

School Reporter

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ABOUT:

Farmington School Reporter is a publication of Farmington Area Public Schools, ISD 192. Please direct comments or questions to Sally McConnaughey at (651)463-5079 or smcconnaughey@farmington.k12.mn.us

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WELCOME BACK, TIGERS!

This fall ISD 192 welcomed staff, teachers, students, and families back for a new and exciting school year full of learning and growth as a community. The official first day of school was September 6, however staff and families were in and out of buildings for weeks leading up to the big day. ISD 192 welcomed new staff members for new teacher orientation in August where they heard from district administrators in the morning and then worked with mentors in their buildings. All staff were welcomed back for the school year a week later.

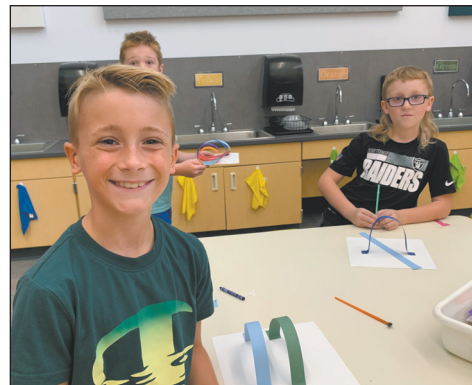
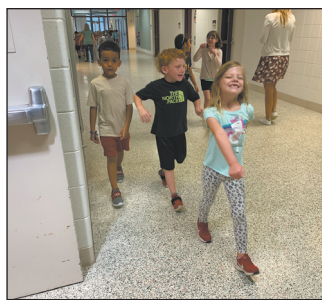
Families with elementary students came in for school pictures, teacher meet-and-greets, and beginning of the year assessments. Our incoming sixth graders began their middle school experience with WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) Day. Many families

attended back-to-school nights and open houses across the district all before the first day of school.

On the first day of school staff, families, and community volunteers across the district went above and beyond to make it a positive beginning to the new year. Teachers, principals, and district administrators greeted students as they came off the bus. Pouncer the Tiger, our district mascot, visited several school buildings to give high fives, hugs, and picture opportunities to our learners. At Boeckman Middle School they once again rolled out the "orange carpet" and this year incorporated first-day-of-school photo props to welcome learners back to the classroom. Farmington High School students were greeted by a line of cheering staff and teachers as well as the

Farmington High School Tiger Band drumline as they came off the bus.

The first month back in school was rounded out with Homecoming celebrations across the district during the week of September 26-30. This included the annual Homecoming Parade and the Tiger Cub Pepfest, the Farmington High School Homecoming Football Game against the Edina Hornets on September 30, as well as dress-up days, and many social events for FHS students throughout the week. Check out our website and social media accounts for additional highlights from Homecoming and beyond!



MORE BACK TO SCHOOL 2022

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New Leaders in ISD 192



Joe Sage,
Robert Boeckman
Middle School Principal

Joe Sage is the new Principal of Robert Boeckman Middle School (BMS). "I am beyond excited to join this incredible group of learners and staff. I believe that all students can learn and that in order to increase

learner success, we need to provide a high quality education in the classroom and foster leadership between our school and community," he shared at the beginning of the school year.

Prior to joining Farmington Area Public Schools, Sage served as a dean of students, assistant principal and principal for Faribault Public Schools. He started his career in education as an earth science and physics teacher and has also served as a digital learning coach. His academic background includes a Specialist in Educational Leadership from Minnesota State University Moorhead, a Masters in Educational Leadership from St. Mary's University and a Bachelor of Science in Physics/General Science from St. Cloud State University. While away from work, Sage enjoys spending time with his wife and two kids. "We enjoy going up north and spending as much time as we can outside," Sage said.

"Middle school is a critically important time for our students on their educational journey. At BMS, we are committed to personalization that nurtures curiosity and innovation. We strive to ensure that each learner exercises agency for continuous growth in order to find joy and well-being for their future while positively impacting their community.

"I look forward to partnering with our students, families and community. You can reach out to me anytime or stop by for a visit at Robert Boeckman Middle School!"



Dana Strop, Director of
Special Services

Dana Strop became the new Director of Special Service for Farmington Area Public Schools, ISD 192 on July 1, 2022. She previously served as the Student Services Supervisor in ISD 622 and the Director of Special Education in the Glenwood City

School District. Strop holds a Bachelor's degree in Special Education from University of Wisconsin-Stout, a Master's degree in Education from University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire, and credentials in Educational Leadership and Administration from the University of Minnesota.

ISD 192 Superintendent Jason Berg said upon hiring her: "I was impressed by how strongly her skills, abilities, and strengths align with our strategic direction. We all look forward to working with Dana!"

Meghan Dobson,
Assistant Director
of Special Services



Meghan Dobson joined the Farmington Area Public Schools Special Services team in December of 2021 as the Special Education Program Coordinator and has recently been named the Assistant Director of Special Services.

Dobson hails from Savage, MN where she lives with her partner, Brian, their son, Cash, and their Boston Terrier, Bubba. "When I am not at work, you will find me up north fishing or hiking around. I love all things outdoors and when I can't get out, I like to crochet and binge watch great TV," she shared.

