



FENNVILLE FORWARD

SUMMER 2023 EDITION

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

COMMUNITY ATMOSPHERE

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE



CLASS 20^{of} 23

Inside Look



Outstanding
People for
Education
PAGE 3

20 23

Graduation and
Class of 2023
Highlights
PAGE 4



District
Celebrations
PAGE 8-10

www.fennville.org

 www.facebook.com/FennvillePublicSchools

Summer Central Office Hours
7:00am - 4:00pm

A NOTE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Greetings, Fennville Community!

It is with a deep sense of gratitude to the students, parents, staff, Board of Education, and greater Fennville community, that I write my final newsletter greeting as Superintendent of Fennville Public Schools. Having served in the District for ten and a half years, first as high school principal, and as Superintendent for the past six years, I have had the privilege of seeing the academic growth of our students and the renovation of our school campus.

The progress that has been made to move ***Fennville Forward*** is the result of a supportive community where residents care about the success of our children and youth. This support comes in many ways including time spent volunteering or attending school events, words of encouragement to students and staff, financial support through fundraisers and millage proposals to name just a few. This community understands that healthy communities support their schools in the education of children. Thank you.

In my career of over thirty years in education, I have had the privilege to work alongside so many exceptional people. The staff of Fennville Public Schools is an incredible team of professionals who devote their time and energies to helping our students be successful. Whether it's making sure they arrive safely, feeding them nutritious meals, keeping them safe on the playground, or teaching them engaging lessons, these staff members excel each day. As you have the opportunity, please let them know they are appreciated.

In recent years we have used the theme "***Fennville Forward.***" Building on the rich history and heritage of this community, we seek to keep advancing our educational practices and facilities to prepare young people for a successful future. There is more to do. We welcome Dr. Doug Greer as he takes over as Superintendent on July 1. As a gifted educational leader, he will work with the Board of Education, staff, and students to continue to move Fennville Forward. Please give him a warm Fennville welcome.

With Sincere Gratitude,

Jim Greydanus

ADMINISTRATION
SUPERINTENDENT
5 N 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
PHONE: 269-722-3450

PEARL ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION
PRINCIPAL, BRENT POTTS
5 MEMORIAL DRIVE
PHONE: 269-722-3580

SPECIAL EDUCATION
ASHLEY RISTAU
5 N MEMORIAL DRIVE
PHONE: 269-722-3350

FOOD SERVICE DEPARTMENT
DIRECTOR, VALERIE WOHLWEND
5 N MEMORIAL DRIVE
PHONE: 269-722-3363

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

**COMMUNITY ATHLETIC CENTER
& ATHLETICS**
DIRECTOR, WENDELL HUGHES
515 N MEMORIAL DRIVE
PHONE: 269-722-3450

BUILDING & GROUNDS
DIRECTOR, DAN RASTALL
5 N MEMORIAL DRIVE
PHONE: 269-722-3368

FENNVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Schedule

3rd Monday of each month
at 7:00 pm

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 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.

Outstanding PEOPLE for Education AWARD

Congratulations to the 2023 Outstanding People for Education Award winners. This award honors and recognizes people in public education who are excelling in their field and/or making an impact in the quality of education in Allegan County.

Congratulations to this year's winners!



Tammy Liebke

Head Cook at FHS
Bus Driver

"While doing this for 16+ years, she has been the definition of a hard worker. She is loved by all! In the lunch line, she knows each student's likes and dislikes, she makes conversations with them, makes them laugh, argues with them on taking their vegetables."

Kelly Leikert

Social Worker FES

"Kelly is a quiet leader who supports all types of learners and is a blessing to FES. She cares for our children tremendously, it shows in the way she professionally helps our most challenging students. She is patient and kind, and brings a calming presence to stressful situations."

Christina Ellis

4th Grade Teacher

"Christina is an exceptional teacher who cares deeply about her students. This dedication to the students at FES is shown in her quiet compassionate teaching. She always goes above and beyond to make sure the students in her class achieve the best of their abilities."

