

**Fruitport Schools Family Groups**  
*submitted by Maribeth Clarke, Administrative Assistant, Fruitport Community Schools*



“Family Groups” are new to Shettler this year. A family group consists of a classroom teacher, another adult, and 20-23 students. There are 3-4 students from each grade, kindergarten to fifth grade. Every staff member in the building belongs to a family, from the classroom teachers to support staff, to noon supervisors, everyone is part of a “family.”



Every Wednesday from 10:20-11:00 a.m., the entire school transitions to their family groups. The principal plays the song “We are Family” as a signal for the fifth graders to pick up the kindergarteners and 1st graders, and the second, third, and fourth graders just go on their own to their family group classroom. At 11:00, the song “We are Family” plays as a signal to end the family group time. Students then walk back to class.

The first few sessions were focused on building community. They came up with a family name, developed a secret handshake, took a photo, made a pennant with their family name and members’ names, and set goals for themselves. After that,



they will take a few sessions to review school expectations: **Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe.**

These families stay together until they leave 5th grade and will get new kindergarteners each year. Students will see familiar faces throughout the building, not just in the classroom. All older students, not just student leaders, will become mentors. This is also an opportunity to incorporate social-emotional learning and mindfulness. We are excited to build and strengthen relationships with our students and staff.

**Date Night 2019**  
*by Heidi Tice*

The Fruitport Leo Club will be providing child care again this year. They call them date nights. Do you need a night to go shopping for Christmas presents, go see a movie, have a nice dinner or just a break from the kiddos? We have the answer. On the following Friday evening you can drop off your kids with confidence and have some time to yourselves. November 29, 2019, December 6, 2019 and December 20, 2019 at Fruitport Congregational Church on the corner of Park & 8th. The kiddos will eat dinner, play organized games, make crafts and have a snack before pick up time. Drop off is at 5:00 pm and pick up is at 9:00pm. Donations are appreciated and used for our ramp building project. For more information and sign up please call Lion Heidi Tice at (231) 865-3151. The Fruitport Leo Club is always here to help our community.



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