

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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Congratulations to our 2023-24 Teachers of the Year: Tory Techau & Sarah Stout!

Tory Techau, an art teacher at Boeckman Middle School, and Sarah Stout, and English teacher at Farmington High School, have been named the ISD 192 Teachers of the Year for the 2023-2024 school year. Teachers of the Year are nominated and selected by members of the Farmington Education Association. Congratulations to these dedicated, involved, and caring educators! Upon their nominations, they each shared a little about their respective careers in education.

**Tory Techau
Boeckman Middle School**

Tory Techau wanted to be a teacher from the time she was a young child. She attended



St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN where she studied teaching and learned that she was especially interested in teaching art. As a student teacher she was drawn to the middle school experience. "I quickly realized that working with middle school learners was my jam. Their energy, creative thinking and their uniqueness intrigued me and motivated me to be the best teacher I could be for middle schoolers," she shared.

Techau has taught art to middle schoolers in Farmington since 2006, the majority of that time at Boeckman Middle School where she is a favorite among the students. "I have dedicated my career to building relationships, helping middle schoolers grow to be the best versions of themselves, and making art accessible to all learners. I firmly believe that whether or not you like art, you can walk away from my classroom with the accomplishment of creatively persevering through problems and the appreciation of the creative process," she shared.

In addition to classroom teaching, Techau actively

pursues opportunities to collaborate with other staff members, leading professional development, volunteering for building committees, and mentoring new teachers among other things. In response to her nomination for Teacher of the Year she said, "I truly have found my calling as a middle school art teacher and my drive and passion for teaching continues to grow each year. Thank you to my colleagues for your continued support throughout my time in Farmington. I am honored to be nominated for teacher of the year in Farmington."

**Sarah Stout
Farmington High School**

Sarah Stout has taught English at Farmington High School since 2011. Over the years she has served in many capacities beyond the classroom, including as a play director, speech team coach, and an active member of the Equity Leadership Team at FHS. In the classroom she strives "to provide a place where students can experience diverse perspectives, be challenged in their thinking, learn life-skills/soft-skills, and learn that literacy means

a lot of things beyond reading." Stout focuses on student engagement "through diverse literature that reflects our world, through competency-based learning... [and] through constantly revamping and reconsidering what our students need and how to best equip them for the world beyond FHS."

In response to her nomination for Teacher of the Year she shared: "Thank you so much to my Farmington High School colleagues for nominating me for Teacher of the Year. It is an honor and privilege to receive this nomination and I'm so grateful for the work that I've been able to do at FHS."



Kindergarten Enrollment Now Open for Fall 2024!

Kindergarten enrollment for the 2024-25 school year opened on December 18, 2023. We encourage all families planning to enroll a child in kindergarten this year to do so as soon as possible to ensure you don't miss out on any important events or communications. This also helps our schools in their planning process, ensuring they are fully prepared to welcome your child in the fall.

The first step in preparing for kindergarten this fall is to enroll your child. You can do so by visiting <https://www.farmington.k12.mn.us/enroll>.

After enrolling, if you have not already done so, please schedule a free early childhood screening for your child. You can do this through Farmington Community Education. Visit www.farmington.k12.mn.us > Community Ed > Early Learning > Early Childhood Screening to schedule online or call 651-460-3200 if you need assistance.

Attend a Spring into Kindergarten event to tour your child's school, meet the teachers, and learn more about kindergarten in ISD 192! Additional information about these events is available online and on page 8 of this newsletter.

Download the Kindergarten Handbook on our website (<https://bit.ly/kg handbook>) or by scanning the QR code.

Finally, watch your email in August for important back-to-school information and don't forget to grab the 2024-2025 ISD 192 calendar when it becomes available. We look forward to welcoming the Class of 2037 to our Tiger Community!



Middle schools receive grant from PrairieCare Fund

Robert Boeckman Middle School and Levi P. Dodge Middle School have jointly received a \$15,000 grant from the PrairieCare Fund for the purpose of implementing the 7 Mindsets program at both middle schools. The PrairieCare Fund works "to transform lives by fostering mental health and well-being among youth and families." The 7 Mindsets program, which is already used at some of our elementary schools, is designed to do just that. Thank you to the PrairieCare Fund for this generous grant!



Akin Road Elementary hosts STEM night!