CLASS OF 2023

On the evening of Thursday, May 25th, Fennville High School welcomed its newest group of alumni, the Class of 2023. The celebration took place in the Morehead Gymnasium in front of a packed crowd of family, friends, and community members. Fennville Public Schools Superintendent, Jim Greydanus, welcomed all in attendance as he kicked off his last commencement ceremony due to his retirement at the end of this school year. The night was filled with excitement for what is to come, and sprinkled with reflection on the past years of being students at FPS.

To celebrate the night the graduates welcomed Senior Class Vice President Wendy Gonzalez and Jessica Garcia, a Senior Class Representative, to give Commencement Addresses. Principal Albert Lombard had the honor of announcing that the Class of 2023 had been awarded a grand total of \$1,216,011 worth of college merit and scholarships. Seventeen graduates wore a gold chord indicating a GPA of 3.5 or above, while 15 more students wore a silver chord for a 3.0 – 3.49 GPA. To conclude the evening, the 73 graduating seniors tossed their caps high into the air outside the west doors of the gym.



**OVER 1.2 MILLION IN MERIT AND
LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS**



**72% ATTENDING COLLEGE OR
TRADE SCHOOL**



**13 STUDENTS ACHIEVED SEAL OF
BILITERACY**



STUDENTS CONTINUE TO EXCEL IN THE ARTS

2022-23 has been another great year for the Fine Arts at Fennville Public Schools. The choral department earned top ratings in all of the festivals they attended this year. The band department had a strong year under the direction of 1st year teacher Mr. Garcia.

FHS Student Amiah Hindenach, an art student with Mrs. Stratton took 2nd place and an award in art excellence at the 45th Juried High School Exhibition DeBut.



ROBOHAWKS TURN TO NEW COMPETITION CIRCUIT: DRONES

The RoboHawks robotics team has moved into a new competition circuit: Aerial Drones. The team had immediate success and won many of their competitions, including the tournament that was hosted at Fennville High School. In its inaugural year of competition the RoboHawk Drone Killers team was selected to

compete at the world competition hosted at Kettering University. The team had a strong outing at World's, but were eliminated due to some technical issues the team had. If you would like to learn how to get involved contact Rick Lowing at Richard.Lowing@fennville.org

GREAT LAKES ECOLOGY CLASS RELEASE SALMON

On April 28th students from Mrs. Gray's Great Lakes Ecology class, along with 6th graders from FMS, released 100 young salmon into the Kalamazoo River at New Richmond Bridge Park. Mrs. Gray said this was the most successful year of the activity.

Prior to the release of the salmon, high school students led five stations on both sides of the river on the topics of salmon scents, fishing, a scavenger hunt, water quality testing, and salmon life cycle.

The program began back in 2014 as an after-school club and developed into an elective course last school year. The Fennville Educational Foundation has provided grants for the class to improve equipment and supplies for the course, specifically a larger tank, new filter, and materials for water quality testing. Fennville is one of approximately 150 schools in the state to participate in such a program, which works with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to coordinate the release.

**FENNVILLE
FORWARD** 5



GRADUATES OF PEARL ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL

DIPLOMA

Apolonio Cavazos	Andrew Pena
Kaia Davis-Lubben	Jessika Pineda
Abigail DeWitt	Victoria Soto
Ashley Forrest	Skylar VanDenBerg
Carly Hernandez	Addison Wentzell
Zoey O'Connell	Mason Wilson
Miriam Olson	

GED

Collen Estrada	Anthony Lanxon	Adrian Saucedo
Sam Garcia	Kira Manning	Taylor Schultz
Chloe Granby	Madison	Rhees Wentzell
Brandon Groenewoud	McAllister	Janelle Wheeling
Sierra Heller	Ian Miller	Haylee Wilson
Alyssa Hoggard	Nolan Ortega	Aidan Wolters
Evin Holtsclaw	Erica Ramos	
Madison Konjer	Dempsey Roper	





GO





HAWKS



FENNVILLE ELEMENTARY SETS THE FOUNDATION FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

I WENT TO FAMILY
READING NIGHT

FES continues to work to connect and engage the community with events and programs held throughout the year. Our highly attended **family reading night** centered around our One Book, One School. The night brought "class pets" to FES with stories centered around animals filling the various spaces. Families had a chance to pet, hold, and watch numerous animals that were brought in from various community members and the Outdoor Discovery Center.

