

BISON BULLETIN

Fenton Community High School - District 100
630-766-2500 www.fenton100.org
Family Newsletter - October 2015 - Volume 13, Issue 4

Fenton High School Presents, *Up the Down Staircase*

The Fenton Drama Department is proud to present, *Up the Down Staircase* on October 22, 23 and 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lewis-Huffman Auditorium at Fenton. Tickets are five dollars and can be purchased at the door.



Taken from the popular novel by Bel Kaufman, *Up the Down Staircase* is the story of Sylvia Barrett, a first year English teacher at an inner city school with hopes of inspiring students to become writers and peeking their interest in classical literature. However, she quickly learns that this noble pursuit will have a number of obstacles from students and administration alike. Written in 1964, *Up the Down Staircase* spent 64 weeks on the New York Times Best Seller list and sold over 6 million copies. As a play, it is one of the most produced high school plays of all time, providing students with a number of memorable roles and audiences with as many laughs. Mark your calendar for Fenton's production which promises to be a wonderful evening of entertainment.

Stop Hunger Initiative

September was Hunger Action Month and the Northern Illinois Food Pantry asked everyone to "Go Orange" on September 3 to raise awareness of hunger in communities nationwide. Fenton staff members used the day to kick-off a year-long initiative to end hunger in our local community.

At the end of September, the first of several Northern Illinois Mobile Food Pantries came to Fenton to distribute food. The event was sponsored by Fenton's Applied Technology, Business, Family & Consumer Science and Art and Music Departments. Additional mobile food pantries are being sponsored and scheduled throughout the year.



At the September 28 Board of Education meeting, the Fenton Student Council presented a check for \$1,000 for the Bensenville / Wood Dale Food Pantry to help with the cost of purchasing a new truck to transport food. To raise additional funds throughout the community, the Fenton Swing Choir made donation cans that will be placed at local businesses during Homecoming Week. Our efforts will continue and anyone interested making a donation should contact Mike Mitchell at mitchellm@fenton100.org. Visit the Fenton YouTube Channel (on the Fenton website at www.fenton100.org) to view a video created by Mrs. Bray and several Fenton students that brings to light the seriousness of hunger.

**Bensenville School District 2 will host a mobile food pantry on
Saturday, October 17 from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

A Note from the Principal

Dear Fenton Families,

It is October and we have been in school for approximately four weeks. Our 2015 - 2016 enrollment numbers are set; thus, my article will focus on our student demographics. I believe this information will help parents and students understand and appreciate the student landscape that covers Fenton High School. In addition to student demographics, I will also share with you my thoughts in regards to equity.

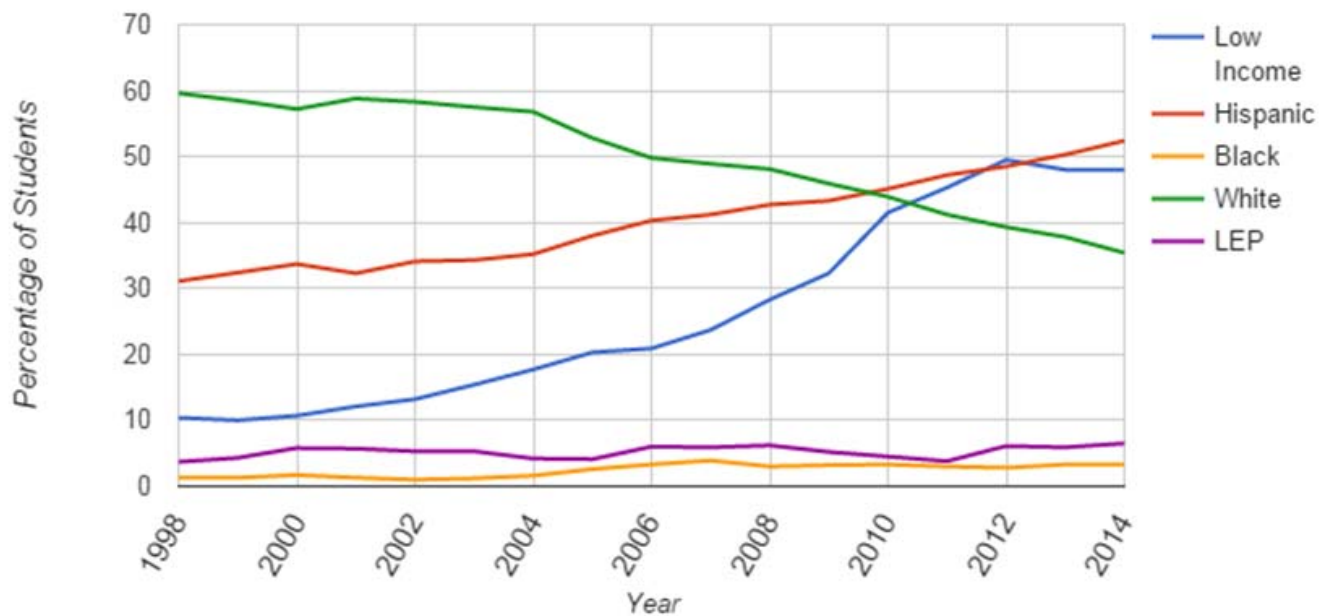
Currently, there are 1,479 students enrolled at Fenton High School. The majority of our students are Latino (57.3%) followed by white (31.7%), Asian/Pacific Islander (3.7), multiracial (3.1%), Black (2.7), and Native American (1%). In addition to race and ethnicities, 52% of our students are low income. That is one out of every two students. Low income is defined by the Illinois State Board of Education as a student who receives free or reduced school breakfast and lunch. Thirteen percent of our children receive special education services and 8.5% receive English as a Second Language and/or Bilingual services. See Chart 1 at right.

