



Publication
of the
**Freeland Community
School District**
710 Powley Drive
Freeland, MI 48623

District Office
989.695.5527

Freeland Learning Center
989.695.5721

Freeland Elementary School
989.695.5371

Freeland Middle School
989.692.4032

Freeland High School
989.695.2586

School Website:
www.freelandschools.net

District Mission Statement

The purpose of the Freeland Community School District is to prepare students to be successful adults by providing a challenging curriculum that connects students' lives to their future in a safe and supportive environment.

The Evolution of Freeland Elementary School

Over the summer of 2017, the Freeland Community School District moved the 2nd grade classrooms from their home at the Freeland Learning Center to their current location at Freeland Elementary School. There was just not enough room at the Learning Center. Though this has helped greatly at what is now a Young Fives -1st grade building, the 2nd - 6th grade Elementary School is very full. To address this issue, several steps are being taken that include:

The space currently being used by the District's Business Office and Technology Department is in the process of being moved to create a new classroom in Freeland Elementary School for the 2019-2020 school year. To allow for this to occur, the elementary stage is being removed to accommodate our need for maintenance storage space that is being lost at the end of a line of "dominoes" as we try to accommodate the need for space in the building.

Additionally, we will not be able to house all of our 2nd and 3rd grade classrooms in the same hallway, and will likely house some of the 3rd grade classrooms in the 4th & 5th grade wing. We are also planning on adding student bathrooms off the FES cafeteria to assist in the challenge caused by the lack of bathrooms for the nearly 750 students housed in the building.

These improvements, to address our significant space needs, are able to occur thanks to the voter approved Sinking Fund that our community has provided to our schools. We continue to be very appreciative of that investment Freeland has made in our children.

In addition, the District is expecting to move our 6th grade classes to a much earlier start that closer aligns to the secondary (7-12) schedule for the 2019-2020 school year.



Sign of the Times

Thanks to a \$40,000 grant from the Frankenmuth Credit Union Foundation for Our Communities Board, and the work of Higher Image, an electronic sign has been constructed in front of Freeland High School/Middle School. We are very thankful and excited to have this great communication tool.

Though this will be a big change at Freeland Elementary and for our District as a whole, we see this as a positive move that will result in many benefits for the District, such as:

- allowing for 6-8 curricular work to more easily occur;
- alleviating the amount of traffic before and after the current school day at FES;
- providing a more appropriate lunch time for 6th grade students;
- better allowing 6th grade students to participate in cross country and wrestling;
- assisting with evening out the student numbers on our bus routes;
- and helping with the transition of the 6th graders to the middle school.

This would not involve any kind of physical movement of grades, and would strictly be a schedule change for our 6th grade students. Should this be a path we choose to

follow, I would expect a decision by February, at the latest. This would likely include a significant change in start times for our 6th grade students, as well as a minor schedule changes that impacts other grade levels.

If you have thoughts as to problems this may present, please bring them to a building principal or to me, as there may be things you have thought of that need to be addressed as such a change is implemented.

The Board of Education continues to work to make the most of the facilities we have as we plan for the future, making the best of the space we have while striving to provide safe, secure, and updated facilities for our students.

If you have any questions (or would like a tour of our facilities), please contact Matt Cairym at cairy@m@freelandschools.net or 989.695.5527.

Freeland High School News

Save the Date

The Freeland Chamber of Commerce is holding the third Annual Scholarship Dinner Raffle this year on February 23 at the Horizons Conference Center in Saginaw. The Dueling Pianos will be playing throughout the night, from 6:30-11:00 p.m. to make for a night full of fun! Tickets are \$60 per person including dinner and drinks.

Each year, the Freeland Chamber of Commerce gives out a number of scholarships to our own FHS students. Profits from the dinner go directly to this scholarship fund.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.freelandcommunitychamber.com and at participating locations in town: State Farm Insurance, Isabella Bank, and Pat's Food Center. Tickets are going fast and are limited. Buy yours before they're gone!