Dobson has worked in education for nearly two decades, spending the past seventeen years in setting IV Special Education. Prior to joining ISD 192 she worked with ISD 917 at their Alliance Education Center. Dobson said of her career in education: "Special Education has always been a passion of mine and continues to be. I am always looking to learn and grow while supporting staff, the learners, and the families with Farmington Area Public Schools."

ISD 192 continues to show financial accountability

Farmington Area Public Schools, ISD 192, has for the 15th straight year been awarded the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting (COE) by The Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO). This certificate recognizes districts that have met the program's high standards for financial reporting and accountability. The school district earned the Certificate of Excellence for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended 2021.

"The COE's mission is to promote and recognize excellence in financial reporting, specifically through a district's CAFR," ASBO International Director of Recognition Programs Molly Barrie said. "The CAFR informs parents and other stakeholders about the financial and economic state of the district, making it an important communications tool for building trust and engaging with the school community."

By participating in the COE program, school districts demonstrate their commitment to financial transparency. Applicants submit their CAFR for review by a team of professional auditors, who provide feedback to improve future documents. If the CAFR meets the requirements of the program, the document may receive the Certificate of Excellence. A district's participation in the COE program can facilitate bond rating and continuing bond disclosure processes.

The COE is proudly sponsored by ASBO International Strategic Partner American Fidelity.



ISD 192 Publishes New Strategic Framework

The Farmington Area Public Schools, ISD 192 Strategic Framework is a guiding document that describes the purpose of the school district, its goals as an organization, and how those goals will be achieved. The primary function of the Strategic Framework is as an aspirational document, providing ISD 192 staff with an understanding of our collective purpose, our shared beliefs, and strategies for helping us achieve our district mission. The creation of the Strategic Framework is a collaborative process including staff members, community members, parents, and learners. Since implementing this process, community satisfaction with the quality of education in ISD 192 has increased from 84% in 2015 to 91% in 2021. The Strategic Framework is reviewed and refined regularly and was most recently updated in the spring of 2022.

The most recent Strategic Framework has been published on our website along with a Community Companion Guide designed to better share our work with families and community members. It includes a glossary of important terms and a summary explanation of each part of the Strategic Framework at the beginning of each new section.

Our Strategic Framework includes three objectives - things we are trying to achieve through our strategies: 1) All learners possess the capacity and resiliency to create opportunities and master challenges; 2) All learners continuously achieve their academic and personal goals; and 3) Each learner leads beneficial change locally and globally.

These objectives are best measured through

observation of and demonstration by learners. To help in this process we have identified indicators of these objectives that apply throughout our system. These are the true skills and dispositions, along with content knowledge, that our learners will need to create their own successful future. The indicators for each objective are outlined in the three Profiles of a Lifelong Learner also available on our website. If you would like to learn more about what ISD 192 values and how it functions as a learning community, we encourage you to review our Strategic Framework Community Companion Guide and Profiles of a Lifelong learner.



Tiger EDventures puts ESSER funds to good use

Over the summer, Farmington Area Public Schools used a portion of the funds received through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) to provide free enrichment opportunities for incoming learners in grades 1-12. At least 20 percent of ESSER funds were required to be used for learning opportunities outside of the school day.

The program was called Tiger EDventures and consisted of 87 day-camps and field trips in the month of July. Camps were led by 38 district teachers and staff in partnership with local organizations including the Minnesota Zoo, UMN Raptor Center, COMPAS MN, Wilderness Inquiry, STEM Builders, Dodge Nature Center, Richardson Nature Center, and Muddy Waters Studio. Field trips were also offered to various Twin Cities

destinations, museums, parks, and recreation areas! The Tiger EDventures program targeted students receiving additional services in the district with some spots open to all learners. The Tiger EDventures program was coordinated and facilitated by Farmington Community Education in partnership with ISD 192's Department of Teaching and Learning.

The program was a great success and involved 520 learners in the district! Farmington Area Public Schools strives to provide a wide variety of learning experiences for all students. One parent shared: "I think it's so extremely special that my child got to participate in this camp for free. We don't have a budget in our family to do things like this so this was an extra special opportunity. Thank you so much for your support."

FALL ATHLETICS HIGHLIGHTS

Pictures and Content Submitted by Athletes



Girls' Tennis has big wins

Farmington High School Girls' Tennis may have lost their season opener to Hastings, but they went on to win against two Big 9 opponents in a row. They traveled to Austin, MN on August 27 and brought home their first victory of the season, defeating the Packers 5-2. Then, on August 29 they defeated Albert Lea 6-1. As the season continued they

played well and had many close matches; however they did lose to teams from Lakeville South, Shakopee, Eastview, and Burnsville.



Farmington Girls' Swimming takes a youthful turn

With a pair of junior captains and nearly a dozen seventh and eighth graders on the team, the Farmington girls' swimming team seems to be in a youth movement. That stated, the Tigers also return a pair of top-of-the-line seniors.

FHS graduated eight swimmers off a team that placed 11th at state, their highest finish ever. Seven of those seniors scored points as Farmington won its second straight Section 1AA crown. "In the water it was amazing, we had a lot of talent, broke a lot of school records," says Jen Marshall, who is in her 22nd year coaching at Farmington.

