



# EAGLE FLYER

## SPECIAL EDITION



March 2023 | Volume 23, Issue 1

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## Congratulations and Thank You Fowler!

*Submitted by Neil Hufnagel, Assistant Superintendent*

On Friday, February 17, 2023, the first games were played on the competition court of the Fowler Athletic Center in front of a full house of nearly 1100 community members! The victories of our varsity girls' and boys' basketball teams on their new home court marked the culmination of over a decade of planning, preparation and work to fulfill the district's vision for our facilities into the future.

Our celebration needs to start with a huge thank you to the school board members, district staff, community volunteers, voters and taxpayers who have enabled the construction of this impressive project for the benefit of both our students and community. We also need to recognize the contributions of our local village and townships whose partnership with our school district have allowed us to realize our goal of being the very low end of property tax paying communities while offering facilities and services near the top of small communities.

Together we can celebrate this important step to make Fowler a place that offers the safe, friendly, hometown feel it always has while also offering activities and places that engage our families and their children. Attracting and keeping families in our community means we will continue to have neighbors with which to attend our schools, worship in our churches, shop in our stores, work in our businesses, and sustain the community services we currently enjoy. We acknowledge the investment in our schools is also an investment in the long term success of our community. We are excited to bring to fruition the additions and renovations that will help make Fowler a Community of Choice now and into the future, ensuring a successful Fowler Public Schools for generations of students to come.



## Fowler Athletic Center By the Numbers

*Submitted by Neil Hufnagel, Assistant Superintendent*

Some fun facts about our new facility compared to our previously existing facilities!

	Previous Facility	Fowler Athletic Center
<b>Total Square Feet</b>	51,000 sq ft (FHS)	39,120 sq ft
<b>Gym Space</b>	10,000 sq ft (Piggott Gym)	24,064 sq ft (188'x128')
<b>Court Size</b>	84 ft x 50 ft (Piggott Gym)	94 ft x 50 ft
<b>Gym Ceiling Height</b>	25 ft (Piggott Gym)	34 ft (28' at wall)
<b>Seating Capacity</b>	875 (Piggott Gym)	1160
<b>Marked Parking Spots</b>	155 (Waldron School) 197 (FHS)	276
<b>Cafeteria</b>	1500 sq ft	4300 sq ft
<b>Weight Room</b>	1,860 sq ft (Weight Shed)	2,400 sq ft (Weight Room) 711 sq ft (Cardio Room)
<b>Track Length</b>	n/a	150 meters (10 laps/mile)

## From the Superintendent

*Submitted by Mark Horak, Superintendent*

First I would like to start with some great news regarding our bus drivers! As we completed bus driver appreciation week, we now have confirmed drivers with all 4 routes for the rest of this school year AND next year as well! Shelly Spitzley will be splitting a route with Joe Travis. Joe will drive the AM and Shelly the PM. Shaun Miller has also taken over a full time route. Al Miller has also agreed to help out part time this spring while Mike Schmitt recovers from his back surgery. FPS has been able to keep all of our routes going to serve our community, which is not an easy thing to do these days.

I would like to thank Simon Brothers Trucking for being such a great community partner in helping to serve our kids. Because of your flexibility and generosity, we have been able to have Shaun Miller take over his full time route as one of our bus drivers. Simon Brothers have worked with Shaun so that his schedule is open for both our morning and afternoon routes. We all appreciate this so much, especially in this difficult employment climate. Partnerships such as this are what makes Fowler such a special place!

It has been a pleasure to watch many of you enter the new Fowler Athletic Center and see the excitement that it has generated. The students are now eating in the new commons area, and we are using the new kitchen. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work through the new procedures as the construction is still being finished in some areas. I have enjoyed helping at the events we have had in the Athletic Center and must say it was pretty sweet when our girls won the district title against St. Pats for the first earned championship in the new facility!

As we go through the spring, we will be working hard to replace a couple of teachers who have been pillars of stability at Fowler High School for many years. We wish Mr. Buhr and Mr. Kleimola all the best as they enter into their retirement years!



## Fowler Public Schools Education Foundation

Did you know that generous donors have contributed over \$75,000 to the foundation over the past years? The foundation was established to provide long-term support to our students. In addition to deposits into the long-term account, 27 grants have been awarded in the past for reading materials, science equipment, classroom maps, and much more.

To contribute to the Foundation, you go to this link and donate electronically: [gofundme.com/pyk0io](https://gofundme.com/pyk0io). Donations can also be sent at any time throughout the year to PO Box 126 Fowler, MI 48835.

Together we can define the legacy of our community and schools for many years to come! Thank you for your support of our students, school staff, and community.



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## Scholarship Opportunities

Did you know that the Fowler Public Schools website has a wide variety of scholarships listed for seniors to apply to? The list can be found under the high school tab and then under the counselor tab on the website. These are all great opportunities for our seniors to apply for scholarship funds or grants for college or trade schools! Deadlines are coming up soon, apply today!

[fowlerschools.net/list-of-scholarships/](https://fowlerschools.net/list-of-scholarships/)



## Secondary MTSS Update

*Submitted by Sarah Lewis, Secondary MTSS Coordinator*

Completing our winter data review in February, our Secondary Leadership Team reviewed attendance, behavior, course performance, and overall engagement of our students as we ended the first semester of the 2022-2023 school year.

### Celebrations

All grades 5-12 are currently on track for positive behavior and course performance! Last year we set a goal to have greater than 80% of our students passing all of their courses, and we are currently exceeding that goal! At Waldron, we have high levels of students at or above benchmark in both reading and math. We're also seeing an upward trend in overall engagement over the last three years.

