

Why Families Choose Fruitport Community Schools

Choosing the right school district is one of the most significant decisions families make for their children. At Fruitport Community Schools, we are proud to provide an exceptional education grounded in academic excellence, exceptional opportunities, and a caring, supportive community. Families choose Fruitport because here, every child is known, supported, and given the tools needed to succeed.

Academic Excellence Across All Grade Levels: Fruitport Community Schools is committed to providing rigorous, high-quality instruction from the earliest grades, with strong early childhood programs, through high school. The District’s elementary schools consistently rank among the top schools in Muskegon County, earning recognition as Reward Schools by the Department of Education. The District has also received acknowledgment by the U.S. News & World Report with schools on the list of Best Elementary Schools in America. Shettler Elementary School has been honored with the Literacy Leadership Award from TalentFirst for higher proficiency scores and growth on the M-STEP assessment. TalentFirst is an alliance of CEO’s across a 13 county area in Western Michigan. Beach Elementary has consistently been one of the top performing elementary schools in Muskegon County for many years, and Edgewood Elementary is making tremendous gains, demonstrating the District’s commitment to student achievement at every grade level.

Academic growth continues through the middle school, where students are making measurable progress on state assessments, and at Fruitport High School, which has seen three (3) consecutive years of improvement on the SAT assessment. High school students also benefit from Advanced Placement (AP) courses, dual enrollment opportunities with local colleges, and career and technical education pathways, ensuring they are well-prepared for post-secondary success, whether in college, skilled trades, or the military.

This year, Fruitport High School was recognized as the only school in Muskegon County, and the only school amongst neighboring Ottawa County districts, to have more than one National Merit Scholar. This included a student who earned a scholarship exceeding \$400,000 to Princeton University to study pre-medicine with a major in astrophysical sciences and a minor in mathematics.

Additionally, the District’s state-of-the-art robotics lab provides hands-on experience in engineering, coding, and problem-solving, fostering innovative and critical thinking skills that prepare students for the challenges of the 21st century. Fruitport is recognized as a leader across the State, hosting regional qualifier competitions, while also serving as the host school for the First Tech Challenge State Championship tournament held in Muskegon.

Athletics, Arts, and Extracurricular Programs: Fruitport students excel not only academically, but also in athletics and the arts. From teams that make deep runs into MHSAA state tournaments to conference championships, our student-athletes demonstrate leadership, teamwork, and discipline while bringing our community together. Our athletic teams have produced fifteen (15) team conference championships, nine (9) team district championships, three (3) regional championships, twenty-two (22) team and individual GMAA champions, thirty-three (33) all-state athletes, one (1) dream team athlete, twenty-seven (27) academic all-state teams, seventy-eight (78) academic all-state athletes, and one (1) academic all-american within the last five (5) years.

In addition, the Fruitport Equestrian Team recently took first place at the Michigan Interscholastic Horsemanship Association’s (MIHA) regional championship, and will advance to compete for a state championship at the Midland Fairgrounds in October 2025. Our tradition of excellence in programs such

as these continues. Our award-winning fine arts programs—including band, choir, and theater—provide students with opportunities to express their creativity and showcase their talents. Our band and choir programs continue to earn Division I ratings at various state competitions, and our theater program produces some of the best student productions around. The marching band, performing arts, and visual arts programs are community favorites, underscoring the importance of fine arts in shaping well-rounded students.

Safe, Modern Learning Environments: Thanks to strong community support and careful fiscal planning, Fruitport continues to make significant investments in our facilities. The voter-approved new and renovated high school, state-of-the-art Performing Arts Center, updated athletic complex, and secure entrances across the district provide safe, inspiring environments for learning and growth.

In addition, a strong partnership exists with Fruitport Township Police and Fire, and other public safety agencies. The District has recently adopted an updated Emergency Operations Plan that incorporates the Standard Response Protocol, and aligns with Michigan State Police guidelines for school safety. An added bi-directional amplification system at our high school, and an emergency radio network that connects directly to the Michigan Public Safety Communications System, Central Dispatch, and public safety officials provides the highest level of emergency communication seen anywhere in schools in the State of Michigan. The safety of the District’s students and staff is paramount.

Through fiscally responsible budgeting and long-term planning, these improvements are made sustainably. The District remains committed to being outstanding stewards of the public funds entrusted to the District, while providing the best, high-quality education for every student. A strong, healthy fund balance, and conservative saving and budgeting, are in place at the District. For four (4) straight years, Fruitport Community Schools has been assigned the best fiscal indicator score a school can be assigned! The District is well positioned to continue building upon its success. Technology and safety upgrades, supported by the Muskegon County Technology and Security Regional Enhancement Millage, including 1:1 student devices, and strategic facility investments support an innovative, connected learning environment that prepares students for the future.

A True Community: Perhaps what sets Fruitport apart is our sense of community. Families, staff, and local partners come together to support students at every level. Programs such as early literacy initiatives, counseling and wellness supports, and career exploration opportunities ensure that every child is cared for and equipped for success.

Fruitport also maintains a continued focus on student engagement and attendance, consistently ranking among the top schools in Muskegon County for fewest chronically absent students. The active involvement of students and families in school programs demonstrates the true community feeling that defines Fruitport Community Schools, creating an environment where everyone is valued, supported, and engaged.

Looking Ahead: Fruitport Community Schools continue to invest in innovation while staying true to the traditions that define us. Families who join our district can be confident their children will receive a well-rounded education that prepares them for a bright future. At Fruitport Community Schools, we are more than a district, we are a family. We invite you to experience the pride, tradition, and excellence that make Fruitport the right choice for your child’s education. Thank you for choosing Fruitport Community Schools!

Respectfully,
Jason J. Kennedy
Superintendent



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Editor Comment:
The Baxters are serving in a dangerous part of the world, at their own expense. A financial donation to them of any amount would be encouraging and appreciated.