"Two seniors are back that were part of that. Jordyn Schmucker is a diver. She was All-American her sophomore year, which is the top 100 in the nation. Last year she was section champ." Schmucker hit the board on one of her preliminary dives at state and didn't make the first cut, "Which was heartbreaking," said Marshall. "So, we're looking for her to really learn from that and move on from that. She has a shot at top five in the state easily. It'll be an exciting senior season for her."

"Senior Camille Gehrke is back. She was All-State in both the 50 and 100 free styles, section champ in the 100 free, runner-up in the 50, and she was on two of the relays at state too that made finals," adds Marshall.

Gehrke is looking for another successful campaign, "For me, I am hoping to break my 50 freestyle and 100 freestyle records again...As for the team, I think our main goal is to get to know each other, have fun." And if they aren't winning a meet, "Let's hype each other up. So-and-so is swimming in this lane. Let's cheer them on."

The inexperience of the team with ten seventh and eighth graders and just four seniors opens up opportunities, says Marshall, "It's kind of a new experience that I haven't had for a while. There's a lot of positives that come from that too. There'll be a lot of improvement, a lot of new girls experiencing what it means to swim varsity, which in the past they might have not experienced it at that young age."

It also offers some lessons, "I know one girl said she already met one of her goals in our first meet and I said, 'We're going to reevaluate those then and reset.' We're always pushing them to do things that they don't know they can do, even though we know they can do it. A lot of times we like to say 'get comfortable being uncomfortable.'"

Marshall is excited to work with the other members of the coaching staff. "John Tegg is one of the top diving coaches in the state. He's been with us 13 or 14 years. We're super fortunate to have him. Biff Donner is back for her eighth year. And she's a Lady Tiger alum...Jordan Lentsch. He's in his second year. He's also a Tiger alum." Steph Leubner is a volunteer coach in her first year with the program who swam at St. Cloud State and specializes in the fly. Marshall was Section 1AA Coach of the Year last season. Tegg earned Diving Coach of the Year honors for the section.

Farmington Tigers Girls' Swim & Dive traveled to Rochester Century on Thursday, August 25 in their 2022 season opener. Farmington lost to the Panthers 84-97 but had a comeback against the Raiders from Hastings on Tuesday, August 30. The Tigers defeated Hastings 94-92 in a meet that was competitive from start to finish. In early September the Tigers lost to the Prior Lake

Lakers 82-94, then followed that up with a win against the Eastview Lightning 96-84. Girls Swim & Dive traveled to Bloomington Kennedy High School on Saturday, September 10 to compete in the 2022 Eagle Invite. The Tigers earned a 2nd place finish out of 6 participating teams. Overall it was a positive start to the season for what is a young team.

Farmington Girls' Cross Country is ready to run back to state; Boys' aim to join them

The Farmington girls' cross country team has one streak they intend to continue this fall and one they wish to restart. The Tigers return all the varsity runners from a team that took fifth at the state meet last November, continuing their string of state appearances. The squad had their South Suburban Conference (SSC) title streak end earlier in the fall with a razor-thin two-point loss to Prior Lake.

Taking back the conference crown is a high priority to junior captain Mackenzy Lippold, "We work really good together, do a lot of team bonding, and a lot of depth in our team. We're only like ten seconds away from each other which really makes the team win at almost every meet that we go to. And it's just really fun. We're all a big family and we know each other so well."

The 'family' is even more complete with her younger brother Carter joining the team, which is coached by their parents Lisa and Adam Lippold. Regarding the conference crown, Mackenzy says, "So this year we're going to try to take that title back."

Adam Lippold says staying healthy is the biggest key to keeping the streak going. Additionally, "We definitely look for some tough competition throughout the year. But running as a pack, keeping that gap between one and six and seven is important...Mentally staying strong, hanging with your teammates."

Mariah Fenske, a junior captain, says the bond that's evolved on the team is strong. "I'm really excited to run with my friends and become closer with everybody."

She feels the youth of the team is a benefit, "We're a really young team. Most of our girls are ninth grade and junior high girls, except for us three. So, everybody's in their peak and are really fast."

The family bond goes beyond the Lippolds coaching with their two children on the team, "We work out together, boys and girls. These kids spend a lot of time together over the summer. We had a really high percentage of kids for the summer program that are on the team this year. So, they genuinely enjoy spending time together which is good. And there are times when you need a break sometimes. So, finding time to keep you happy and also excited to come to practice at the same time."

The FHS boys were represented at state in 2021 by incoming junior captain Mason Sullivan. His goal is to run with his teammates at state in 2022. "Running individually is tougher because you don't have that team to support you. And that's such a big part of cross country, the team aspect to it...You really try to get your team there with you. Not only for you, but for them as well."

Senior captain Reilly Kasper has seen it all during his time, "Since this is my sixth year on the team, being able to see everyone and all the new faces and all the ones that keep coming back. But it's also sad too because you see all the team you started out with, now you're the one that's leaving them."

