

Linking Family & Community to Pathways



Fairfield Community Schools are Making it Happen!



WE ARE a rural school district of 2,100 students in southeastern Elkhart County comprised of three townships supporting three elementary schools and one junior-senior high school. Two of our schools are Title I schools with 24% of the district eligible for free-reduced lunch.

OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES are incredibly supportive of our schools and their co-curricular and extra-curricular programs. 24% of students are language minority representing the varied backgrounds within our community. 7% of students transfer to us from outside the district.

OUR TEACHERS have been opening their classrooms to business partnerships, project-based learning, and greater inquiry practices with students. The last two years, all district teachers have been effective or highly effective in our evaluation process.

IN OUR OWN WORDS

“As we attempt to prepare all students for their respective futures, there is no more important partnership than the school working with the family. Add to that the expertise and opportunities provided by teaming with the business and civic community, and the world is opened up for students.”

-- Steve Thalheimer, Superintendent

OUR PROMISING PRACTICE improves family and community engagement through the commitment to connect more to the needs of families in the district while also forming business-education partnerships with local firms within the district and surrounding towns. The goal is to be responsive to the needs of families within the district as we prepare students for their respective 12+ pathways.

OUR STEPS Several initiatives have helped us to connect to our families and the community. In the spring of 2015, the district started a Business-Education Forum to build authentic partnerships for real-world exposure to students and teachers. In the fall of 2016 the Forum conducted an exchange of a dozen businesses sending representatives to the schools and over 40 educators visiting the businesses. Fairfield Schools has also committed to having Junior Achievement be part of the social studies curriculum in grades K-8. Family input was sought in the reconfiguration of a K-6 school to a K-8 building with a pre-vocational emphasis. During the 2015-2016 school year, all three elementary schools conducted a family STEAM night in conjunction with the ETHOS Center. In addition, guidance counselors and administrators meet with all incoming freshmen and parents to discuss high school options and explain Fairfield Junior-Senior High School's Early College program.