### Opportunities for Growth

One challenge identified across grades 5-12 is school attendance. Our Secondary Leadership Team has set a goal to have 90% of our students attend 90% of instruction, and we are currently not meeting that goal at any grade level. We also have a significant portion of our student population just barely meeting the 90% attendance threshold. Attendance is an important part of being successful at Fowler Public Schools, and we appreciate any support and encouragement you can give your child in helping us meet this goal.

### Parents, community members, and local businesses:

If you are able to donate prizes to reward our students for their great behavior and attendance, please reach out to Sarah Lewis [slewis@fowlerschools.net](mailto:slewis@fowlerschools.net). Your support of our students is greatly appreciated!



*Photo used with permission from Attendance Works*



# WALDRON NEWS



## Snow Day!



*Submitted by Patty Schmitt*

Students in Mrs. Schmitt's Kindergarten declared a "SNOW" day! With all the cold weather and inside recess days, we had to create some extra busy fun so students enjoyed making snowflakes and pretty paintings with salt that were then turned in to beautiful snowmen! It was a fun filled inside "snow day"!



## 101 Days of School at Waldron!

Mrs. Werner's and Mrs. Pung's kindergarten classes celebrated the 101st day of school by dressing up as the 101 Dalmatians. They also made Dalmatian pudding using 101 mini chocolate chips!



## Spirit Days for Reading Month



There are multiple dress-up days for all students at Waldron to celebrate in March for reading month!

**March 3rd:** Colorful Candy Day. Students can wear mismatch shirts/pants, glitter or sequin clothes.

**March 10th:** March Madness! Wear your favorite sports team.

**March 17th:** St. Patrick's Day. Make sure you wear green or you might be pinched by a leprechaun!

**March 24th:** PJ Day. Wear your coziest pajamas all day long!



## Christmas Spirit

Mrs. Epkey's second grade was busy this month getting into the Christmas spirit. They had a super time decorating gingerbread houses, participating in dress up days, and making Christmas cards for Laurels of Carson City. The students even made beautiful Santa paintings for their parents to enjoy! A fun time was had by all and hopefully they passed on some Christmas spirit to others along the way!



## Eagle Pride!



Thank you to Sports Shop of St. Johns for graciously donating these Fowler Eagle youth shirts; these lucky students are the winners of our random drawing for some school pride!

## Escape Rooms!

*Submitted by Leann Scahfer*



The 3rd graders at Waldron celebrated Valentine's Day by taking part in an escape room. Fun was had by all students as they solved various puzzles and broke codes to unlock the secret combination. Thankfully, all students were able to come up with the correct combination to escape the room. They were able to enjoy their lunch on time!





# Another Great Christmas at Waldron!

Waldron had a very special visitor this year that made Christmas even better! Thank you, Grinch!



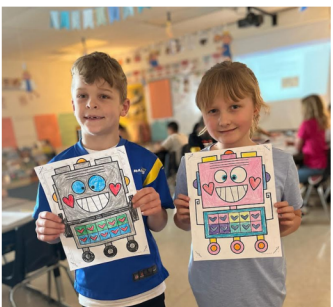


## February Happenings in Second Grade

*Submitted by Brenda Epkey*

Second grade has been on a mission to spread love and cheer throughout February. The class made Birthday Bags for a neighboring food pantry. Each bag had a cake mix, frosting, and a can of Sprite to make a perfect birthday cake. Also, the students made birthday cards to place in each bag. Then, the second graders made cards for Fowler School employees to let them know how much they are appreciated. Finally, pizza and valentines were enjoyed by all on Valentine's Day!

Thank you Feldpausch Family Agency for the amazing Little Caesar's Pizza! The students can't wait to get started with March Is Reading Month.



## Parents' Meeting at Waldron

There will be an informational parents' meeting for PreK and Kindergarten Enrollment on March 21st, 2023 at 6:00pm in the Waldron Cafeteria. This is a great opportunity to meet the staff, ask questions, and see the classrooms. If you have any questions regarding registration please contact Vicki Schlak at phone number 989-593-2160 or via email at [vicki@fowlerschools.net](mailto:vicki@fowlerschools.net)

Please keep in mind that this meeting is for parents only as students will be invited to the open house in the fall. We look forward to seeing you there!



## December Memories

*Submitted by Amy Pung*

December was filled with holiday magic! We had a visit from the Grinch who shared some treats with us. We wore our Christmas best and performed in the Waldron Christmas Concert.

A powerful strain of illness came for our classroom at the end of the month and so nearly half of our class was home on the day of our classroom Christmas party. Those who were here played Plinko, Holiday Hedbanz, made cute sticker scenes, and built their own reindeer snack!





## Native American Studies

*Submitted by Leann Schafer*

The 3rd graders at Waldron Elementary school have been studying the Native American tribes that live in Michigan. After learning about their heritage, students wrote various papers that described how Native Americans lived their lives in the past. Some topics that the students wrote about described how they hunted, fished, grew crops, built their homes, and tanned hides. They then constructed Native American villages that depicted the various aspects that they researched.

They had a fabulous time working on these projects!



## Welcoming February

Mrs. Werner's class welcomed February with some reading and writing about Valentine's Day and Groundhog's Day!



## Valentine's Day Celebrations

Mrs. Hamilton and her first graders had a fun-filled Valentine's Day filled with pizza, treats, cards, crafts, and a movie.



## Mark Your Calendars!

As a reminder, spring break will be March 27-31 this year with classes resuming on April 3rd. If your student plans to take off additional time, please fill out a pre-excused absence form in the front office to ensure that they have made arrangements for their missed work.