Akin Road Elementary School recently partnered with the Bell Museum to host its first family STEM night. Families were invited to attend this free event after school hours and learn together about natural history, science, technology, engineering, and math through engaging, hands-on activities curated by the Bell Museum. The Akin Road Parent Teacher Partnership and the Akin Road Student Council generously donated their time and effort to help organize the event and run stations where learners and families could experiment with everything from air cannons to the germ fighting power of soap and water.

great enthusiasm for the wide variety of activities and topics covered. Akin Road families should be on the lookout for future learning and community building events throughout the school year!

The Farmington High School Rogue Robotics team was also on hand, providing demonstrations around physics, engineering, and of course their amazing robots. The event was well attended with both children and adults showing



Unity Day at Meadowview Elementary



On October 18, Meadowview Elementary celebrated Unity Day! What is Unity Day? Celebrated in October, which is National Bullying Prevention Month, Unity Day promotes kindness, acceptance and inclusion to prevent bullying. This year Meadowview Elementary combined their Unity Day celebration with their annual cross country run, involving all learners as well as staff members and families.

against one another but in a shared activity where each child worked to do their personal best while enjoying the crisp fall weather and the company of their classmates. After the students completed their run, friends and family were encouraged to join them in a group walk around the course.

You can learn more by scanning the QR code to view a video about the event or visiting bit.ly/41gSTY4



On Unity Day the Meadowview Elementary community was encouraged to "wear and share orange" - a color often associated with safety and visibility. Many families and community members turned out to cheer on learners as they ran together, not in a race



North Trail Elementary hosts "Dream Big" Family Literacy Night

North Trail Elementary School hosts family literacy nights annually to promote reading not only among students but for all family members. This year the theme of the literacy night was "Dream Big." Families were invited to come for a bedtime snack (apple slices and cinnamon treats), stories and activities. There were eight special guest readers throughout the evening including teachers, school staff, and even a local librarian. In addition to

listening to stories, families were invited to take part in a variety of "dream big" activities including creating bookmarks to take home, brainstorming about their futures, making maps to show steps to future goals, and even creating a comic strip depicting a day in their future lives. Many thanks to the staff and volunteers who helped make this night possible and to all the families who showed up to help promote learning and community for our North Trail students!



Riverview Elementary welcomes therapy dog!

This fall Riverview Elementary School welcomed a very special new member to their learning community: Sedona the therapy dog! According to Principal Shawn Peck, "Sedona is friendly, patient, and gentle. Through their interactions with her, our students learn about empathy, compassion, and responsibility. Research shows that therapy dogs in schools help reduce student anxiety, improve self-esteem, and improve academic performance." When Sedona visits classrooms, learners spend time reading to her, learning how to engage with her, and sometimes simply sitting and petting her. From all reports, the children love Sedona and she loves them.



Planetarium visits Farmington Elementary

Farmington Elementary students enjoyed a special opportunity to learn about space - the planets that make up our solar system and the stars we can see in the night sky - during a visit from Mobile Ed Productions' planetarium presentation. The presentation was an immersive experience in which learners entered an inflatable dome on which the night sky was projected all around them. During the presentation learners were taken on a tour through the stars of the Northern Hemisphere. Participants made a virtual visit to every planet in our solar system

and witnessed the night sky in different seasons and from different global perspectives. Common constellations and the Greek mythology behind them were also discussed as part of the presentation.

This special planetarium presentation was made possible by the school meeting its Tigerthon fundraising goals. Thank you to everyone in the Farmington Elementary community who donated, and to the children for running in the Tigerthon and collecting donations!



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2023 MNSHAPE Elementary Physical Education TOY

Joe McCarthy
Farmington Area Public Schools

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Joe McCarthy named 2023 MNSHAPE Elementary PE Teacher of the Year!

Joe McCarthy, Physical Education Teacher at Meadowview Elementary School, was selected as the Minnesota Society of Health and Physical Educators' (MNSHAPE) Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year! As the MNSHAPE Minnesota Teacher of the Year, McCarthy will be able to submit materials to be considered for the Central District Teacher of the Year and then Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE America) National Teacher of the Year. He was honored at an award ceremony during the MNSHAPE State Conference, at Lakeville High School, Nov. 6-7 in front of family, friends, and colleagues.

McCarthy has been with ISD 192 since 2004 where he teaches learners in grades K-5 and serves as a mentor to other teachers and staff. Over the years he has been a coach in various athletics programs including soccer, track, and basketball programs in Farmington and Prior Lake. Outside of work, he enjoys spending time outdoors and traveling with his wife and two children. On behalf of the Tiger Community, congratulations to Mr. McCarthy!

