

FAIR HAVEN GRADE SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2026

Principal's Message

Dear Families,
February is here, bringing with it more opportunities for learning, growth, and community connection. As we move through the winter months, we have a few important reminders and updates to share with you.

Winter Break Reminder

A friendly reminder that our winter break will take place from February 23rd - 27th. This is a week later than usual. Friday, February 20th is an early release day, with an 11:20 dismissal. We hope this time allows students and families to rest, recharge, and enjoy time together. School will resume on Monday, March 2nd.

Health & Wellness

January saw a significant rise in illness. To keep our community safe, please keep children home if they experience fever, vomiting, diarrhea, a persistent cough, or fatigue. Frequent handwashing and covering coughs/sneezes also remain vital for prevention.

Schedule Change:

Due to illness and absences, the Winter Star 360 Benchmark has been rescheduled for February 9–13.

Dressing for Winter Weather

Winter is in full swing, and students continue to go outside for recess whenever possible. We only avoid outside recess and classes when the wind chill is 10 degrees or lower. Please ensure your child comes to school with appropriate winter gear, including a warm coat, hat, gloves, snow pants, and boots. If you need assistance with winter clothing, please reach out to the school office—we are happy to help!

Please check out the rest of our newsletter to learn about opportunities to join your child for lunch, our approach to Valentine's Day, and learn how you and your child can participate in the FHGS American Heart Association Kids Heart Challenge.

As always, thank you for your partnership and support. If you have any questions or need further information, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Warm regards,
Deborah Infurna
Principal

Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY

2nd - Grade 5 to STARBASE
2nd - Drama practice begins
Week of 2nd - Egress Drill (Fire)
9-13th Star 360 Benchmark Assessment
9th Board meeting OVS- 6:30 p.m
11th - PTO Meeting 6:30 pm
19th - Annual Informational Mtg FHU 6:30
20th Early Release Day, 11:20 dismissal
23rd - 27th - No School - February Break

MARCH

3rd - Town Meeting - Budget Vote
4th - Invite a family adult member to lunch day
Week of 9th - Options-based drill
9th - Board meeting FHGS- 6:30 p.m.
12th - PTO mtg 6:00 p.m.
11th - Invite a family adult member to lunch day
12th - Early Release Day - 11:30 dismissal
13th - Full Day District Inservice Day
14th - Basket Raffle to benefit Band & Chorus in the gym 10:00-1:00



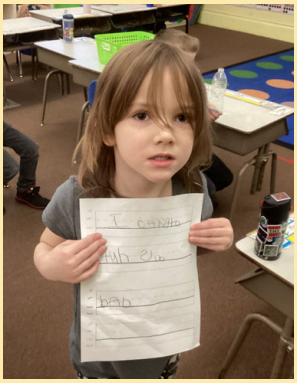
Distribution February 20, 2026
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Fair Haven Union
Middle & High School



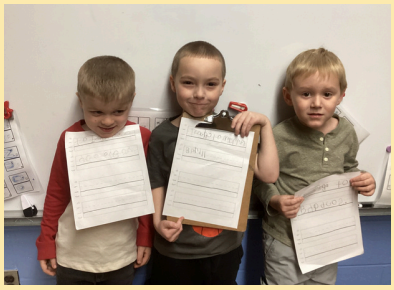
Kindergarten

The kindergarten students have been learning about how to tell stories using words and pictures. They were given the prompt, “I can go to____”. The students had to use their own spelling to finish the story. The children "went" to many places including McDonalds, a birthday party and the Great Escape. They did a wonderful job using their knowledge of sounds, letters and words to complete the prompt.











Midweek Lunch with a Loved One

We would like to welcome families to join their child(ren) for lunch at school. We recognize that a one-day opportunity can be difficult for families so we would like to extend an invitation to pick a day you would like to join your child for lunch from the following dates:

Wednesdays: March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th,

Lunch will cost $5.25 per person. We ask that you call the school (802) 265-3883 by the Monday before the Wednesday you wish to join so we can have an accurate count of those attending. You would join your child during their scheduled lunchtime:



Kindergarten -10:55-11:25
Grade 1 - 11:05-11:35
Grade 2 - 11:20-11:50
Grade 3 - 11:30:12:00
Grade 4 - 11:40-12:10
Grade 5 - 12:15-12:45
Grade 6 - 12:15-12:45



Grade 3



In third grade, students have been building strong math understanding by learning concepts in hands-on, meaningful ways. When exploring fractions, they are using manipulatives such as fraction circles, tiles, or strips to model equal parts, compare sizes, and explain their thinking, helping them see fractions as numbers rather than just symbols. At the same time, students are working with expanded notation to break two-digit and three-digit numbers into hundreds, tens, and ones, which deepens their understanding of place value. By representing numbers and operations with base-ten blocks, drawings, and expanded form, students can clearly see how addition and subtraction work. This concrete and visual approach naturally leads to the standard algorithm, as students understand why regrouping is necessary and how each step connects to the value of the numbers involved.