# Daddy Daughter Dance

Waldron had a fun night filled with laughter and dancing! The Fowler Schools PTO hosted a celebration for dads and their daughters on February 25th and everyone had a fun time! There was excellent music, balloons, and amazing prizes for the girls!





# Welcoming our Waldron Student Teachers



## **First Grade** *Jenna Benjamin*

Jenna joined Waldron this semester as a student teacher helping Mrs. Hamilton in the first grade. She currently attends Central Michigan University.

In the future, Jenna will be certified to teach birth to third grade and early childhood special education. She hopes to teach kindergarten to second grade but would be happy with any option!

Jenna grew up in Middleton, Michigan and attended Fellowship Baptist Academy in Carson City. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her husband Chris and their four children: Collin, Aiden, Ethan, and Reagan. Their family lives on a farm and loves to go swimming, play board games and yard games, and Jenna likes to go shopping.

She also is a substitute teacher and hopes to get a teaching job this fall after she graduates in May.



## **English Language Arts** *Kaila Halsted*

Kaila joined Waldron this semester as a student teacher helping Mrs. Ritter in the middle school teaching 5th-8th grade Literature and ELA.

Kaila currently attends Central Michigan University. Fire up Chips! In the future, she hopes to teach Special Education and/or English in a middle or high school setting. She grew up in Pewamo and attended PWHS.

In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, reading, watching movies, and collecting vinyl records. When she's outside of work, Kaila loves to garden and go camping up north in the summertime.

When asked if she has anything else to share, Kaila said, "I am very excited to spend the semester at Waldron Elementary and Middle School and continue my teaching journey."



## **History** *Alyson Gonzalez*



Alyson joined Waldron this semester as a student teacher helping Mr. Hansen in the middle school teaching History. She currently attends Central Michigan University.

In the future, Alyson hopes to be teaching history and/or social studies in a middle school setting. She grew up right down the road from Fowler in Saint Johns.

In her free time, Alyson can be found drawing, reading, or coaching volleyball. She loves crafting scrapbooks and crocheting. She states that she's the artist in her family, so she's always making poster boards for events and friends!

When asked if she has anything else to share, Alyson stated: "I am excited to be here at Waldron! I really enjoy being here and working with the students and staff!"

## **Waldron Breakfast**

Just a reminder a sack breakfast is available at Waldron until 8:30 am each morning. The cost is \$1.75 and comes out of the student's regular lunch account.



## **Important Dates This Semester**

Mar. 27, 2023 – Mar. 31, 2023 | Spring Break  
April 3 2023 | Classes Resume  
May 29 | Memorial Day, No School  
June 12-14 | Exam Days, end of 4th Quarter





# HIGH SCHOOL NEWS



## Senior Interview Day

On February 21st, the seniors participated in mock interviews to prepare for their future endeavors into the working world. We're grateful to our community members who were able to come in and play the part of the interviewers!

Mock interviews are a great way for students to gain experience for interview processes, and it helps raise their confidence for future opportunities!

## Renaissance Rewards

*Submitted by Katie Halfmann*

In January, all students were treated to a wonderful assortment of cookies and treats each day after their morning exams for our Cookies for Exams event. Thank you to all the parents, grandparents, and community members who made this possible; your sweet treats were greatly appreciated!!



In February, the Fowler Renaissance students participated in the annual Freshman Welcome. The freshman class was welcomed to our program with brownie ice cream sundaes, numerous gift cards, and cash drawings. Ben Kohagen was the big winner with a candy bouquet donated and made by Stacey Riley.

Other upcoming events include: Egg Hunt, Scratch off tickets, Senior Awards, and the final end-of-the-year gift cards for all Renaissance students.



For those not familiar with Renaissance, it's a high school program that recognizes academic excellence by rewarding students for their achievements through special activities and incentives throughout the year. To be a member of Renaissance, a student must have a semester GPA of 3.0 or increase their semester GPA by .5; therefore, everyone is eligible for this program. Each month, Renaissance rewards students with an activity such as: breakfast, turkey hunt, sucker tree, raffle baskets, cash and gift card giveaways, scholarships, as well as those rewards listed above. The Renaissance Program is funded ENTIRELY by donations. All contributions are greatly appreciated and are needed to continue this program. If you would like to become a sponsor by making a contribution, please contact the high school office at 989-593-2250.



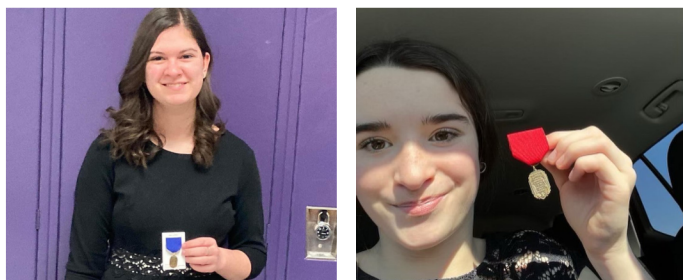


## Solo & Ensemble

Congratulations to the students who performed at MSBOA Solo and Ensemble this semester!

Elaine Hamilton as well as the trio of Tristan Smith, MaKenna Smith, and Morgan Bailey all earned a medal and an outstanding 1 rating and will advance to the state competition!

Rebecca Smith and Maddie Sillman did an awesome job and received a medal and a 2 rating! Great job everyone for taking on the challenge!



## The Voices of Democracy

Submitted by Beth Hughey



Each year the VFW sponsors writing contests dedicated to promoting patriotism for our youth and offering scholarships up to \$35,000 (national). The VFW honored qualifiers from local schools with a dinner on January 14 in St. Louis, MI. First place FHS winner of the Voice of Democracy writing contest, Drew Armbrustmacher, was awarded \$150. First place winner of the Waldron MS Patriot Pen writing contest, Taylor Hughey, received \$100. Both were invited to the dinner as they met first place qualifiers from other schools. Drew was awarded additional honors as he placed fifth in the Voice of Democracy audio-essay program and received an additional scholarship of \$50. Congratulations Drew!