Chad Olson, RJ Rappe Inducted Into Farmington High School Hall of Fame

On October 7, 2023, Farmington Tigers alumni Chad Olson and RJ Rappe were inducted into the Farmington High School Hall of Fame. The celebration of the Hall of Fame Class of 2023 took place during homecoming week. It began with inductees Olson and Rappe being invited to ride in the homecoming parade. They were also recognized at the homecoming football game both at a private event hosted by the Tiger Fan Club and on the sideline before the game began. Finally, they were officially inducted into the hall of fame at the Farmington High School Hall of Fame banquet hosted at FHS.

About the 2023 Farmington High School Hall of Fame Inductees

Chad Olson (Class of 1995)

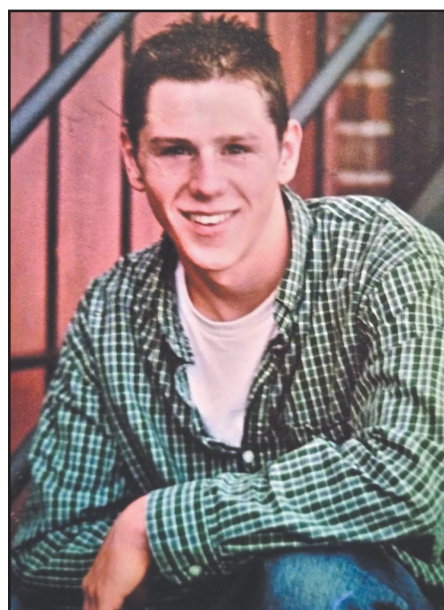
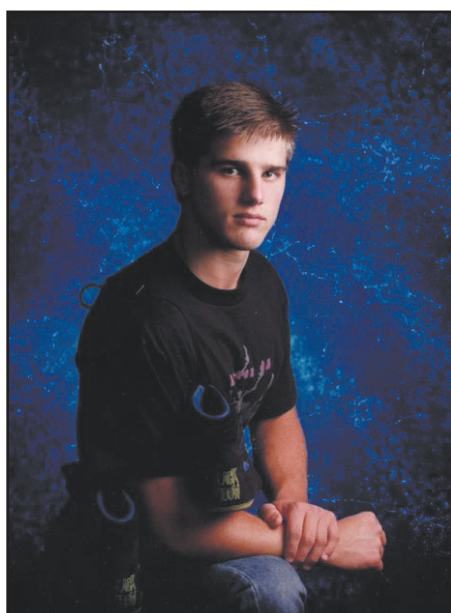
Chad Olson was a three sport athlete participating in Football, Wrestling, and Baseball. He was a two-time baseball letter winner, three-time football letter winner, and a six-time wrestling letter winner. He received an all-conference and all-metro honorable mention in football.

Olson's wrestling career stands at 153-58. He received academic all-state honors in wrestling and in 1995 he was honored with the MN Wrestling Coaches Association Scholar of the Year

award. He was a 4A runner-up in 1992, 4A champion in 1994 and 1995, and a three-time state wrestling tournament participant, placing 3rd in 1995. He also received the Lions Club Senior Athlete of the Year in 1995.

After high school, Olson wrestled at Augsburg College and was a three-time letter winner in both Wrestling and Football. He received an academic all-american honor in Wrestling while there. Olson went on to coach and teach at Farmington High School, serving as the head coach in wrestling and assistant football coach. In 2015 he was named the Minnesota Wrestling Coaches Association Coach of the Year. He coached the FHS team to the region championships in 2015 and 2016 and his career record stands at 165-160.

Chad Olson



RJ Rappe

RJ Rappe (Class of 2004)

RJ Rappe was a three sport athlete participating in Soccer, Swim & Dive, and Track & Field. He was a two-time Soccer Captain, receiving all-conference and team MVP honors in 2004. He served as Captain of the Track & Field team, earning both conference and section championships in 2004 in Pole Vault. Rappe earned a 9th place finish in Pole Vault at the MSHSL State Meet and still holds the FHS School Record in Pole Vault. He was a four-time team Captain in Swim & Dive, five-time school record holder, and remains the current school record holder in 6 dive events at FHS. He was a five-time all-conference and all-state honoree,

a Section 1A Champion in 2003 and 2004, and a Class A State Champion in 2004. He was also a two-time all-american honoree in 2003 and 2004 and the Farmington High School Athlete of the Year in 2004.

After high school Rappe attended the University of Massachusetts-Amherst on a Diving scholarship. He was team Captain and team MVP at U Mass in 2008, a four-time Conference Champion in 1-meter Diving and, and a Conference Champion once in 3-meter diving.

Congratulations to the 2023 Farmington High School Hall of Fame Class of 2023!

