FAIR HAVEN GRADE SCHOOL

OCTOBER 2026

Principal's Message

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

Dear Families,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2026–2027 school year! We are so excited to welcome both new and returning students and families as we begin another year focused on learning, growth, and community. At Fair Haven Grade School, we believe that a strong partnership between home and school is at the heart of everything we do and we are grateful to have you alongside us on this journey.

Our Vision for the Year Ahead

This year, we remain focused on providing an enriching educational experience for all of our PreK–6 students. Together, as a school community, we are continuing to work toward these shared goals:

Fostering a Love for Learning - We want every child to develop a genuine passion for learning — and to understand what they're learning, why it matters, and how to succeed. Through engaging lessons, goal-setting, and reflection, students will build curiosity, creativity, and ownership of their learning journey.

Strengthening Core Skills - Literacy and numeracy remain central to our work. We are implementing strategies that build strong reading, writing, and math skills — ensuring every student gains the foundational tools they need for success in school and in life.

Building a Supportive Learning Environment - We are committed to making FHGS a place where every child feels safe, valued, and included. This year, we are deepening our social-emotional learning work by explicitly teaching and strengthening students' executive functioning skills — the foundational abilities that help children manage themselves as learners and as people. These include skills like getting started on tasks, staying organized, managing frustration, adapting when plans change, and remembering multi-step directions. When students build these skills, they become more confident, more resilient, and better able to work alongside their peers — and you may start to notice your child using some of this language at home!

Fostering Collaboration Between School and Home - We know that strong communication and collaboration with families are vital for student success. Throughout the year, we will provide opportunities for families to connect with the school community through open houses, parent-teacher conferences, family learning events, and our regular newsletters. We encourage you to reach out anytime — your partnership truly makes a difference.

A Personal Note

After 20 wonderful years of service at Fair Haven Grade School, I will be retiring at the end of this school year.
It is difficult to put into words what this community means to me. I have had the privilege of watching children grow, supporting remarkable teachers, and partnering with families who care deeply about their children's futures. This school is truly special—not because of any one person, but because of the collective spirit that everyone brings to it every single day. I am deeply grateful for the trust you have placed in me.
Please know that I am fully committed to making this a strong and joyful year for our students and staff. I am also working closely with district leadership to support a thoughtful transition, ensuring the wonderful work happening at FHGS continues to grow seamlessly under new leadership. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the honor of leading this amazing school.

We are excited to make 2026–2027 a year of growth, achievement, and joy for every student. Stay connected, ask questions, and share in the excitement of your child's learning journey. Together, we will make this a truly memorable year — in all the best ways.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Infurna, Principal



Upcoming Events

October

6th - Staff Meeting
8th PTO mtg 5:00 p.m
8th - Early Release Day - building-based Administer SSIS screener
9th District In-service (no IA's)
12th - Indigenous Peoples' Day Observed - No School
Egress Drill (Fire) w/ relocation week of October 19th
14th - Grade 6 - Grade release meeting
16th - Grade 5 - grade release meeting
15th - Veggie Van Go
15th - Author visit
19th - School Board Meeting, FHUMHS, 6:30 p.m.
19th - Grade 4 - grade release meeting
30th - Falcon Gathering, 8:30 a.m.

November

6th - Early Release -
- Parent-teacher conferences (K-4)
Options-Based Drill week of November 9th
9th - SV Board Meeting, OVS 6:30 p.m
11th No school - Veterans' Day
13th School Picture Retakes



Kailyn LaDuke
Kindergarten Teacher



Emily McMahan
Grade 5 Teacher





Ethan Ringquist
Student Support Coach



Evelyn Dean
Instructional Asst.



Distribution October 15th
10:00-11:00 a.m.
Fair Haven Union Middle & High School



Fresh Fruits & Veggie Program



FHGS has continued to be the recipient of the Fresh Fruits & Veggie Grant. We will offer all our students a wide variety of fruits and vegetables at snack time. These funds are intended to provide students with exposure to fruits and vegetables that they might be less familiar with to help them build lifelong healthy eating habits.

Falcon's Cafe

Staff provides a variety of healthy breakfast and lunch options. Lunch and breakfast is free to all students. Additional student breakfast costs $2.95, and an additional student lunch costs $5.15.

Milk and juice can be purchased for snack time for $.75 each. Ice Cream and cookies can be purchased at lunch for $1.00 - $2.00.

We encourage families to send in healthy snacks for snack time. We ask that coffee, tea, soda, and energy drinks be avoided.



Library

Snap! Crackle! Pop! If you noticed an extra burst of color and sound coming from the library recently, our students were hard at work bringing poetry and art to life.

This month, grades K-4 gathered to read Fireworks by Matthew Burgess—a vibrant, celebrated picture book that won this year's prestigious Caldecott Medal for its breathtaking illustrations. As we read through the story, students listened closely for sound words, learning all about onomatopoeia—words that imitate the actual sounds they describe. From the low rumble of a launcher to the sudden BOOM! across the night sky, students had a blast identifying how authors use sound words to make stories pop off the page.

To wrap up our lesson, students headed to the art tables to create their own sensory-inspired firework masterpieces:

- Kindergarten through 2nd Grade used plastic forks and bright acrylic paint, pressing and fanning the tines outward to build textured, radiating firework bursts.
- 3rd and 4th Grade created raised salt paintings—drawing firework lines with glue, dusting them with salt, and using watercolors to watch vivid colors instantly bleed and spread along the salt crystals like glowing trails.

Be sure to ask your child about their favorite sound word from the book and to share their artwork!







Early Middle Level Happenings

Our fifth- and sixth-grade students have been busy transitioning back to school, getting to know their new teachers, and building relationships with new classmates. To help strengthen those connections, the early middle-level team recently held its first group activity of the year.