From left to right in the picture: Jerry Klein, Taylor Hughey (eighth grade), Drew Armbrustmacher (12th grade), and Gary Chartrand



## Quizbowl Vs. Teachers





## DECA Competition

*Submitted by Mitchell Wirth, Fowler DECA secretary*

The Fowler DECA team traveled to Western Michigan's Hawthorn College of Business to compete in the District 3 DECA district competition. DECA is an organization of students who learn and compete in business-related events. These events consist of business-related areas such as finance, marketing, hospitality, decision-making, and other areas.

This is Fowler High School's first year in the organization. Organized by teacher Bethany Hughey, the team consists of 11 members. On January 20, students traveled to WMU and competed against many different schools from the Southwestern portion of the state of Michigan. Students Brin Thelen and Sophia Denny, Levi Travis and Carter Fedewa, Aiden Riley, and Braxton Myers, and Myah Pohl and Neelah O'Rourke all competed as a team in their events.



Rebecca Smith, Johnathan Koenigsknecht, and Mitchell Wirth all competed as individuals. Events consisted of a 100-question test taken earlier in the month and a role play. The role play consisted of contestants being given different prompts and asked questions by a judge.

At the end of the competition, students' scores from the test and role play were evaluated. Students were competing to go to the state competition in March in Detroit against all the other DECA chapters.

There were three different medals that students could earn. A blue medal represented doing well in the test; a gray medal represented doing well in the role play; and a red, white, and blue medal represented making it to States. Rebecca Smith earned a gray medal, Braxton Myers earned a blue medal and Mitchell Wirth earned a gray and blue medal. Students that earned the red, white, and blue medals that made it to States were Brin Thelen and Sophia Denny as a team and Rebecca Smith and Mitchell Wirth as individuals.

We wish them the best of luck as they go on to compete in the State competition in March!



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## FPS Website

Did you know that our Fowler Public Schools website is updated everyday with news and announcements? To view the daily announcements at the high school, visit [www.fowlerschools.net/](http://www.fowlerschools.net/) and click the high school tab at the top

**[www.fowlerschools.net](http://www.fowlerschools.net)**



# Student of the Month



## December *Candis Myers*

Candis is a senior at FHS. She is in Student Council, SADD, National Honor Society, President of LINKS, and in Volleyball.

Candis was co-captain of the Volleyball team, received MVP, Coaches Award, CMAC Honorable mention, and Academic All-State. She is also on Renaissance and the LCC President's List.

When asked whom her most influential staff member is, Candis replied, "Mrs. Lewis, because she always goes the extra mile to make sure everyone succeeds. She is very passionate about what she does and it shows through in her teaching."

Candis has already signed a letter of agreement to play Volleyball at Kalamazoo Valley, where she will also study Ultrasound Sonography.

Congratulations Candis!



## January *Faith Phillips*

Faith is a senior at FHS and participates in Robotics Club, SADD, Quizbowl, Band, and Cross Country.

Faith is on Renaissance, the LCC President's List, and is in National Honor Society.

When asked who was her most influential staff member, Faith replied: "Mr. Roorda. He has inspired me to become more confident with playing music and becoming a better version of myself. He always brings positive energy to end the day!"

Faith plans to attend Central Michigan University to pursue a degree in Digital Media.

Congratulations Faith!



## February *Allysa Feldpausch*

Allysa is a senior at FHS and participates in Robotics Club, Quizbowl, and Yearbook.

Allysa is on Renaissance, the LCC President's List, and is in National Honor Society.

When asked who was her most influential staff member, Allysa replied: "Mr. Mowry, because he is always super funny, easy to talk to, and is a great robotics teacher!"

Allysa plans to attend Michigan state University to pursue a degree in Public Relations

Congratulations Allysa!



## Exemplary Students at RESA

Congratulations to Jon Ruiz and Drew Armbrustmacher for being recognized as exemplary students at their CCRESA programs. Jon is in the Welding program and Drew is in the Construction Trades program!

Alayna Vandergriff and Natalie Thelen were also both recognized as student of the month in the Ionia RESA Plant & Animal Science program. Congratulations!





## STEM Club Competitions

The new STEM club held two competitions in December! They created and raced battery cars and crafted gingerbread houses.

For the battery cars race, Jon Fowler took first place, Riley Fabing took second, and Logan Hubbard took third.

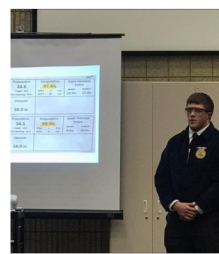
For the gingerbread house competition, Raleigh Weber and Saige Miller took first place, Riley Fabing and Logan Hubbard took second, and Evan Simon and Jon Fowler took third.

We're grateful that our students have the opportunity to sharpen their STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics.) skills in this way. If any high school students are interested in joining the STEM club, please contact the front office.



## FFA Regionals

Fowler seniors Austin Schafer and Nate Halfmann & PW senior Olivia Black competed in regionals for the Ionia chapter of FFA. They presented the importance of crop success and farm profitability and demonstrated proper planter maintenance! Big thank you to Sarah Black for sharing the pictures. Nice job, Nate, Austin, and Olivia! Thank you for showing the community how important agriculture is!