He discusses the keys to success, "Strategies are definitely being able to work together on the course, being able to start out together, trying to hold together. Like trying to keep up with the faster friend, or the faster person in front of you."

Freshman Adam Johnson enjoys the team aspect of the sport, "I like being on a team because I get all the support from my friends. If I have a bad day, they can build me up and make me feel better. We always just have each other's backs." To be race ready, "I do core a lot. I try to get between eight to ten hours of sleep, let my muscles recover. I always try to keep a healthy diet, limit the candy and sweets."

Coach Lisa Lippold says the boys' team has a trio of runners that could lead them to a state bid. Johnson just missed qualifying individually a season ago. "We have three that are going to be right up there. And then our four and five have drastically improved since last year and we have a younger group moving up for those other additional spots."

Lisa Lippold (FHS Class of 1999) is happy to have added a home meet back to the schedule a few years ago, "Bring that back where the community can be able to come and see and watch and have that atmosphere here. We also planned it so it typically falls during Homecoming Week."

She is also proud of the community support for a youth program, "That was another thing that Adam and I noticed, that all other sports teams had youth programs and we did not. We actually started up the youth cross country programs and then our daughter had a place to be able to run...we started with 20-some kids and now we consistently have around 70-75 kids, which is really neat. Our high schoolers come out and help most of the time with it."

Girls' Cross Country traveled to Northfield to compete in the St. Olaf Showcase on Thursday, September 1. The event features some of the state's top teams and individuals. In a packed field, the Tigers placed 5th out of 38 participating teams. It was a great start to the season!

Farmington Girls' Soccer is all in on family and soccer

After sending off many of their teammates to college, the Farmington girls soccer team is ready to pull together for this season. "We're going to have to make this a family like we did last year and I think that'll be one thing that is easy for us," says senior co-captain Olivia Theirl. "We spend a lot of time together. Even this week we're out here full days, like our job is to hang out with each other, pretty much. Just become a family. Be there for each other. On the field, off the field."

Many, if not most on the roster play club soccer, keeping them around the game year-round. The high school season is special though, according to senior co-captain Anna Lorenzana, "I'm really excited. It's always fun for high school season because it's so much different of an environment than club."

She doesn't tire from the sport, "No. I think it's pretty fun. So, I enjoy going year-round and not getting much of a break." Theirl echoed those sentiments, "We have practices about four to five times a week. It's kind of extreme. But then we play leagues here. We have tournaments here but we also have tournaments around the Midwest. I went to Denver this summer, Chicago, Virginia."

The Tigers graduate heavily off a team that reached the Section 1AA finals before falling to Lakeville North. Lorenzana looks at the success of 2021 as a good start to this year. In her role as captain, "Making sure everyone is doing their part. Making sure everyone has a positive energy. No one is feeling like they aren't accepted."

Between the lines, "We do a really good job moving the ball, keeping it away from the opponent. So I'm real excited to see that."

Coach Aaron Johnson points out, "We've lost a lot of really good seniors but we had a lot of really good underclassmen on the JV team and a lot of really good players on the varsity team. Some of them started a little bit. Some of them maybe came off the bench."

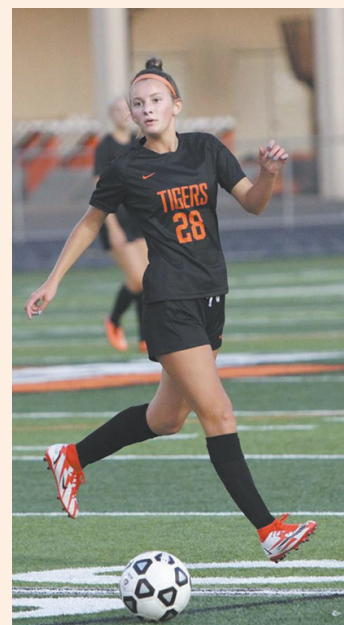
He's also pleased with the experience that returns, "I feel like from goalkeeping up to our forwards, we've got a lot of really good returners coming back so it should make a good season for us."

Some retooling might be necessary after losing some top-notch defenders, "Hannah Hagman (JW-Stout) was a really good defender. She started I think for the last two or three years, been on varsity since her ninth-grade year. She made up for some mistakes we made the last couple years."

Johnson likes the options to replace Hagman and was looking forward to getting on the field to see who will work into the role, "We have probably four seniors who will be our defenders in the back. Some of them played quite a big last year. Some of them didn't play a ton. Some of them played a lot but didn't play as a defender last year. So, we're going to get those four out there and see how they work best."

The Tigers bring back an experienced keeper, "Ayden Gagner was our starting goalkeeper. She's very good...as good as any goalkeeper around." Gagner started as a junior last fall and played some as a freshman. She played in a variety of showcases over the summer while traveling around the country. Keeping her healthy is a key, said Johnson.

Johnson sees great dedication from the squad, "We've worked hard all summer, a couple practices each week and we've had JAQS where we go to the weight room, go



TS: TIGERS START STRONG

letics and Activities Director Kieth Badger

out on the turf, work on our speed and strength. We've done that four days a week this summer."

Olivia Theirl says, "I'm extremely excited for the season. It's going to be really good for us. We've been out here working all summer. I just can't wait to see it all pay off for us and see us star on the field."