FES also hosts community **mentors** that work weekly with students to build connections and positive relationships.

The mentor program continues to grow to meet the ever changing needs of our students. If you are interested in becoming a mentor and supporting our students at FES, please email rebekah.hapke@fennville.org.

The **PTO** at Fennville Elementary hosted events to engage our community. From the successful Read-A-Thon to the highly attended Family Prom Night, the parent organization continues to support our teachers and students as well as bring people together to celebrate being a Blackhawk!

GO HAWKS



FMS OFFERS INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

Fennville Middle School continues to build upon a structure of celebrating student success as well as offering experiences for learning outside of the traditional classroom setting. This year the staff at FMS provided students with experiences ranging from grade level camps, where students learn teamwork and outdoor skills, to a STEAM camp

and baseball game to celebrate students that successfully completed the "March is Reading Month" challenge. Students also have been treated to continued support from the Red Horse Center for Collaborative Leadership and the Renew Therapeutic Riding Center.



F Fennville Athletics

STUDENT ATHLETES CONTINUE TO GROW AND SHINE

The 2022-2023 school year had some big milestones in the continued success and growth of the athletic programs at Fennville Public Schools. Below are a couple of the highlights to celebrate!



Boys Soccer
SAC Lakeshore Champions



Softball
First win in 4 years
Finished with 4 wins

F Fennville Community Recreation



Scan to Register



Nidia Martinez
3200 SAC Champ
Qualified for State
Cross Country Meet



Ben Peterson
Scored 1,000+ career
point in basketball

#GOHAWKS



AUSTIN ACHTERHOF
MACKENZIE DALTON
HANNAH GOODING
NATHAN GRIFFIN
BEN PETERSON
ABIGAIL REYES
AUTUMN ROSECRANS
ALAINA SMOTHERS



WELCOME TO OUR NEW COACHES

Youth Summer Camps are happening in July,
register now!

Registration is now open for fall and winter
rec sports.

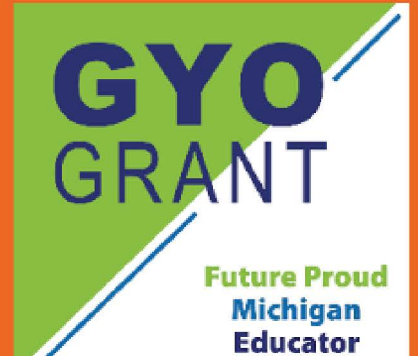
Fennville Rec Pickleball Tournament
happening during Goose Fest.

FENNVILLE SCHOOLS CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE GROWTH OF THEIR STAFF

Throughout the years Fennville Public Schools has continued to support its own staff to grow in their profession. As the shortage of educators continues, FPS turns to grants and partnering with local universities to help grow their staff.

This year, we have our first cohort of graduates through Western Michigan University with a Masters Degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). When asked to describe their experience one teacher said *"My attitude and mindset as an educator has been forever changed."*

Also this year, FPS was awarded over \$1.5 Million in a grant called "Grow your Own." The Michigan Department of Education created this grant to support school employees in earning initial teacher certification or adding additional endorsements on to an existing teacher certification. FPS is collaborating with Grand Valley State University to provide this cost-free opportunity to grow our own educators to better serve our students and community.



Ms. Godwin has been a teacher at Fennville Public Schools for 23 years. She started at Fennville in 2001 at FMS then would later move to the elementary school in 2007 where she finished her career teaching 4th grade. Ms. Godwin has been a fixture in the community as an educator and a proud parent of 3 FPS graduates. Ms. Godwin looks to spend more time in the greenhouse planting beautiful flowers. Thank you for your years of service to Fennville!



Ms. Kate Godwin

Mr. Jim Greydanus



Mr. Greydanus has been a long time resident of Fennville Public Schools and joined the staff in 2013 as High School Principal, a position in which he served for four years. In 2017, Mr. Greydanus moved into the superintendent role for which he served the district for six more years. During his time at FPS, Jim has led the district through a bond project, the COVID 19 pandemic and growth in academics. Mr. Greydanus also stepped in to driving bus as the driver shortage continued to hit local schools. Thank you Mr. Greydanus for your years of self-less leadership of our school!