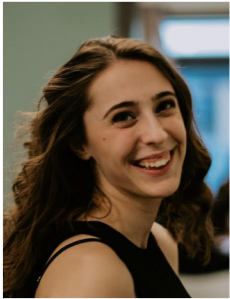


## No More Sidelines Dance

No More Sidelines of Central Michigan hosted an inclusive prom for community members in February! Pictured below are Fowler students Drew Armbrustmacher, Brody Thelen, Taylor Weber, Kelcie Pung, and Carly Andros. Over 150 members of the community attended and danced the night away.



# Welcoming our New Staff to the District



## **Executive Assistant** *Elizabeth Koenigsknecht*

Elizabeth joined us in February as the new executive assistant to the superintendent. She has previously worked in insurance and records management.

Elizabeth and her husband live in Westphalia, and she recently graduated from Ferris State University with a bachelor's degree in Psychology and a minor in Communications. She has a 23-year-old painted turtle named Earl and hopes to have more pets soon as she wants to live on a hobby farm in the future!

Elizabeth graduated from PW, and in her free time she enjoys playing video games with her friends and crafting artisanal coffee. Her favorite coffee shops are Waypoint in Saint Johns and Sozo's in Ionia. She also loves doting on her newborn niece and nephew, who were born only a couple weeks apart!

When asked if she has anything additional to share, Elizabeth wrote: "I'm excited to give back to our communities and incite some positive change!"

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## **Assistant Teacher** *Emily Johnson*

Emily joined us in January as the new assistant teacher at GSRP. She also owns her own farrier business, which means she shoes horses around Michigan.

Emily lives in Potterville and has spent time living in Norman, Oklahoma, where she went to horseshoeing school. She lives on a hobby farm with cows, pigs, goats, and horses. She also has five pet dogs (Alfalfa, Oates, Lasso, Waylon, and Cooper) three pet cats (Peter, Mack, and Lil Bit) and a guinea pig (Garfunkel)

Emily grew up around the Maple Rapids area and graduated from Fulton High School. In her free time from the farm and work, she enjoys quilting, scrapbooking, sewing, and soap-making.

She also enjoys spending time with her nieces and nephews, riding horses, and camping during the summer months.

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## **Bus Driver** *Shaun Miller*



Shaun joined us this year as the new bus driver in January! He has previously worked at Mid Michigan Agronomy.

Shaun lives in Fowler with his three children, Emma (14), Indie (2), and Avery (1). They have Ridge, a four year old Great Dane and Bo, an 8 month old kitten.

Shaun grew up in Fowler and graduated from Fulton. In his free time, he enjoys bunny hunting and spending time with his kids and family.

We would also like to thank Simon Brothers for working with Fowler Public Schools so that Shaun can drive bus for us!

When asked if he had anything additional to share, Shaun wrote: "I have lived in Fowler most of my life and now all my kids will attend Fowler schools. There's no other school I'd rather them attend or me work for"

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## **Bus Driver Appreciation**

The second to last week of February is Bus Driver Appreciation week! Thank you to our bus driving team, we truly appreciate everything you do for our schools and students!

The students crafted a fun banner for the bus garage and the Fowler PTO group gifted them each coffee tumblers. They also enjoyed some delicious cupcakes brought in by Mrs. Nixon!







# BAND NEWS



## Spring 2022 Band Events

*Submitted by Jake Roorda, Band Teacher*

With the Christmas season behind them, the bands have turned their attention both back to basics and to preparations for their adjudicated concert festivals. The 5th grade band has been progressing through its curriculum at breakneck speed thanks to the help of Joe Bodarko who has been volunteering his time 4 days a week to teach the percussionists in their own class during 1st hour. By instructing the winds and percussion separately, students are able to receive an entire class period of instruction directly applicable to their instruments rather than waiting (mostly) patiently for half a class each day for the focus of instruction to return to them. Thank you, Mr. Bodarko!

By the time this article hits the presses, the 6th grade band will likely have finished working through their book and will be beginning to look at their material for the Spring concert. There may even be a surprise project for them before then; they shall have to wait and see.

The 7/8th grade band and the high school band are each in the middle of preparing for the Fowlerville MMEA Band Clinic and the MSBOA Band and Orchestra Festival, respectively.

These are both adjudicated festivals where the bands have the opportunity to perform a program in a real concert hall before a panel of judges who afterwards offer constructive criticism, words of encouragement, and for the high school band, a rating. These concert festivals showcase our bands performing literature that was composed for concert bands at levels which meet our students where they are as musicians.

They are the students' opportunity to show a listening audience the true extent of their musicianship and their ability to work together as one band creating one sound.

After this article was submitted, the band received a "one" rating at the MSBOA band festival this past week. Congratulations to Mr. Roorda and the band on this huge accomplishment! We are so proud!







# WINTER SPORTS NEWS



## Opening Night Double Header



Beating an unexpected winter storm, the Eagles took on Pottersville in a varsity basketball double-header on February 17th! This marked the grand opening of the new Fowler Athletic Center and senior night for varsity girls basketball.

Senior Carly Andros made the first ceremonial basket of the new gym in a layup prior to the game and the six senior girls were honored with bouquets and recognition from their peers and parents.

Emma Riley scored the first basket of the game with a three point shot which lead the lady Eagles into a victory over the Vikings by the end of the night, 61-22.



The varsity boys were up next and led a swift victory over the Vikings as well, winning their first game in the Athletic Center 57-39. With two excellent games behind us, we're excited to see their continued progress for the rest of their seasons and the games to follow!

## GO EAGLES!



*\*Photos courtesy of Jim Pivarnik*

Spring Sports Schedules can be found at <https://fowlereagles.net/>



## Strike! Bowling Team Off to States

As their season comes to an end, the boys bowling team has made great advancements this year! The boys team headed to states after a 3rd place win at regionals. They placed 18th at States as a team! Junior Thomas Halfmann also went to states as an individual qualifier- he placed 9th out of 94 bowlers, which earned him a spot! Congratulations Thomas and the rest of the Fowler Bowling Team!