Tiger Boys' Soccer to add style and creativity to their game

Prep soccer has come a long way in Minnesota in the opinion of first-year Farmington boys' coach Thomas Macmillan, advancing from the "kick and chase" style he experienced when he arrived in the United States. Macmillan grew up in England and played soccer "since I could walk and have loved it my entire life."

He believes the Tigers are poised to make a move up the standings. Macmillan sees some strong potential from the attacking corps. The early stages of practice have included piecing together the defensive side after the loss of both center-backs off the 2021 club.

"That was probably the toughest thing to fill this year. I'd say [senior captain] Corey [Ley] is the one filling in that role the cleanest right now. Finding him a strong partner is going to be key," said Macmillan.

He's looking for better defensive intensity, "My concern is definitely creating players who want to hunt the ball, want to fight for getting it high up the field. And that's a style that I've always liked and the style I'd like to see come out from these boys. That desire to win the ball instead of dropping your head and getting disappointed in yourself when you lose it, is probably the biggest thing I'd want like to see change in this team as I'm coming in."

"From the attacking side, I know we are definitely on the more experienced side of things from that end. We as a whole have shown in the tryouts and the short scrimmages we've had that we are aware of how we want to work together to convert scoring opportunities. So, I'm excited to see what that looks like."

Macmillan wants his players to get creative on offense, "Honestly from all over the place. I like my outside backs to really push up and get high and be a part of the attack. As of right now, from what I can tell, I have that in my starting outside backs. And I feel I've got several very creative players."

With just five seniors, the Tigers are a young team in a rugged league. Ley and fellow senior Logan Opsahl are captains. Sophomore Calvin Rossate has also left a great impression from a leadership perspective with Macmillan, who is happy to have a deep enough roster to field two strong teams.

Macmillan played a year of varsity soccer at Maple Grove High School then shifted to club teams. He's coached for about eight years including club and the last five years at the high school level, three at Lakeville South and a year at St. Thomas Academy.

"As a whole, for both club and high school, there's a lot more focus on a coach who's actually played soccer...So it's people who've been through the process. It's people that seem to at least enjoy the sport, if not love the sport. And because of that, it means they're watching soccer, they've participated in it and are trying to bring their own style to the game."

"Whereas previously I don't think there was any of that. You had a lot of athletes and very few soccer players getting picked for JV or varsity. It was just who was biggest and who was fastest. And now you've got, at minimum, on a varsity squad...a starting eleven that have all played for a majority of their lives and it makes it a lot more exciting."

Boys Soccer got off to a hot start to their South Suburban Conference schedule, defeating Eagan 2-1 on Tuesday, September 13 to start the conference schedule 2-0.

Lack of experience doesn't dampen Tiger Volleyball dreams

The 2022 Farmington volleyball team will have a few matches to get its feet underneath them before jumping into the hot lava of the South Suburban Conference (SSC) schedule. The squad returns just a handful of starters after graduating ten seniors from the 2021 roster.

Coach Mike Woody is looking for the experienced players to take the lead, "We've got a senior middle (Julia Gordon) that's been starting varsity for three years. Our setter (Maddy Dombeck), who's a junior, but's been the starter for three-plus years now...Becca Woody (junior); she was an outside last year and split time with one of the seniors."

They also return a libero who started part of last season. Mike Woody says ball control will be vital, "[we] just have some solid, solid passers and defenders that I think as we learn and the offense builds with the young kids, we're going to be able to keep balls alive."

Becca Woody offers, "I think we definitely have some pretty good offense especially with Julia in the middle. And then we've

got some really good younger defensive players and so then throughout the years it will really start to build up. In the future it will be really nice." She says plenty of reps are the best way for new varsity players to adjust to the faster pace.

Gordon chimes in, "I feel like we really have to get the younger girls going because they're going to be a really big part of the program this year and in the coming years when I'm not here. I think they'll be really successful. And getting them going this year is really going to help us be successful."

As the Tigers transition to offense, "I think communication is a big piece and making sure that you are the leader out there and taking everybody under your wing," says setter Dombeck. "Julia is probably one of our biggest offensive threats and Becca as well. I think if we able to have a first-ball contact and be able to run an efficient offense, I think we have some very lethal weapons in the front row that can do some damage for us this year."

Gordon tags on, "I think Becca is really good at hitting off the block and that is a very valuable skill to have. And she's really the only hitter coming back, other than me. I run a really fast offense and that helps because in our conference the blocks are really big. One thing we are really good at is finding a way around the blocks. Because we're not necessarily the tallest people on the court, but we're really smart. So, we find a way to find use the block to our advantage."

Mike Woody says it's going to be a "rollercoaster ride. We're going to do a lot of really good things. And we're going to have a lot of opportunities to learn. Getting up to the speed at the varsity level will probably be what takes the longest. But we have some kids that are ready, but just don't have that experience at that speed of the game yet."

Team bonding has been easy says Gordon, "We did beach volleyball day and Spikeball...We're going to do more of that coming up. And just being here together definitely helps. A lot of us know each other even if we weren't on the same team last year... Just hanging out with each other at lunch. It's a lot of fun and it's definitely helped us build as a family in a way."