Changing Thoughts and Challenging Behaviors

Our SLS chapter at Freeland High School has been busy this year. "Changing Thoughts and Challenging Behaviors" is the SLS motto. SLS has over 50 members and this year they have organized the food drive and chose monthly themes educating our school on Inclusion, Giving, Mental Health, and Positivism. In addition, Ashley Harvey wrote and received a Strive for a Safer Drive grant of \$1,000 for our Chapter to help promote safe driving habits this year. FHS is glad to have the leadership that SLS provides for our students.

Successful HOSA Regional Competition

Congratulations to the following Freeland High School Students for winning in the HOSA Regional Competition:

Maddy Boyes

1st Place - Prepared Speaking

Lauren Henderson

1st Place - Existing Medical Information

Kara Holt

3rd Place – Dental Terminology

Elli Howard

3rd Place - CERT Skills

Ashley Schmidt

3rd Place - CERT Skills



Laura Henderson, Elli Howard, and Ashley Schmidt proudly show off the medals they earned at the HOSA Regional Competition.

Reminder from the High School Attendance Office

When your student is absent, for any reason, please call the attendance office, **989.695.5525**, by 8 a.m. to report the absence.

Please state your name, the student's name and the reason that your student will not be in school that day.

Upon returning to classes if you have not already notified the office of your student's absence, they will need a signed note that includes the date that you are writing the note, first and last name of the student, specific date(s)/day(s)/hour(s) missed.

Athletic Website & Schedules www.freelandathletics.com

Schedules, scores, articles, information, pictures and much more.

Call 989.692.4030 to hear the day's athletic events and learn if there are any cancellations.

Check us out on Facebook!



Facebook is a great way to keep up-to-date with upcoming events happening at the Freeland Community School District. Just search "Freeland Community School District", look for the Falcon, and click "Like".



If you are not yet set up with a Skyward account, please visit our website, www.freelandschools.net, click on Staff & Students, and then Skyward. Once on the login page, click on the "Register for Skyward Family Access" at the top of the page. You will be taken to a screen where you can enter your email address. You will then receive an email with a link to set up a new password. Please remember to check your spam folder, if the email doesn't show up in your inbox.

Freeland Middle School News

After School Clubs Take Flight at FMS

This year at Freeland Middle School, we have many dedicated staff members taking time after school to provide a variety of opportunities to our students.

Mr. Duley, our middle school counselor, has facilitated three clubs this year. Fishing club took place this fall, and drew over 20 students to engage in fishing experiences together.

Mr. Duley also runs a grief club for any middle schooler who has experienced a time of grief, and a One United Club that supports FMS students in joining together to support and encourage one another.

Mrs. Gotts received full funding from Ace-Saginaw Paving Company to start her Wellness Club this year. Club members provide our students and community opportunities to engage in healthy lifestyle choices.

For example, at a recent dodgeball tournament, Wellness Club students had a healthy food stand where they were giving away healthy fruits and water. These items were a huge hit.

Mrs. Hannon continues to work with our Travel Club students, and is currently planning for the trip



Fishing club was one of many new clubs that took place this year at Freeland Middle School. The new club drew over 20 students.

to New York City with middle school students this spring. Finally, Mrs. Mehnert is running Math Club once again, which provides students an opportunity to participate in several math competitions around the region.



Left, Mr. Townsend and Mr. LaFond pose for a picture during the FMS staff festive holiday sweater competition. Right, Mrs. Bain was this year's winner for our festive holiday sweater competition.

Who's got Spirit?

The Freeland Middle School staff had a great time dressing up during the holiday season by having a staff wide festive holiday sweater competition.

The students enjoyed seeing the staff dress up so much, that the entire student body decided they also wanted to dress up for the holidays. Our FMS student body had three days of festive attire prior to the holidays to gear up for a wonderful holiday season.

Mrs. Gotts' class ended up winning our festive holiday competition this year.



Staying Up-to-Date

Parents, want to stay up-to-date on all the happenings at Freeland Middle School? Visit the Middle School Blog, "The Middle Ground": <http://fmsthemiddleground.blogspot.com/>.

Using High Quality Data as Guides for Decision Making

At Freeland Middle School, we use varied assessments to determine how our students are progressing through the curriculum, and how they are meeting the state standards each school year.

As we begin second semester, we know that testing can become very confusing and stressful. As a district, we are committed to a comprehensive assessment system. This begins with a screening tool we use in the elementary and middle school called the NWEA.

