

FRMA families,

Please take a moment to read these messages:

**Calendar:**

January 19- No School for Students- Martin Luther King Jr. Day- District Closed

January 20- Late Start Tuesday (8:30 A.M.-2:30 P.M)

**Poem Reading at Aurora's David L. Pierce Center**

Our 8th grade students were invited to read their *Where I'm From* poems on Saturday, January 17th from 10:00 AM to noon for the City of Aurora's Annual Winter Garden of Youth K-12 Art Exhibit at the David L. Pierce Center, 20 E. Downer Place, 3rd Floor Public Art Gallery. The event is the closing reception for the City of Aurora's Annual Winter Garden of Youth K-12 Art Exhibit. Parents are welcome to attend to support their student and the 8th grade team.

**All Youth Leadership Project- Spring 2026**

The Resilience Education Center (REC) welcomes 6th-8th grade students to register for the All Youth Leadership Project program. The program will be from January 26-April 30 from Monday-Thursday, 3:00 P.M-5:30 P.M. Students will be provided with a snack and transportation will be provided to all FRMA students from FRMA to the REC, but if a student doesn't normally qualify for the bus, a parent/guardian must pick up the student when the program ends at the REC at 5:30 p.m.

Please use [this link to register](#) your child to the program or if you need help registering your student, please contact Ms. Hernandez, Parent Liaison at: (630) 299-7177 before January 19.

**Message from Mr. Thompson, School Counselor**

8th Grade High School Course Selection: Counselors from EAHS will be coming to FRMA to meet with rising freshmen on Wednesday, January 21 during 1st period to discuss the course selection process, review high school graduation requirements, and present on all that EAHS has to offer. Students will then be expected to enter their elective requests through StudentVue. Instructions on how to enter course requests can be found here: [How to Step by Step Video and Guide](#)

On Wednesday, January 28, students will meet with a high school counselor to review their course requests for 9th grade. I will be available on both dates to answer questions and to assist students with their course choices. To get a head start on reviewing available courses, please refer to the EAHS course catalog [here](#)

Upward Bound Program: There are two Upward Bound programs available to 8th grade students which will start the summer after their 8th grade year:

Waubonsee: Waubonsee's Upward Bound program provides FREE support for college readiness and has an office at EAHS. The program coordinator, Elisa Nino, will be presenting to all 8th grade students during their science class on Wednesday, February

11th. Applications are currently available in my office, so please encourage your student to stop by and see me if they are interested in applying. Applications can be submitted directly to me and I will send them to Ms. Nino. More information can be found [here](#)

**Northern Illinois University:** NIU's Upward Bound program is a FREE college preparatory program that provides academic counseling, skill development, general preparation and placement for students who plan to continue their education after high school. Students are not required to attend NIU after high school to be part of the Upward Bound Program. The NIU program has a 6 week summer residency requirement in which students are required to live on campus. Applications are currently available in my office- encourage your student to stop by and grab one from me. NIU has shared that there are only a handful of spaces available for new applicants, so if your student is interested, please have them see me. More information about NIU's Upward Bound program can be found [here](#).

#### **Coffee with the Principal-Virtual Presentation for 8th Grade families**

Just a reminder if there are 8th grade parents that weren't able to attend the in-person meeting on Friday, we will have the same information being presented by our School Counselor and Parent Liaison through Google Meets. Please use the link below if you would like to attend on Tuesday, January 20 from 5:30 P.M-6:30 P.M

<https://meet.google.com/xww-rrmg-uqi> Or dial: (US) +1 925-794-0081 PIN: 762 594 316#

#### **English Classes for Parents**

East Aurora School District 131 is partnering with Waubonsee Community College for parents that are interested in improving their English proficiency. For any questions about these free classes, please contact Anne Castellanos, World Language Coordinator at: (630) 299-7318 or [acastellanos@d131.org](mailto:acastellanos@d131.org) Classes will be at the Resilience Education Center, 417 Fifth St, Aurora, IL from February-May on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-8 p.m.

Please submit your interest in participating in an English course by Friday, January 23. Submitting [this form](#) indicates interest only. All submissions will be reviewed. Final acceptance will be communicated by Friday, January 30.

#### **Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee (BPAC)**

There will be a BPAC meeting at the Belle Salle Banquets, 1920 E. New York St., Aurora, IL on January 22 from 6:00 P.M.-7:30 P.M. There will also be a retreat for parents and teens on Saturday, January 31, 2026 from 8:30 A.M.-11:30 A.M. at the Admin Center, 310 Seminary Ave, but there currently is a waitlist. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Rita Guzman, Director of Language Acquisition at: [rguzman@d131.org](mailto:rguzman@d131.org) or (630) 299-7300

### **2025-2026 Yearbook Orders**

There's still time if you would like to order a yearbook, please use [this link to order online](#). Yearbooks are currently \$23 until January 31st and will then be \$25 from February 1 through March 1st. Our yearbook ID Code is: 14465426

### **Robotics Learning Opportunity**

STEM Ignite will be giving students the opportunity to work hands on with robots, learning about the VEX IQ system. There is currently room in the club for more students to participate. The club meets every Thursday from 2:30-4:00 p.m. and a snack is provided.

If your child is interested in joining, please email Mr. Valek at [bvaled@d131.org](mailto:bvaled@d131.org). Current members do not need to sign up again. Mr. Valek can also answer any questions you might have about the program.

Have a great 3-day weekend!

Brian Valek  
Principal  
Fred Rodgers Magnet Academy  
[bvaled@d131.org](mailto:bvaled@d131.org)