All fifth- and sixth-grade students were mixed into three larger groups and rotated through a variety of fun, team-building activities on the playground. Each activity encouraged students to communicate, collaborate, and work together.

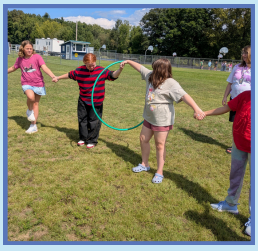
During one activity, students worked as a team to move a hula hoop around a circle without letting it touch the ground or breaking the circle. They then tackled a relay race, cheering each other on along the way.

Another activity challenged students to work together during a game of charades. Students acted out scenarios without using words, creating plenty of laughter and opportunities for teamwork.

The final activity was Captain's on the Deck, where the "Captain" called out commands and students quickly formed groups of two, three, four, or five to complete each challenge.

It was a wonderful opportunity for our fifth- and sixth-grade students to spend time together outside, have fun, and begin building a strong sense of community. All of the students enjoyed the activities and the chance to connect with their classmates!




FHGS PTO October News

The PTO is excited to be starting off this year with our annual fundraiser. Packets went home on September 14th and are due back on October 7th. We are also looking forward to our Annual Halloween Dinner. Please be on the lookout for more information soon and please consider donating a food item for this wonderful community event!

We are also hoping to grow our PTO. There are very few of us working hard to provide some great opportunities for our school community. We need your help so that this group can continue to exist! Please reach out if you are interested in more information or just pop in to our next meeting that is on October 14th at 5:00 - 6:00pm in the FHGS library.

If you have any questions about the PTO please get in touch with the PTO President: Kerry Stevens at: fhgspto@gmail.com









Student Support Center Strategies

This year, we are fortunate to have two Student Support Center spaces available in our school, allowing us to provide age-appropriate support to more of our students!

Student Support Center 1 is located upstairs on the main floor and will serve students in Kindergarten through 3rd grade. This space will be supported by Mrs. Parker and Mr. Rinquist. Student Support Center 2 is located on the early middle level and will serve students in 4th through 6th grade. This space will be supported by Mrs. St. Clair and Ms. Corey. Having two dedicated spaces allows us to create environments that are welcoming and appropriate for each age group while providing students with the support they need to regulate, refocus, and return to learning, ready to succeed!

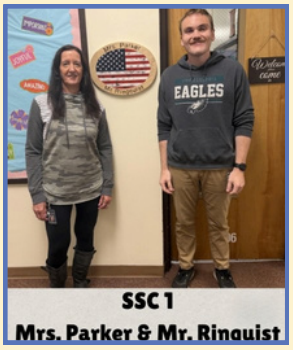
What is Student Support?
Our students work hard throughout the school day. While the expectation is for students to remain in their classrooms, engage with their teachers, and participate in their learning, we understand that this can be challenging at times.

The Student Support Center provides a safe and welcoming space where students can take a five-minute functional break when they need an opportunity to pause,regroup, and reregulate. The goal of these short breaks is to help students return to their classrooms feeling calm, focused, and ready to learn.

During a five-minute functional break, students can choose from a variety of activities designed to support regulation, including: coloring, puzzles, putty, fidgets, kinetic sand, reading a book, rocking in a rocking chair .

The Student Support Center is also available when a student needs support discussing a behavior that may be affecting their learning or relationships with peers. We use age appropriate resources and guided conversations to help students understand what happened, recognize how their behavior may have affected themselves or others, and identify strategies they can use to make positive changes moving forward.

Our goal is not simply to address challenging behaviors, but to help students develop the skills they need to regulate their emotions, problem-solve, build positive relationships, and become successful learners.



SSC 1
Mrs. Parker & Mr. Rinquist



SSC 2
Mrs. St. Clair & Ms. Corey

Grade 1

First grade students started the year learning about animals, life cycles, and habitats. They had a wonderful hands-on experience watching monarch caterpillars transform into beautiful butterflies.

Each day brought new discoveries and even more questions! Together, we researched questions such as, "How do the wings grow?" "What are the caterpillars eating?" and, of course, "Is that poop?" Their curiosity led to meaningful conversations, research, and a deeper understanding of the monarch's life cycle.










Grade 3

During the first few weeks of school, our third graders spent time getting to know one another and building a strong classroom community. Through team-building activities, cooperative games, and class discussions, students practice listening to others, sharing ideas, working together, and solving problems as a team. We also focus on what it means to be a respectful and kind classmate by using kind words, taking turns, including others, and celebrating each person's strengths. These early weeks help students feel comfortable, connected, and ready to learn together throughout the school year.






Student Voice

The FHGS Student Voice group has started meeting again this year! This group of 5th and 6th grade students is focused on making positive contributions to our FHGS community.

We were excited to welcome many new 5th grade students this year. The group is already bringing lots of enthusiasm and energy to each meeting. Students are working hard to organize an upcoming Spirit Week in October, along with several special days and activities for the months ahead.

This week, Student Voice members chose and introduced our opening movement activity at our Falcon Gathering. They also play an important role in running the FHGS School Store, which opened this week. Many students have already earned and started spending their Falcon Bucks! Our Student Voice members help with many aspects of operating the store, and our 6th grade students are taking the lead in training our new 5th grade members.

We are excited to see all that this group will accomplish throughout the year!












Thank you all for your support of another successful Applefest!

Special Thank You's

Hannah Fifield, Applefest Organizer
Applefest Committee Members
Custodial Team at FHGS
FHGS Teachers & Staff
Town of Fair Haven
Fair Haven PD
Local businesses
44 vendors

We profited $6,298.89

Proceeds will be shared among staff volunteers to use for student activities in the classroom.