## MHSAA Scholar-Athlete Award

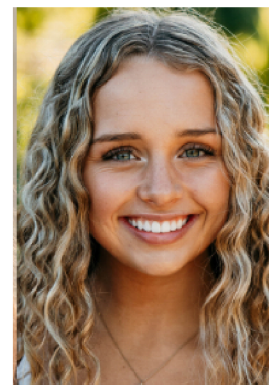
The MHSAA selected senior Quinn Watts to be the recipient of the MHSAA/Farm Bureau Insurance prestigious Scholar-Athlete Award. Quinn was selected based on her participation in a varsity sport, her high academic standing, and an essay she submitted to MHSAA, which is quoted below.

Quinn has played varsity volleyball, varsity basketball, varsity softball, and junior varsity golf. In addition to that, she is the student council president and has served on the Student Athletic Advisory Council as well. She also participates in National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, and 4-H Club.

Currently, Quinn is undecided where she will attend college but intends to study biology on a pre-medical track.

*"A state championship trophy was what my team and I had to show for this season; however, no trophy could exceed the richness of the lessons I learned. ... We chose to act with respect, kindness, and generosity towards our opponents and allowed our performance on the court, rather than the voice of our words, prove our worth."*

Congratulations, Quinn!



## From Eagle to Crusader

Cooper Koenigsnecht signed a letter of intent with Madonna University to play football!

Congratulations!



The Athletic Department would once again like to thank the parent & student volunteers who helped out with athletic events during the winter season. We couldn't accomplish it without you!

- Athletic Dept.



## Honoring Jason Goerge's Memory

Prior to the boys basketball game against Portland on February 22nd, there was a ceremony honoring the late Jason Goerge. A beloved member of our community and a passionate coach, he impacted the lives of his athletes and everyone around him.

A commemorative plaque will be placed in a trophy case inside of the new Fowler Athletic Center dedicated to him and to honor his memory.

Our thoughts are with his family and the rest of the community.



## Boys Basketball District Finals

The varsity boys basketball team ended their season in the district final where they were up against Lansing Christian. In this "nail-biter" game, Lansing Christian was up by two and won 40-38. They ended their season with 13 wins and 10 losses. The boys basketball team has had a great season and we could not be more proud of them.

Go Eagles!



## District Champs!

The varsity girls basketball team is the district champ, as they faced off against the Shamrocks and won 40-35 in the championship! The lady Eagles have had an excellent season so far; we're proud of you!



## National Title for Fowler Alumni

Congratulations to Fowler Alumni Mason Pline (#81) on earning a back-to-back National Championship Title with the Ferris State University Football team for 2021 and 2022







# FOWLER ATHLETIC CENTER

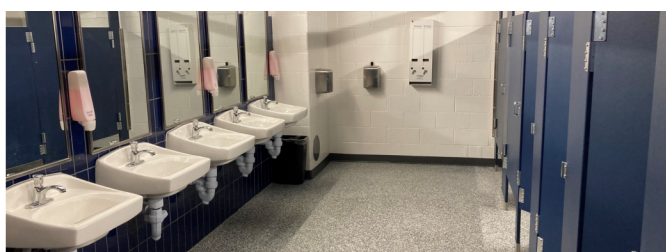
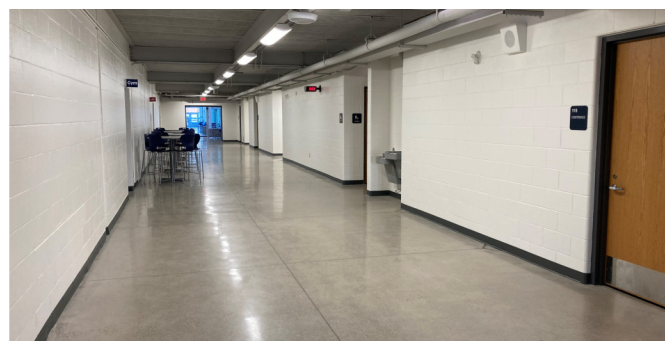


**Parking Lots & Drives:** The back parking lot has been expanded to provide additional event parking, and a turn lane has been added to the drive leaving the back lot. Another 20 parking spaces have been added to the south side of the building to provide parking for the Eagle Fitness Center.



**High School Entrance:** The original front restrooms and locker rooms from the 1959 high school have been demolished providing a bright, open corridor leading from the front of the high school to the Athletic Center on the west side of the building.

**Main Entrance:** The main entrance to the Athletic Center is provided off the west parking lot featuring a stylish burnished block and architectural steel exterior, and lighted sign.



**Restrooms:** New restrooms for use by students during the day and event spectators in the evening have been added to the renovated area of the high school building. Features include subway tile accents, flaked epoxy flooring and, most importantly, an abundance of stalls in the ladies room!

**Conference Room:** A right-sized conference room has also been added to the renovated area replacing a small office space that had been used for that purpose. Features include flexible seating and table configurations as well as a presentation screen and whiteboard.





**Commons Area:** A spacious commons area welcomes visitors to Eagle Country when they enter the Athletic Center featuring a graphic representation of the community skyline. This space will be used as a cafeteria during the school day, and the lobby to the gym on event nights.



**Kitchen:** Behind the servery is the new kitchen featuring all new stainless steel appliances, walk in cooler and freezer combination, as well a large pantry.