Farmington also has a boys volleyball team, "The boys and girls volleyball programs have supported each other by helping to run each other's events; the girls run the scorers' table and line judge for boys' home matches...and the boys help run the scorers' table at our varsity home invite. They also make up a strong part of the fan base for each other," indicates Mike Woody.

Girls' assistant AJ Dubek is the boys' head coach. The high school league came close to sanctioning the sport in May. Jackie Jensen-Gordon and Madalyn LaChapelle are also on the girls' staff.

Tigers football prepared for an exciting season

The excitement and anticipation were high as the Farmington football team wrapped up a spirited practice inside Tiger Stadium. With the x's and o's covered, the team practiced with the band for the entrance for the season opener against Burnsville. Casual observers stood at attention while the Anthem played. Players raced the length of the field afterward with the Tigers flag held high.

Co-head coach Jon Pieper worked closely with Director of Bands Erin Holmes to make certain everyone was in their correct places. The band members and football players seemed to enjoy the walk through while knowing how good it would look on Thursday.

FHS turned in a solid 2021 season going 6-5 overall. They won three of their last four regular season games and made a statement with one-sided wins over Forest Lake (63-20) and Minnetonka (34-0) before falling to Eden Prairie 17-7 in the Class 6A quarterfinals, one game shy of reaching US Bank Stadium.

The team gained confidence and experience as the season progressed. Senior linebacker Caleb Busse reflected, "We played as a team last year. We definitely ended the season better than we started. To pick up where we left off last year would be really big for the team." He said the physicality of the defense picked up as the season went along.

"We played a lot more together as a defense, a lot more effort. We were a lot more physical. And we had a lot of young guys playing." Busse adds that trust is crucial, "We all play different roles. It's not a one-man defense. We all have to be there for each other and trust. If I want to do my job, I have to trust that the D-line's going to do their job, that the defensive backs are going to do their job. If we all do our job, it comes together really nice."

After giving up 37 points per game over the first four contests (1-3), the Tigers held their opponents to 14 points per outing for the rest of the season (5-2). The Tigers dropped a Week 2 game to Eden Prairie 37-29 and fell to the Eagles 17-7 in the state quarterfinals.

Busse says the players were very focused during off-season training with lifting and other activities as options, "We enjoy it. I know a lot of guys who take on that part [in the] off-season. You can't just show up on day one and expect to be good. You have to put in the work all year...I enjoy that, spending time with my teammates, year-round."

Co-head coach Rick Sutton says, "We've got just a ton of guys back on defense and we know that those guys should carry us early on. We're going to be very young offensively. A very talented group of young kids but it's going to take them a little bit of time."

"But the good thing is there are guys like [quarterback] Jonah [Ask] and [receivers] Cole [Wilcek] and Brock [Wyandt] who were with us all last year. They all got their reps, some reps on Friday nights. It's not going to be that first time out under the lights thing going on. So, we expect big things. They're young guys, but we expect big things from them."

Caleb Griffin, senior linebacker, says there's a learning curve when you make the jump to varsity, "How big guys are, faster, and the physicality. Having that year last year to get used to that. Now this year to be able to come in full speed, know what's up. That's really big."

More than half the defensive starters are back. Griffin says, "We've been able to add in a lot more stuff. Last year we were a lot newer defense, just doing base concepts. We've been able to do more stuff, blitzes and whatnot for this year."

"Becoming more confident as each game went on. Just getting better. Getting coached up more from the coaches. And as the confidence rises, I feel we just played better as a team and as a defense especially."

Others back on defense include defensive end/tight end Braden Mohr who's committed to North Dakota, safety/receiver Jonathan Shrum with several Division II offers in addition to FCS-member St. Thomas, linebacker/tight end Zach Dahl with a number of Division II opportunities, and defensive end Vince Vonbank.

Coming off a scrimmage at Prior Lake against the Lakers, Eastview, and Owatonna, Sutton says, "Saw what we thought we'd see with the defensive front especially, they're very good. They've got really good understanding, good awareness. Offensively, we just stayed very, very basic, very vanilla, and we're just looking at can we execute our base stuff against defenses that we haven't prepared for."

Senior offensive lineman Blake Waltman is a returner and likes the way the o-line comes together as a unit, "Always having each other's back and being able to trust each other and know what we're doing. Having the good discipline with each other from the coaches during practice. Just so we all know exactly what we're doing." He says the offensive line spent time over the summer working together on plays and getting to know each other. Waltman is the only returning offensive lineman although some others saw some action.

Waltman was excited for game night to arrive, "Knowing the bond that all of our team has. Knowing that every time we come off the field we know, offense and defense, we each have each other's backs after each drive. That really helps me get along through the game knowing that we're together."

Sutton indicates that a few sophomores saw some reps on the varsity last season as freshmen including running back Jeffrey Branson, receiver Baiden Bean, and offensive lineman Jayden Gournaris.