The number of low income students and families in our school has increased rapidly in the last fifteen years. See Chart 2 below. We have to make sure that all of our students are receiving the resources they need to be successful academically and socio-emotionally.

- Continued on page two

2015 Student Enrollment	1,479 students
Latino	57.30%
White	31.70%
Asian/Pacific Islander	3.70%
Multiracial	3.10%
Black	2.70%
Native American	1.00%
Low Income	52.10%
Special Education	13%
ESL/Bilingual	8.50%

Fenton Demographics 1998-2014

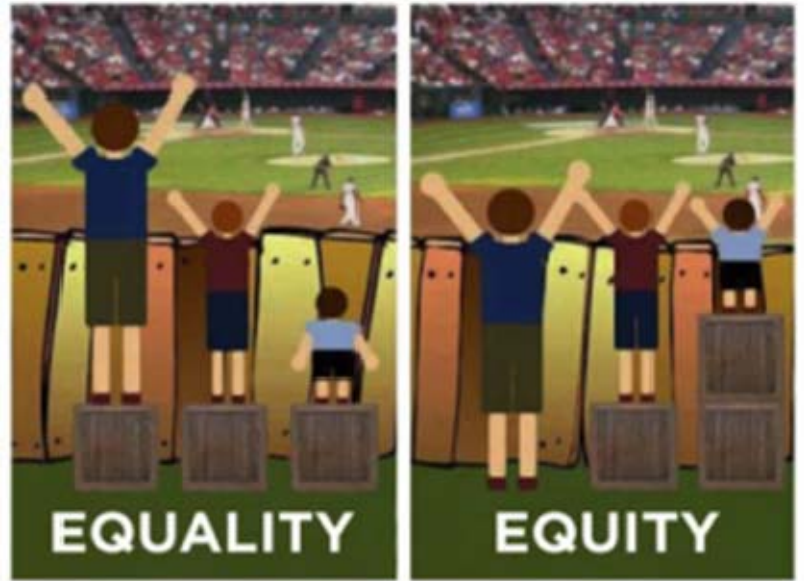


Fenton Board Member Receives Master Board Member Status

Congratulations to Fenton Community High School District 100 Board of Education Secretary, Laura Wassinger, on achieving Master Board Member status after completing courses through the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) Master Board Member Program. Laura will be honored during the DuPage Division Dinner on October 6.

A Note from the Principal, continued from page one

Some students need more interventions and resources than other students, which is okay because children have different academic needs. For many years, equality has been the norm in education. We treat all kids the same: student A receives the same as student B. Unfortunately, equality in education has not narrowed the achievement and access gaps. In recent years, the gap has widened. A better framework is equity. Equity looks at individual student needs. Equity means to accept children where they are academically and socio-emotionally and provide them with the resources they need to succeed. Equity is one of our focuses this academic school year. Our initiatives, 1:1, Literacy Across the Curriculum, Bison Time and Equal Opportunity School, fall in the equity framework. The equity diagram at the right provides a visual that explains Equality vs. Equity.



