE-SCHOOL

PLAY, LEARN, AND GROW TOGETHER

Apply online now at www.hmgallegan.org



REGISTRATION 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR



Headstart

Free preschool for eligible families. Must be 3 or 4 years old by September 1, 2023. Meets Monday-Thursday, full days.

GSRP

Free preschool for eligible families. Must be 4 years old by September 1, 2023. Meets Monday-Thursday, full days.

Fennville Preschool

Tuition based preschool for 3 or 4 years old. Meets Monday-Thursday, either 1/2 days (mornings) or full days.



Fennville Public Schools
5 Memorial Dr.
Fennville, MI 49408

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RESIDENT

March	31	End of Third Marking Period Students released at Early Release Time
April	3-7	SPRING BREAK – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS OR STAFF
	10	School Resumes
May	25	Graduation 7:00 p.m.
	29	MEMORIAL DAY – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS OF STAFF
June	8	HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS – p.m. Staff Professional Development
	9	End of Fourth Marking Period – HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS Students dismissed at 11:05 a.m.; Full Day for Staff

First Day of School
2023-2024
Mark
Your Calendars