As the Blaze rolled into Tiger Stadium, Sutton looked for the offense "to be physical up front. We need to take care of the football." Defensively, "There's a lot more experience on that side of the ball and we need them to provide that leadership and help the younger offense get along a little bit as they gain some experience, but we've been real please with how the young guys have been playing and the seniors that are on the offensive side have provided great leadership. And we're just excited to get going."

Sutton says emotions were high as the opener approached, "It's just a special thing. Last year, and certainly the year before, it wasn't the true experience. There were restrictions here, restrictions there. We're just so excited that the full community of Friday night lights is back."

All the preparations paid off when the Tigers ushered in the new season with a convincing 28-9 win over the visiting Burnsville Blaze.



Huling named FHS play director



Ryan Huling has been named the next director of the Farmington High School Fall Play production of *All's Well in Roswell (Isn't It?)*. Huling started his theater career at Farmington High School during his senior year of high school. After four years in college studying English education and theater, Huling will return to FHS to direct the Fall Play.

He has acted in several productions throughout his college career including *The Tempest*, where he portrayed Prospero, and *Robin Hood*, where he portrayed The Sheriff of Nottingham. He has taken many classes and worked with many productions to prepare for his time with the Farmington Theater community.

Huling is currently student teaching at Dakota Hills Middle School and will graduate in December with a degree in English Education and a degree in Theater. "I am thrilled to be given this opportunity to use the other half of my college experience. I really enjoy working with students in the classroom, so to be able to work with students on a theater production excites me. I

cannot wait to create a powerful and engaging show with these students," said Huling.

"I am really excited to have Ryan direct our fall play production. He presented an outstanding vision of how he would like this production to look in his interview and I cannot wait to see the finished product," said Activities Director Keith Badger.

All's Well in Roswell (Isn't It?) tells the story of Ulysses T. Boone as he struggles to handle all the attention his ranch is getting after a UFO crash lands on his ranch. When family, federal agents, a film company, and a science fiction writer come knocking at his door, T. Boone must deal with them as best he can. With a large cast of characters and a hilarious plot, *All's Well in Roswell (Isn't It?)* will provide laughs for the whole audience.

The 2022 Fall Play is set to open on Thursday, November 17, and conclude on Saturday, November 19.

Marching Band wins Drum Major Award, Places Third at Eastview

The Farmington Tiger Marching Band (FTMB) traveled to the Eastview High School Marching Band Festival on Saturday, September 10. The ensemble gave a strong performance in the first of three competitive events this fall, and earned the Drum Major Caption Award from the panel of judges.

In Class AA competition, Grand Rapids took first place with a score of 73.5, Waseca was second with 69.8, and the FTMB a close third at 67.1. Competitive field shows are adjudicated by a panel of six judges, who each focus on specific "captions" such as music execution, marching technique, color guard, and general artistic effect.

According to Director Erin Holmes, "The band has developed leaps and bounds this year. This has been the hardest show we've ever produced and I went into the weekend knowing the students were ready, confident, and focused for their first



competitive show. I remember going to Eastview's festival for the first time in the fall of 2015, back then, we performed in exhibition - meaning comments but no scores. We have since moved from Exhibition to Class A to Class AA. Additionally, the bands that we now compete against have marching band during the day plus evening rehearsals, whereas we are completely extracurricular and only rehearse in the evening. We are so incredibly proud!"

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District 192 Winter Weather Information

As the weather cools down, please take a brief moment to review our winter weather information: The closing of school for inclement weather is a serious matter, since this type of decision impacts virtually everyone in the entire district. Safety is the prevailing factor in reaching this decision. After consultation with the Weather Bureau, officials from the bus company, and neighboring school district superintendents a decision on school closure is made as early as possible.

Families with child care needs should have alternative arrangements made in advance in case there is a need for a Flexible Learning Day or should weather occur during the day that causes an early release from school. There may be a need to delay the start of school pending improving weather conditions. This may also necessitate alternative child care arrangements.

If a school closure, delayed opening or early release are implemented, other school events will likely be canceled depending on the weather forecast and conditions. Please watch the television or visit the district website for the latest announcements regarding the status of before and after school activities.

It is important to note that a school closing is not a non-school day. Students and teachers are still expected to participate in Flexible Learning Day activities.

When a severe storm hits the area or is forecast, the Superintendent or designee will begin the decision making process as early as 4 a.m. Contact will be made with the Weather Bureau, county road crews, and the District's Buildings and Grounds Department. The District's bus contractor, Marschall Lines, will be consulted as to the company's capability to staff its buses and navigate the routes.

Procedure will be as follows when it is necessary to alter the regular school schedule:

1. School Closed - Flexible Learning Day

Parents/Guardians will receive an automated phone call via the School Messenger service.

Announcements will be made on radio station WCCO and television stations WCCO, KSTP, KARE, and FOX, and the school district web page, www.farmington.k12.mn.us, prior to 6:30 a.m. that school will be closed. Students should not report to school but should engage in Flexible Learning Activities as assigned.

2. Delayed Start

Parents/Guardians will receive an automated phone call via the School Messenger service.

An announcement will be made on radio station WCCO and television stations WCCO, KSTP, KARE, and FOX and the school district web page, www.farmington.k12.mn.us, prior to 6:30 a.m.