This assessment provides us a snapshot three times a year for our students in their progress in math and reading. In the spring each year, our students take the

M-Step which is an end of year assessment to show how our students have progressed towards meeting the state standards for that school year.

Beginning in 8th grade, our students also take the College Board assessment, the PSAT. They will take the PSAT in 8th, 9th, and 10th grade. In 11th grade, they take the SAT.

This assessment determines their college readiness level, and provides teachers valuable data to use in their classrooms to better meet student needs in the postsecondary world.

We value that our district focuses in on using high

quality data measures to guide our decision making as we work to meet the diverse student needs in our district.



Freeland Middle School News



Some of the participants of the Feliz-Navi Dodgeball Game.



Feliz Navi-Dodgeball, a FMS Tradition

Every year, Freeland Middle School hosts an after school fundraiser called Feliz-Navi Dodgeball. The student council works hard to put on a great event for students, parents, and community members.

Typically 8-10 dodgeball teams come together to compete for the championship during this dodgeball tournament. The event is fun for all, and is a great way to end our semester making memories with one another.

Focusing on American Sign Language

At a recent Board of Education Meeting, our Deaf and Hard of Hearing teacher, Ms. Granberry, and seventh grade student, Wyatt Vondette, presented to the board about our new middle school exploratory, ASL Explorations.

This class is offered to all seventh grade students. It is a nine week course that supports students in their understanding of basic American Sign Language, as well as teaching our students more about deaf and hard of hearing culture.

Our students have to run through simulations where they listen to videos with little to no sound, and the room is typically completely silent to reinforce using American Sign Language as a primary form of communication.

The positive feedback our students have had with this class has been overwhelming, and we are so ex-



Ms. Granberry and Wyatt Vondette presenting at a recent board meeting about ASL Explorations.

cited to be able to be able to provide students an opportunity to take this class.



Eighth grade students, Faith Carr and Morgan Hasse, study together during one of their Exam Cram sessions.

Successful Exam Cram for Students

With every end to the semester comes a time when our students begin to prepare for semester exams. For the last five years, our Falcon Parent Support Organization, has supported students in the middle school by hosting an Exam Cram about a week before exams begin.

This event is a full evening of fun and studying for all students. This year, we had well over 150 students attend the exam cram.

We were able to have over twenty give away items, all donated by our parents, and our students had a great time studying and learning together.

Mark Your Calendars...

March 25 - March 29, No School - Spring Break

April 19 - No School, Good Friday

April 25 - No School, Professional Development for Teachers

April 26 - No School, Walleye Festival

May 27 - No School, Memorial Day

June 14 - Last Day of School, Early Dismissal for all Students

HS/MS: 11:15 a.m., ES: 12:26 p.m., LC: 12:36 p.m.



Freeland Little League Season of Giving

In the spirit of giving, the Freeland Little League donated \$710 to the Freeland Schools to cover unpaid meal debts for those in need.

Thank you Eric Gladwish (pictured with Freeland Community School District Food Service Director Caila Wellsted) and the Freeland Little League for the generous donation.

Freeland Elementary School News

New Faces in the Hallways of Freeland Elementary School

Jordan Hayes - 5th Grade Teacher

Miss Jordan (Jordie) Hayes is a recent Alma College graduate. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education with a focus in Mathematics and Language Arts.



Jordan Hayes

She was a member of the Alma College Cheer and STUNT team. During her time as a college athlete, she contributed to the programs two National Championships.

Jordan is currently a 5th grade teacher and is looking forward to growing as an educator and helping students reach their full potential.

Jeff Gusler - 2nd Grade Teacher

My name is Jeff Gusler and I have come from the

Midland Academy where I taught 1st grade since 2009. I received my teaching certificate from Spring Arbor University in February of that same year.



Jeff Gusler

I have been married to my wife Karla for 28 years and we have 2 children. Alex is 24 and Julianna is 22. I enjoy doing things together with my family and have a lot of fun all year with them.

I have many interests outside of teaching. The one I enjoy the most is motorcycling. I enjoy riding and taking trips with my wife and friends. I am also a certified rider coach for the MSF safety course offered through Delta College.

I am looking forward to working with the team of teachers and staff at Freeland Elementary School and

getting to know the students and families!