About the Farmington High School Hall of Fame

The purpose of the Farmington High School Athletics, Arts, and Activities Hall of Fame is to recognize and honor those students, coaches, advisors, administrators, and supporters who excelled in their respective sport or activity. Hall of Fame members distinguished themselves by bringing honor, recognition, distinction, and excellence to Farmington High School by their conduct both in their sport or activity as well as in the community.

Activities and Athletics Director Keith Badger selected as the 2023 MnIAAA Region 1AA Activities Director of the Year

Farmington High School Activities and Athletics Director Keith Badger has been selected as the 2023 MnIAAA Region 1AA Activities Director of the Year.

Badger is in his 6th year as an Activities and Athletics Director and his 3rd at Farmington High School.

Badger oversees Farmington High School's 31 Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) sponsored boys and girls athletic programs, 9 MSHSL-sponsored arts and activities programs, a variety of other clubs and student activities, and over 150 coaches and advisors. He has developed a mentoring program at FHS for coaches to partner with captains from other sports to gain different perspectives and leadership opportunities.

According to the head coach of Girls Hockey and Boys Golf, Jon Holmes, "Having an activities and athletics leader like Keith allows for all of us coaches that are all in different capacities in our professional journeys to find success for ourselves, our team, and our community. Keith challenges us where we are at to get better, while at the same time allowing us to feel confident, safe and encouraged, to continue our journey toward leaving Farmington better than we found it."

Badger is a member of the MSHSL's "Why We Play Cohort" committed to reclaiming the purpose of education-based activities. He also serves the MnIAAA as the Region 1AA Representative and serves on the Region 1AA finance committee. In December of 2020, Badger was a presenter at the National Athletic Directors Conference.

"It is incredibly humbling to receive this recognition. I think I have been really fortunate to spend my entire career as an activities and athletic administrator in Region 1AA and be mentored by the state's best ADs. My work is really a reflection of their willingness to help me out when I need it", Badger said.

Before becoming an Activities Director, Badger was a head football coach, head of strength & conditioning, and a teacher. In 2015, Badger was recognized by the Green Bay Packers for his football coaching performance. In 2016, he was recognized by KARE 11 during their "Thank You Coach" campaign acknowledging MN and WI coaches going above and beyond to help athletes grow on and off the field of play. Badger is also a Certified Strength & Conditioning Specialist (CSCS) through the National Strength & Conditioning Association (NSCA).




Caption: Keith Badger, FHS Activities and Athletics Director. Photo by Aaron Fraher

Chad Olsen named Assistant Principal at FHS!

In late September Farmington High School Principal Ryan Meyer announced that Chad Olson would officially be the newest Assistant Principal at FHS, serving students in 9th grade. Olson is a longtime member of our Tiger community. He is an alumni of FHS (Class of 1995) and has held many positions in the district including as a teacher, coach, parent, and instructional leader.

In addition to his duties as Assistant Principal, Olson currently serves as the head coach in wrestling and assistant football coach. Principal Meyer shared, "Chad has a background in personalized learning and knows our learners, staff, and families well from his work as a Student Success Coach.... Please give Mr. Olson a warm welcome as he starts in his new role!"

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Early Childhood Screening

In the state of Minnesota, it is required that all children, starting at the age of 3 and before entering Kindergarten, complete a free early childhood screening. It is best for children to have this completed at the age of 3, but it can be completed when they are 4 or 5 years old, prior to Kindergarten.

What is Screening?

Screening is not a test! Children will have vision and hearing screenings, their height and weight taken, complete a developmental screening, and have the

information reviewed. Early childhood screenings help the school district identify children who may benefit from community resources and allows any concerns to be addressed before a child enters kindergarten. These screenings are only completed by the district and are not administered by your physician or anyone else. There is no cost to you for these screenings.

For more information and to schedule your child's screening, please visit our website at www.FarmingtonCE.com and click on Early Learning.



KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT NOW OPEN!

- Enroll today - don't miss important updates this spring!**
- Schedule your early childhood screening.**
- Attend a Spring into Kindergarten event.**
- Download the Kindergarten Handbook.**



WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO OUR TIGER COMMUNITY!



VISIT <https://bit.ly/kgenroll24> to complete your enrollment and learn important information about kindergarten in Farmington Area Public Schools, ISD 192.