All students and parents will be expected to listen for these announcements and students shall report to school.

Rural buses will operate on a schedule to deliver students in time for a late start.

Dismissal will be at the regular time.

3. Early Release.

Parents/Guardians will receive an automated phone call via the School Messenger service.

Announcements will be made over radio station WCCO and television stations WCCO, KSTP, KARE, and FOX and the school district web page, www.farmington.k12.mn.us.



City students will be sent to their homes before conditions become too difficult.

If conditions warrant, bus students will be sent home early.

Each rural student shall indicate a home within the city where he/she can stay during inclement weather. If necessary, students will be assigned to homes.

A parent's or guardian's decision as to the weather conditions will be honored at all times. If a parent decides that weather conditions are such that their child shall not go to school or is to be excused during the school day, please contact the school attendance line for your student(s) and the absence will be marked excused for the time missed.

Parents and teachers are requested not to call the schools for general information because calling the offices ties up the telephone lines that may be needed for emergency communications.

Please make sure your contact information is up to date with your child(ren)'s school(s). Should you have any questions about these procedures, please feel free to contact your building principal or the Superintendent's Office at (651) 463-5013.

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Help us help kids! WE'RE HIRING!

If you want to make a positive difference in the lives of young learners, consider a career with Farmington Area Public Schools, ISD 192. We have full-time, part-time, and substitute positions. Looking for a job that follows the school year calendar? Consider becoming a paraprofessional. Interested in an active, hands-on job? Consider working with our Buildings & Grounds Department. Are you a nurse with a passion for helping youth? Check out our Health Services openings. We also have clerical and athletics positions. **Visit www.farmington.k12.mn.us and click Services > Human Resources to learn more and to apply.**

Farmington Community Education is part of ISD 192 and provides programming for all ages from infants to senior citizens. There are about 180 employees that work part-time or full-time for Community Education. Some of the staff supervise and mentor groups of students and others provide 1:1 activity leadership for special needs students. Other positions include teacher, coach or

assistant in Gymnastics, Swimming, Cheerleading, Wee Tigers Preschool, Stepping Stones Preschool, and Kid Connection (care for school-age children). Farmington Community Education encourages anyone interested to apply or if they have questions to call (651) 460- 3200 to speak to a program supervisor.

Marschall Line, Inc. has been the ISD 192 transportation provider since 1948 and is currently hiring School Bus Drivers and Bus Aides. Driving a school bus is a rewarding and flexible job serving the community. No experience is necessary. Marschall Line, Inc. offers paid training, flexible hours, competitive pay, bonuses, benefits, profit sharing and allows you to bring your children to work. To learn more please visit <https://www.marschallline.com>.

Chartwells is the ISD 192 food service provider. They have both full-time and part-time positions in our school cafeterias. Visit <https://www.chartwellsk12.com/careers> to learn more.



Opt-in to Text Messaging!

Farmington Area Public Schools, ISD 192 has used both phone and email for emergency communications for many years. Now, in addition to emails and phone calls, you can choose to receive emergency notifications in the form of text (SMS) messages from ISD 192. This mode of communication will not replace phone calls and emails, but will provide an additional means of receiving important and time sensitive messages from your child(ren)'s school(s). If you opt-in, ISD 192 will utilize the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages straight to your mobile phone with important information about school closings and safety alerts.*

You can participate in this free service* just by sending a text message of "Y" or "Yes" to our school's short code number, 67587. You can also opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with "Stop". SchoolMessenger is compliant with the Student Privacy Pledge™ so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.

*Terms and Conditions: Message frequency varies. Standard message and data rates may apply. Reply HELP for help. Text STOP to cancel. Mobile carriers are not liable for delayed or undelivered messages. See schoolmessenger.com/tm for more info.



Opt-in from mobile now!
Just send "Y" or "Yes" to 67587



UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

OCTOBER 2022

- October 10 - School Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- October 13 - 2 Hour Early Release & Conferences (All Schools)
- October 14 - Flexible Learning Day (All Schools)
- October 18 - Elementary & Middle School Conferences
- October 20 & 21 - No School
- October 20 & 21 - Open Swim at DMS Pool, 12-2 p.m.
- October 24 - School Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER 2022

- November 1 - FHS Band Concert
- November 6 - FHS Band Brunch
- November 7 - 8th Grade Wind Ensemble Bridging Concert
- November 8 - Election Day
- November 10 - Patriotic Day Concert; National Community Education Day
- November 11 - Veterans Day
- November 14 - School Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- November 15 - Fall Jazz Band Concert
- November 17-19 - FHS Fall Play Performances

DECEMBER 2022

- November 23-25 - No School (Thanksgiving Break)
- November 28 - School Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- December 2 - No School (Staff Development)
- December 12 - School Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- December 12 - FHS Instrumental Holiday Concert, 7 p.m.
- December 19 - FHS Choir Holiday Concerts, 6 p.m. & 8 p.m.
- December 27-29 - Open Swim at DMS Pool, 12-2 p.m.
- December 22 - January 2, 2023 - No School (Winter Break)

Check out our website for more events and activities - [www.farmington.k12.mn.us!](http://www.farmington.k12.mn.us)