Student Support Center Strategies

What is a fidget?



Fidgets are vastly popular among students and adults. However, if you go shopping for a fidget you will be quickly overwhelmed with choices. Fidgets come in all shapes, sizes, colors, and actions. There are so many choices, it raises the question:

When does a fidget become a toy?

A true fidget is a tool not a toy. It is a sensory tool. They help release stress, nervous energy, and anxiety, if used correctly. Fidgets boost focus and productivity. They keep your hands busy and help in staying on task.

Fidgets are used quietly and discreetly, out of sight, on a lap, or in a pocket. A fidget should not make noise or be a distraction to others. In fact, others shouldn't even be aware that you are using a fidget. Some examples of a true fidget are:

- Small squishy balls
- Hedgehog or sensory rings
- Tangles
- Seat Cushions
- Putty (small amount)
- Marble mesh
- Chair/desk bands

Fidgets are an important tool in the classroom or workplace. They help us slow down our breathing, heart rate, and calm our body. They allow us to use our prefrontal cortex and prepare us to be workers and learners.
When used correctly, as a tool, a fidget offers many benefits and is never a distraction!

Early Middle Level Happenings





AThe Early Middle team earned a PBIS celebration! With many classroom winter celebrations taking place in December and January, students will enjoy a well-earned break following the STAR 360 benchmark assessments. On February 11th, students will participate in a movie time complete with pajamas and snacks. They were given the opportunity to share their movie preferences and sign up for the film of their choice. For the late morning, fifth- and sixth-grade classrooms will be transformed into cozy movie theaters as students relax and celebrate their hard work.











Kids Heart Challenge

FHGS Is Changing & Saving Lives!

FHGS is proud to participate in the Kids Heart Challenge, a program that helps students learn how to keep their hearts, bodies, and minds healthy while supporting children born with special hearts.
Through this experience, students build lifelong healthy habits, practice kindness and empathy, and learn the importance of giving back to others. Families and community members are invited to join us in supporting this meaningful cause.
If you haven't jumped in yet, there's still plenty of time!



Register today and complete Finn's Mission with your student; every step makes a difference!
Visit www.heart.org/schools or use the AHA Schools App to sign up.

Together, we can promote wellness, inspire compassion, and make a lasting difference, one heart at a time.💙

Redefined Approach to Valentine's Day:
A Celebration of Gratitude and Appreciation

As we approach mid-February, our school community looks forward to our redefined approach to St. Valentines Day. While we recognize the holiday's long history, we take a slightly different approach within our hallways to ensure every student feels included and uplifted.

From History to Heartfelt Words

The origins of St. Valentine's Day begin as a Christian feast day honoring early martyrs named Valentine. Over centuries, from religious to various folk traditions, it evolved into the global cultural and commercial celebration of romance we see today.
At the PreK-6 level, however, we find that the traditional "romance" or "favorite" themes of the holiday don't always align with the developmental needs of our students. Instead, we use this time to focus on gratitude and appreciation.

Our "Mission of Kindness"

Rather than traditional card exchanges or parties—which helps us remain in alignment with board policy—our teachers are guiding students through a more personal "mission." Students are encouraged to:

- Verbally communicate specific things they appreciate about each of their classmates.
- Identify strengths in others that might go unnoticed.
- Practice genuine kindness through simple, spoken gestures.
- Practice tangible gratitude through small trinkets provided by our PTO (when resources allow) as tokens of appreciation for one another.

Why This Matters

When a child hears a peer say, "I really appreciate how you always include me at recess," or "I like how hard you work in math," it creates a profound sense of belonging. These moments teach one of life's greatest lessons: true kindness makes a difference. By moving away from the "popularity" aspect of card exchanges, we ensure that every child feels equally valued and special. We are excited to see our classrooms fill with these expressions of respect and look forward to the positive energy this brings to our school!