If you want to enroll with the help of an interpreter, please make an appointment here: <https://bit.ly/interprete192>

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UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

JANUARY 2024

- 1/2 - School Resumes
- 1/5 - 5th Grade Career Fair
- 1/8 - School Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- 1/9 - Kindergarten Info Night, 6 p.m. in the Recital Hall at FHS (grown ups only please)
- 1/11 - BMS & DMS Choir Concert
- 1/15 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - No School
- 1/15 - Non-School Day Open Swim at DMS Pool, 12-2 p.m.
- 1/16 - BMS & DMS Choir Concert
- 1/22 - School Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- 1/23 - BMS Band Concert
- 1/23 - Join us for a free community engagement event at Farmington High School to learn more about the opioid crisis. 4:30 p.m. - Free Naloxone Training; 5:50 p.m. - Resource Fair; 6:35 p.m. Q&A with experts in the field.
- 1/25 - DMS Choir Concert

FEBRUARY 2024

- 2/11 - Wee Tigers Preschool 2024-2025 Registration Opens
- 2/12 - School Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- 2/16 - Flexible Learning Day (district-wide)
- 2/19 - President's Day - No School
- 2/26 - School Board Meeting, 5:30 a.m.
- 2/26 - FHS Winter Band Concerts, 6:30 p.m.
- 2/28 - FHS College Fair

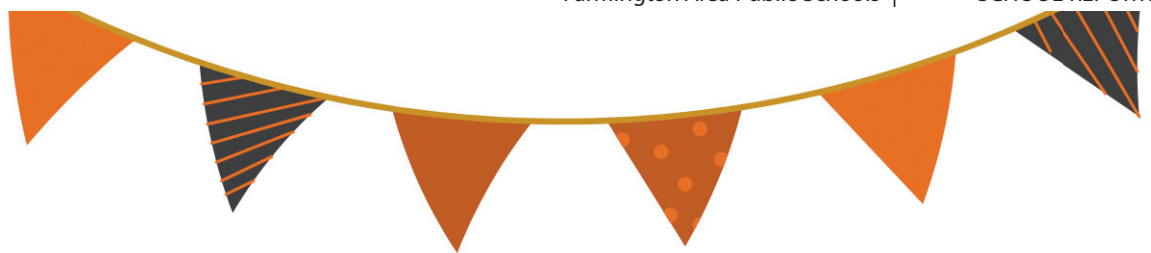
MARCH 2024

- 3/1 - Kid Connection Summer 2024 Registration Opens
- 3/5 - Elementary & Middle School Conferences
- 3/7 - Band Jubilee, 7 p.m.
- 3/8 - Staff Development Day - No School
- 3/8 - Non-School Day Open Swim at DMS Pool, 12-2 p.m.
- 3/11 - School Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- 3/21 - BMS Ensemble Band Concerts, 6 & 7 p.m. at BMS
- 3/25-29 - Spring Break - No School
- 3/25-29 - Non-School Day Open Swim at DMS Pool, 12-2 p.m.

APRIL 2024

- 4/1 - School Resumes
- 4/8 - School Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- 4/9 - Wee Tigers Preschool Conferences
- 4/10 - Wee Tigers Preschool Conferences
- 4/11 - Middle School Band Festival at FHS
- 4/22-26 - FHS Connections Week & Conferences
- 4/22 - School Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- 4/23 - SSC Jazz Festival; DMS Jazz Band Concert, 6 p.m. at FHS; BMS Jazz Band Concert, 7:30 p.m. at FHS
- 4/26 - Spring Issue of the School Reporter publishes!

Check out our website for more events and activities - www.farmington.k12.mn.us



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YOU'RE INVITED TO SPRING INTO KINDERGARTEN!

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SPRING INTO KINDERGARTEN 2024!

For the 2024-2025 school year, each elementary school will hold a Spring into Kindergarten welcome event to give you and your child a chance to see where they will be going to kindergarten, meet school

staff and also ask any questions you may have about their upcoming kindergarten experience. The dates for these events are listed below.

Akin Road Elementary
May 2, 2024 • 3-4:30 p.m.

Farmington Elementary
May 9, 2024 • 3-5 p.m.

Meadowview Elementary
May 9, 2024 • 4-5 p.m.

North Trail Elementary
May 7, 2024 • 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Riverview Elementary
April 30, 2024 • 5-6 p.m.

Other welcome events or activities may be added at a later time, so please watch your inbox once your registration is complete. Not registered yet? Please register as soon as possible so that we can properly plan and prepare to give your child the best kindergarten experience possible.

To register, please visit:
farmington.k12.mn.us/enroll

If you do not have access to the internet or a computer, please call 651-463-5052 or email MARSS@farmington.k12.mn.us to make an appointment to enroll in our office.



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