The Bulletin Board

FENNVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

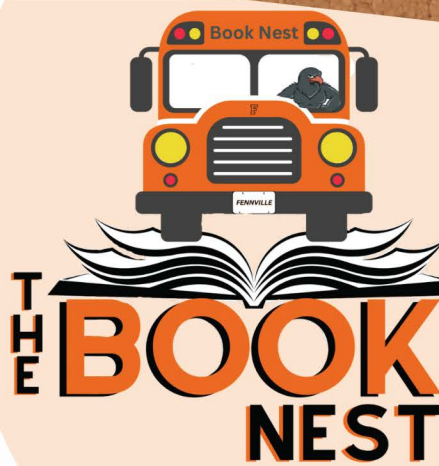
WEDNESDAYS
JUNE 28 - AUGUST 9

FENNVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
8:30AM - 11:30AM

ORCHARD HILLS
12:30PM - 1:30PM

DOGWOOD MANOR TRAILER PARK
2:00PM - 3:00PM

PARADISE PARK (WOODEN PARK)
3:30PM - 5:00PM



MOBILE LIBRARY
BOOK BUS

STOP BY FOR:

Books
Interactive Storytime
Crafts
Summer Fun!!

P.T.O.

Parent - Teacher - Organization

WHAT DO WE DO?

- **Fundraisers**
 - Kindergarten handprints
 - Carnation sale
 - Popcorn Fridays
 - and more!
- **Provide meals** for staff during conferences
- **Cover the cost** of bussing for field trips to lower the costs for families
- **Provide funds** for teachers to use on classroom supplies

Next Meeting
Wednesday, August 9 @ 6pm
in the FES Library

FOLLOW US



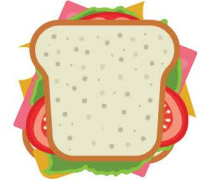
Facebook.com/FennvillePTO



MEET UP and EAT UP

Fennville Public Schools will continue providing FREE meals for children 18 years of age and younger over the summer. Persons up to age 26, who are enrolled in an

educational program for the mentally or physically disabled that is recognized by the state or local public education agency are also eligible. No application or proof of income is required. Meals will be served at Fennville Elementary Cafeteria on M-F June 12-August 4 (closed July 3 and 4). Breakfast is served from 7:00am-8:00am and Lunch is served 11:00am-12:00pm.



Fennville Public Schools

PEARL ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL

Looking for a different option?

- 2023
1
2024
- Diploma or GED**
Options Available
Virtual or In-person
- School of Choice**
Window
August 7-25
- School Starts**
August 21

CONTACT

Jodi Scovill, Director

269-722-3580

jodi.scovill@fennville.org





Fennville Public Schools
5 Memorial Dr.
Fennville, MI 49408

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
FENNVILLE, MI 49408
PERMIT NO. 12

RESIDENT

FENNVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS SELECTS NEXT SUPERINTENDENT



The Fennville Public Schools Board of Education is excited to announce the selection of its next Superintendent of Schools to replace Jim Greydanus. The replacement process began in February 2023.

After multiple interviews the Board of Education is pleased to enter into contract negotiations with Dr. Doug Greer to lead Fennville Public Schools.

Dr. Doug Greer has served as the Director of School Improvement at Ottawa Area Intermediate School District since 2011. Prior he served at Kent City Public Schools as a principal and curriculum director from 2007-2011.

The Board of Education continues to sincerely thank Jim Greydanus for his 10 dedicated years of service to the Fennville Public Schools. His leadership has set up our new leader, and district, for continued success. The process has been facilitated by the Michigan Leadership Institute.

Important Back to School Dates

**HAVE
A
GREAT
SUMMER!**

**August
16**
Open House
All Buildings
4:30pm-6:30pm

**August
21**
FIRST DAY
OF SCHOOL!!!

**August
25**
No School

**September
1-4**
No School
Labor Day Break

**October
10-12**
Conferences
4:00pm-7:00pm

**October
13-16**
No School
Fall Break