**The Wall:** A unique and critical feature of the multi-use gym space is the large folding partition that separates the competition court from the fitness gym area. The wall is 24' high and 130' long and offers a dramatic Eagle graphic as a backdrop for our competitions. When retracted, it allows full open access to the 24,000 sq ft gymnasium space.



**Servery/Concessions:** At the south end of the commons area is the servery for daily school lunch which will also double as the concession area for events. Separate drink coolers, refrigerators and storage areas are provided for food service and concessions with counters and food warmers that will be shared by both.



**Competition Court:** The north portion of the large, multi-use gym space is home to our new competition court, featuring a stained parquet floor with our traditional blue and white markings as well as our newly designed full Eagle logo. Total seating capacity in the main section, as well as end zone student sections, is over 1100





**Fitness Gym:** On the south side of the partition wall is the fitness gym that includes markings for basketball, volleyball and 3 pickleball courts. Also included are 2 dropdown batting cages and a dropdown curtain that lines the inside of the 150 meter 3 lane track, permitting baseball/softball practice inside the curtain while the track remains available for other teams and community members.



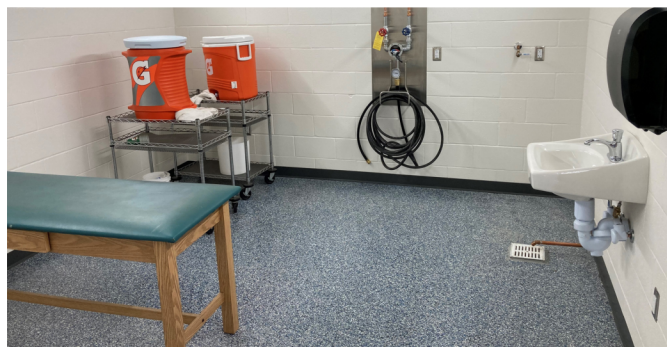
**Eagle Fitness Entrance:** Accessible from the new south parking area is the entrance to our new Eagle Fitness Center which will be available to our community. The fitness center includes access to a cardio room, weight room and walking/running track. Details for memberships and day use are being finalized.

**Cardio Room:** This space is still being finished off as we are in the process of adding treadmills, stair steppers, ellipticals, stationary bikes, rowers, lightweight fitness accessories, and TV monitors. It adjoins both the weight room and track, and includes a combination restroom and shower.



**Weight Room:** Equipment is currently being installed in this space which will be outfitted with 8 free-weight squat/bench racks, several dumbbell racks, 4 deadlift stations, and several pulley and pin racks for pull downs, rows, and core work. This area will serve both our athletes and community members. It also features a high performance sound and video system.

**Training Room:** At the southwest corner of the competition, court is a new training room easily accessible to athletes from both genders. When fully outfitted it will include a training table, small whirlpool, ice machine and storage cabinets.





**Boys Locker Rooms:** The boys locker room area includes separate varsity and JV/PE locker room spaces joined by a shared restroom/shower area. The restroom/shower space has a lockable door that can be closed to create two completely independent locker rooms which are especially handy when hosting multi team events. There is also a coaches office with storage room behind.



**Girls Locker Rooms:** Like the boys, the girls locker rooms consist of separate varsity and JV/PE locker rooms with a shared, divisible toilet/shower area, as well as coaches office.



**Officials Room:** After tucking them away in classrooms for years, we now have a dedicated space for our game officials. It is located just off the northwest side of the competition court and conveniently next to the family restroom.



**Family Toilet:** Also tucked away in the northwest corner of the gym is a family restroom with a little extra space and baby changing table.



**Trophy Hall:** Yet to be installed are the 80 running feet of trophy cases in which to display our multitude of conference, district, regional and state championship hardware. The display cases will be 9' high with room for our current stash of trophies, and a little room for growth.



# Eagle Fitness Questions & Answers

*Submitted by Neil Hufnagel, Assistant Superintendent*

## **What is the status of the new Eagle Fitness Center facility?**

All components of the new fitness center have been completed over the first couple weeks of March. Apart from a few touch ups, the gym floor and track have been completed. The weight room flooring has also been installed and weight equipment is in place. The cardio room also now has six new machines in place. The door access and alarm system are being installed this week.

## **When will school and community groups begin to use the fitness center?**

Our spring sports teams have already begun to use the batting cages, track, and weight room, as is our football team for out of season weightlifting and conditioning. We are currently transitioning community groups with previously approved rentals and reservations into the space including pickleball groups who have started to play in the recreation court.

## **How can I rent or reserve the new recreation gym, or any of our other gyms for that matter?**

We are transitioning to a new online reservation system for all of our gym rentals and reservations. This includes one time rentals of our facilities as well as groups who want regularly scheduled gym use time slots. There will be a link on our website by the end of March for the rental and reservation form. Community members can simply click on the link, complete the form and submit it. We will process the request and email a confirmation with the rental rate, payment procedure, and access instructions. Those unable to access the online form can stop by the High School office during regular business hours to pick up and complete a form.

## **When will individual memberships be available for the Eagle Fitness Center for use of the cardio room, weight room, or track?**

We have a few more safety and security details to work out before making the facility available for individual use. These include the installation of phones, security cameras, and a pass code system to provide and monitor individual use.

## **What are the rental reservation and membership rates for using the fitness center and our gyms?**

In February, our board approved rental rates for our gyms and membership rates for the fitness center. Those rates are shown in the chart below and go into effect March 20, 2023.

## **Why is there any cost at all for using these facilities when taxpayers have already paid to build the facility?**

We absolutely appreciate the support our community members and taxpayers have provided in passing the millage and enabling the construction of our beautiful new facility. As shared prior to the mileage election, membership rates and facility use rental fees are needed to offset the ongoing costs of utilities, maintenance, equipment replacement, and staffing for community use so that it does not direct funds away from student programs. Since the community has already paid for the construction of the facility, our membership rates will be less than half of those typically paid at private gyms and fitness centers, and the rental rates are set on the low end of those charged and other local school districts. Nonresidents will also have opportunities to use our facilities, but will pay a higher rate.