Annette Moore

Annette Moore- Secretary

My name is Annette Moore and I am excited to join the Freeland family as a secretary in the FES Office.

I have lived in Freeland for 9 years and have two boys in the Freeland schools. I enjoy spending time with my family, watching my boys participate in sports, and crafting. I look forward to my new adventure!

We would also like to welcome
Paraprofessionals Tammy Beyer
and Nicole McGeathy to the staff at FES!

Thank You FHS Teaching Cadets



Students from FHS have been working with elementary students for several months as part of the Teaching Cadet Program.

They have been learning a lot in the classrooms working with the teachers and students. The young men and women have taken on many responsibilities like teaching mini lessons and working one on one or with small groups of students. They also serve as great role models for our young students.

Elementary School 2018 Spelling Bee

On Tuesday, December 18, twenty 5th and 6th grade students participated in the Elementary School Spelling Bee in front of family, teachers, and classmates.

After many rounds, 1st place awards were achieved by Nora Franklin (6th grade), and Tucker Hileman (5th grade), and 2nd place awards were achieved by Mason Bader (6th grade), and Riley Strait (5th grade).

Congratulations to all of the students that participated!



Congratulations to the Freeland Elementary School Spelling Bee Award Winners: Nora Franklin, Mason Bader, Tucker Hileman, and Riley Strait.



FES Spelling Bee Participants

Mason Bader
Brendan Chislea
Kaiden Doak
Grace Erickson
Nora Franklin
Bradyn Hayes

Tucker Hileman
Cody Hill
Mia Maxwell
Tucker Mika
Bailey Miller
Rowan Miller

Braeden Moore
Lauryn Myers
Sydney Leslie
Adyson Knodel
Kayden Rose
Delaney Seeberger

Sydney Seymore
Riley Strait
Rachel Svetic
Samuel Yaw

Freeland Elementary School News

Student Council Members Keeping Busy

The 6th grade student council at Freeland Elementary School has had a busy year so far. In November we opened the school store.

On Thursdays during lunch the elementary students are able to purchase school supplies that they may need. We also kicked off our first popcorn day with donations going to a local family in need.

In December we sponsored the annual food drive to help out area churches. Over 90 boxes of food were collected and distributed to help the effort.

We also had a popcorn sale and proceeds from that will be distributed to those in need. Donations from



The 2018-2019 Sixth Grade Student Council.

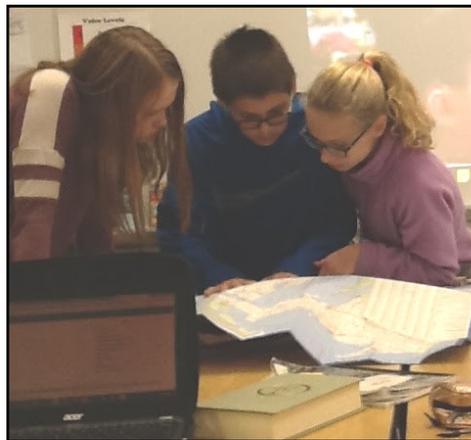
popcorn days held throughout the school year are donated to worthy causes and those in need.

Mystery Skype in the Classroom

Sixth grade Social Studies curriculum focuses on making global connections and world geography. What better way to connect students globally than to Skype with other classes around the world? That was what the thought was behind Mystery Skype sessions held each week in Ms. Belanger's classroom.

Students sign up weekly for jobs and post questions to a Google Form. The students are then assigned jobs for the Skype sessions. The questions that the students compile during the week are then asked during the Skype sessions. More questions are added as students begin to figure out where the other school is located. The questions that the students ask strictly dealing with geography and can only be in a Yes or No format.

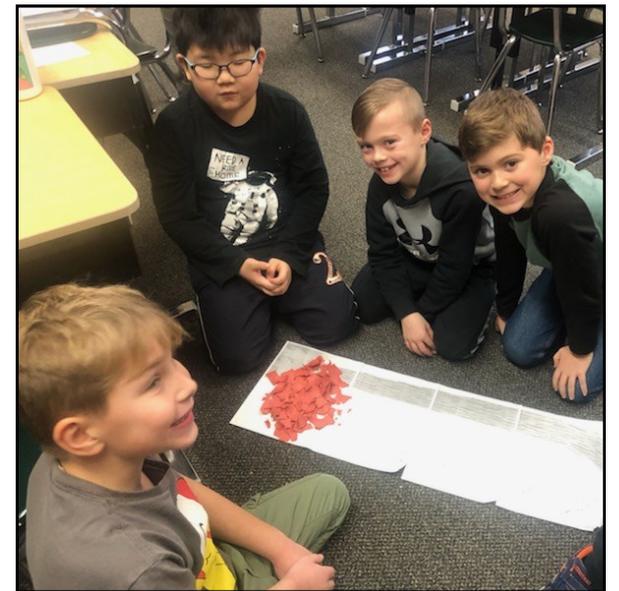
The ultimate goal is to figure out the country, state, and city where the other school is located. Once that



Sixth graders participate in a class project that focused on making global connections and learning world geography.

goal is obtained, the students share information about their country, state, city, and school, learning about the interests of the students they are interacting with.

This activity has opened the eyes to many students and we have shared with many classes within the continental United States, Canada, Mexico, Europe and Asia. We have even established a pen pal connection with students in a city right outside of Athens, Greece.



Science fun with Mrs. Dobson

Students in Mrs. Dobson's class create investigations simulating rocks tumbling in a river, during a recent Science lesson. From the results of their investigation, they constructed explanations for why there is sand the beach.

Volunteer Reading Mentors Needed at Freeland Elementary School

The READ Association of Saginaw County has collaborated with Freeland Schools for many years, providing volunteer reading mentors to work on literacy skills with students in first and second grade. The program began in the Freeland Learning Center and expanded to Freeland Elementary this school year. This allows children in grades 2-4 to receive literacy help as well.

With this move and increasing student population, the READ Association and Freeland Elementary can use more Reading Mentors. Consider volunteering your time one hour a week to make a difference in the life of a

child. Learning to read in elementary school helps kids "read to learn" for the rest of their life. Some children need a little extra help in getting to that point, that's where Reading Mentors come in.

Mentors give students extra practice and time to build their skills and self-confidence in reading. Becoming a READ volunteer is simple. Start by filling out an application at www.READinSaginaw.org or in the Elementary or Learning Center office. After the application is received by READ and processed, a one hour training session will provide you will the information

needed to become a successful mentor. For more information, please call the READ Office at 989-755-8402 and ask about our program in Freeland.

The READ Association of Saginaw County is a local literacy program founded in 1966 whose simple mission to help elementary students improve their reading skills and discover the joy of reading. Helping children learn to read, through a positive relationship with a mentor, is one of the best investments someone can make to ensure every child's success.

Freeland Learning Center News

PBIS Fun with Learning Center Students

One of the big focuses at the Learning Center is teaching students positive behavior expectations throughout the building.

The goal of our school-wide Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports (PBIS) system is to ensure a consistent approach to how we teach and reinforce appropriate student behaviors to enhance our school environment.

Throughout the year, our staff explicitly defines, teaches, and models desired behaviors all around the school, such as the hallways, cafeteria, playground, bathrooms, etc. A major component of any PBIS system is positive reinforcement.

At the Learning Center, our staff recognizes positive behavior by handing out SOAR slips when students are caught making good choices and meeting the expectations outlined in our behavior matrix. Each week, one student from each class is recognized for having earned a SOAR slip.

Before sending students off for the holiday break, a school-wide assembly was held to celebrate the students' positive behavior so far this year. Two stu-



A great time was had by all at a recent school-wide assembly to celebrate positive behavior.

dents from each class had the opportunity to participate in a fun gift wrapping activity where they used teamwork to wrap their teacher in front of the student body. The entire school then sang a couple of holiday favorites before receiving a candy cane as they exited the gym.

We are very proud of our youngest Falcons!

Kindergarten Registration

Thursday, February 28
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Freeland Learning Center

The Freeland Learning Center would like to invite the families of children who will be age 5 by December 1, 2019, to attend our Young Five/Kindergarten registration.

Plan on 60 minutes to complete all of the required components. Please bring an **original certified** birth certificate, proof of Freeland residency, and Immunization record.