## **How will the scheduling of our facilities be prioritized among the many potential groups and users?**

As has always been our practice in scheduling our facilities, we will generally schedule school teams and school sponsored groups first, groups made up primarily of district residents second, and groups made up fully or primarily of non-residents third.



## **Eagle Fitness Questions & Answers Continued**

### **What days and hours will the fitness center and gyms be available for use?**

We are working hard to provide our community as much access to our facilities as possible. This includes use of the fitness center and recreational gym during the school day and our other gyms outside of the school day when they are not used by our own school groups and teams. When fully implemented, we anticipate individuals with memberships to have access to the fitness center seven days a week from 5 AM to 11 PM and our gyms will be available for rentals and reservations from 6 AM to 10 PM when not being used for school events.

### **What safety and security measures will be in place, especially if the fitness center is available during school hours?**

Eagle Fitness members and participants in groups that use the facility during the school day will be required to submit to a background check. It is the same background check we currently use for school volunteers. We will also be using a punch pad system with an individual code assigned to each member and renter for entry into the fitness center limiting access to only those who have had the background check. The portion of the building typically available to fitness club members and daytime gym users will be the weight room, cardio room, track and recreational gym. The three sets of doors that separate the athletic center from the rest of the school building will be set to alarm should fitness centers users pass through them during the school day. All areas of the fitness center will also be monitored with security cameras.

### **Have all the details been worked out to assure that the fitness center and facilities use plans will work perfectly moving forward?**

Absolutely not! While we have a clear vision that we want to make our facilities readily available to our community, and an initial plan to get that use underway, we know that there will be issues that arise that have to be worked out along the way. Just like building our new facility had a simple, black and white blueprint for its construction. There were many, many adjustments made during the process to improve and adjust those initial plans resulting in an improved, outstanding facility. The same will be true for our work to fill the new facility with programs, activities, and opportunities that meet the needs of our kids and community. The information contained in this Q&A is an overview of that initial plan. Many more details have been considered and others will continue to emerge. We are happy to get this facility open to our community and ask for your continued patience as we refine our processes to fulfill our mission to meet our student and community needs.

### **If I have additional questions. Who do I contact for the answers?**

All questions regarding the use of our facilities, and Eagle Fitness memberships should be directed to our Eagle Fitness email account at [eaglefitness@fowlerschools.net](mailto:eaglefitness@fowlerschools.net), and we will be happy to get back with you during regular business hours.





# FOWLER PUBLIC SCHOOLS EAGLE FITNESS



## Individual Membership Rates

<b>Memberships Coming Soon Watch Our Website for Updates!</b>	<b>3 Month Rate</b>	<b>12 Month Rate</b>
District Resident	\$75	\$225
Non-District Resident	\$125	\$250

District residents are defined as having a home property or business in the district, or members of a current school-of-choice family.  
Includes access to the Fitness Center: weight room, cardio room, track

## Single Session Use

<b>Starting March 20th</b>	<b>Price</b>
District Residents	\$2
District Seniors, 67-74	\$1
District Super Seniors, 75+	Free
Non-District Residents	\$3
Non-District Seniors, 67-74	\$2
Non-District Super Seniors, 75+	\$1

Includes access to the Fitness Center and Pickleball, Basketball, Volleyball Courts (with group reservation leaders or during staffed hours) There is no charge for single session use if you are an Eagle Fitness Member.

## Hourly Facility Rental

<b>Available Now</b>	<b>Group A</b>	<b>Group B</b>	<b>Group C</b>
Fowler Athletic Center	\$0	\$50	\$200
Competition Court or Cage, HS Gym, Piggott Gym, FAC Commons, Waldron Multiroom, Innovation Center, Classrooms, Library	\$0	\$15	\$30

- Group A    Fowler Schools Athletics & Clubs, District Teams/Groups, Community Education Programs, School Affiliated Booster Organizations
- Group B    District Families or Groups, District Service or Church Organizations, Community Based Teams/Groups & Organizations
- Group C    For-Profit Organizations & Non-District Families, Non-District Teams/Groups, & Non-District Service Organizations

Please email [eaglefitness@fowerschools.net](mailto:eaglefitness@fowerschools.net) for inquiries and reservations



# Fowler Public Schools Directory

## **FOWLER HIGH SCHOOL**

700 S. Main Street | P.O. Box 407  
Fowler, MI 48835  
989-593-2250

## **WALDRON ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL**

11214 W. Kent Street  
Fowler, MI 48835  
989-593-2160

## **FAX NUMBER**

989-593-2358

## **SCHOOL BOARD EMAIL**

[schoolboard@fowlerschools.net](mailto:schoolboard@fowlerschools.net)

## **DISTRICT WEBSITE**

<https://fowlerschools.net/>

## **HS ATHLETICS WEBSITE**

<https://fowlereagles.net/>

# 2023 Board of Education Meeting Dates

Monday, January 9, 2023

Monday, January 30, 2023 Board Retreat

Monday, February 13, 2023

Monday, March 13, 2023

Monday, April 10, 2023

Monday, May 8, 2023

Monday, June 12, 2023 – Budget Hearing

Monday, June 19, 2023

Monday, July 10, 2023

Monday, August 14, 2023

Monday, September 11, 2023

Monday, October 9, 2023

Monday, November 13, 2023

Monday, December 11, 2023

Monday, January 8, 2024

Non-Profit Organization

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