Children with a birth date between September 1 and December 1 are eligible to enroll with a completed and signed waiver.

The registration process can be expedited by pre-completing the registration forms found on the Freeland Community School District website (www.freelandschools.net) and bringing a copy of the required forms that are listed above.

Non-Discrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity

The Freeland Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation or transgender identity), disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected category (collectively "Protected Classes"), in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities. Please see policy 1422/3122/4122.

Non-Discrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity

The Freeland Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation or transgender identity), disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected category (collectively "Protected Classes"), in its programs and activities. The Board also does not discriminate on the basis of Protected Classes in its employment policies and practices as they related to students and does not tolerate harassment of any kind. Equal educational opportunities shall be available to all students, without regard to the Protected Classes age (unless age in a factor necessary to the normal operation or the achievement of any legitimate objective of the program/activity), place of residence within the boundaries of the District, or social or economic background, to learn through the curriculum offered in this District. Educational programs shall be designed to meet the varying needs of all students. Please see policy 2260.

Family Literacy Night hosts over 70 families



In an effort to help parents support their children as readers and writers, the Learning Center hosted a Family Literacy Night on October 23. The teaching staff facilitated a variety of literacy-based stations to provide a clear understanding of the current grade level expectations, and parents walked away with a variety of activities and strategies to use at home with their child. In addition, every student in attendance picked out a free book to add to their collection at home.

Freeland Learning Center News

Monthly Visits with Mr. Duley at the LC

During their time at the Learning Center, our youngest Falcons have a tremendous amount to learn. The majority of our students are attending school for the first time and adapting to being "on" all day long.

In addition to the academic learning that occurs, and just as important, students have a lot going on with their social and emotional development. Coupled with our building-wide PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) efforts, such as weekly lessons and prize drawings, daily announcements, and SOAR slips, the Learning Center enlists the support of Pete Duley, K-8 Counselor.

Each month, Mr. Duley visits every classroom to teach and reinforce different character traits and problem-solving skills. Kindness, honesty, and perseverance are just few of the underlying values that are emphasized, but Mr. Duley also helps students learn how to navigate peer relationships, including sharing, saying no, expressing emotion, tattling, and fair play.

The delivery of his message varies from a read aloud and class discussion to a project, or even an activity involving role play. The students love the



Pete Duley, K-8 Counselor, reads a book to students at the Learning Center. Mr. Duley visits every class at the LC each month to teach and reinforce different character traits and problem-solving skills.

visits and look forward to their time with Mr. Duley each month.

Sign up at sendmoneytoschool.com to Track Your Child's Breakfast/lunch Account

Sendmoneytoschool.com is a great way to keep track of you child's breakfast/lunch account.

Here are some of the many functions that are available to you with this website:

- Set up an alert when your child's balance drops below a specified amount.
- Pay for school meals
- Check account balances

- View purchase history
- Transfer money

All you need to get started is your child's student ID number, which can be obtained by contacting the school office.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call our nutrition services office at 989.625.2297.

Visit From the Dow/SVSU Mobile Research Van



Our first grade students spent time on Saginaw Valley State University's Mobile Research Lab (STEM Bus). The mobile lab is equipped to compliment classroom learning with

scientific studies of the Saginaw Bay Watershed as well as green chemistry, biodiversity, and alternative energy. SVSU's goal is to expose students to modern scientific research, hands-on experiments, and environmental studies to stimulate their interest, knowledge, and positive attitudes toward science.

School Calendar and Saginaw County Common Calendar available online

Visit www.freelandschools.net to view the 2019-2020 school calendar as well as the Saginaw County Common School Calendar, which lists holiday breaks for the next five (5) school years. This is a great tool for planning ahead.



Freeland Community School District 2018-2019 Board of Education Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, February 20
Wednesday, March 20
Wednesday, April 17
Wednesday, May 15
Wednesday, June 26

All meetings are held at 6 p.m. in the FES MTSS Room unless otherwise posted.

President - Kristin A. Anderson
Vice-President - Peter R. Wiltse
Treasurer - Dennis J. Argyle
Secretary - Holly M. Roenicke
Trustee - Matthew J. Phaner
Trustee - Jeffrey Kipfmiller
Trustee - Lisa Knoerr