In closing, I hope you have a better understanding of our student demographic and equity, and I hope you have a better appreciation of our initiatives! Student success is our goal for all of our students.

Go Bison!
James Ongtengco

Parent - Teacher Conferences, October 29

Parent - Teacher Conferences for the fall semester will be held on Thursday, October 29 from 12:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. A letter containing an activation code will be mailed to all Fenton families by October 14.

The Fenton online appointment system, Power PTC, will open on Friday, October 16 at 9:00 a.m. and close on Monday, October 26 at 3:00 p.m. To schedule conferences, please visit the Fenton website at www.fenton100.org and access Power PTC by clicking on *Parent/Teacher Conference Sign-Up*. For assistance, please call Mrs. Brown at 630-860-6251.

Tenemos las conferencias de Padres y Maestros jueves, el 29 de octubre desde las 12:30pm hasta las 8:00pm. Familias deberían recibir una carta de Fenton High School antes del 14 de octubre, que contiene el código personal para activar su horario. Para programar sus conferencias con PowerPTC, nuestro sistema de programar conferencias en línea, vaya a nuestra página en línea www.fenton100.org y haga clic en “Parent /Teacher Conference Signup” al lado izquierdo de la página web de Fenton. Para sus conferencias ofrecemos traductores españoles para los que necesitan ayuda. Si necesita ayuda con el proceso, favor de llamar al 630-860-6251.

Senior Citizens Invited to a Free Matinee Performance of *Up the Down Staircase*



An exclusive matinee performance of *Up the Down Staircase* will be performed for Bensenville and Wood Dale senior citizens on Saturday, October 24 at 1 p.m. There is no admission charge and light refreshments will be served during intermission. Senior citizens interested in attending can make reservations by calling 630-860-8620 from October 12 - 16. Please leave a message with your name, phone number and the number of people in your party.

Yearbook Orders

Orders for the 2015 - 2016 are currently being accepted. Please visit the Fenton website at www.fenton100.org to place an order. For more information, please contact Ms. Ciupuliga at ciupuliga@fenton100.org or Mr. Cain at cain@fenton100.org.

College Corner

College Rankings and the Numbers that Matter

Welcome to the College Corner! Every month we will tackle a different topic related to college and career readiness. This month's topic is college rankings. Every September, *U.S. News and World Report* publishes a list of the years' "Best Colleges". Many factors determine the rankings such as acceptance rate, retention rate, percentage of students that are accepted that actually attend, as well as a fair amount of college politics. Students and families will often refer to this list in their college search and it is brought up in my office regularly. I always try to steer the conversation away from rankings. While certainly there are schools that have well respected programs and rankings often reflect that, what they cannot do is tell you if the school is a good fit for your son or daughter. So instead of focusing on the numbers in the rankings, I recommend looking at these numbers instead.

What is the middle 50% of accepted students' ACT and GPA? It is important that the majority of a student's application list is composed of schools that are a good academic fit and to which they would likely be accepted. Asking for the middle 50% instead of average ACT and GPA will give you a much better idea of where your student falls academically within the school.

What is the average class size? Often schools will list what their teacher to student ratio is. While this is good information, it does not tell you how large or small the average class is. This is important as some students learn better in a smaller class, while others will thrive in a lecture setting.

What is your freshman-sophomore retention rate? This number will tell you the percentage of students that returned for their sophomore year. It is a good indicator if students are happy with their choice and have the supports necessary to be successful, which makes them much less likely to transfer.

What is your four year graduation rate? Schools usually report their six year graduation rate. The goal should be to make sure that all students are graduating within four years. Ask this question to see how the school is doing at having students graduate on time.

What percentage of students have all financial need met? While all schools offer financial aid, some schools are able to provide more than others. In addition to asking this question, check out the Net Price Calculator on each school's website. It will give a good estimate of what that school will cost your family, which may be very different than the "sticker price".

These numbers are only a small part of the college search, but I think they will give you and your child much better information than any ranking ever could.

Do you have a question for the College Corner? Email your question to georgakis@fenton100.org and it may be featured in next month's Bison Bulletin. -Mrs. Georgakis, College and Career Counselor

October College Visits		10/13	University of Illinois at Chicago	10/20	Northern Illinois University
10/2	University of Illinois at Urbana 8:00 a.m.		8:00 a.m.		8:45 a.m.
	Western Illinois University 11:10 a.m.		Illinois College 8:45 a.m.		Calvin College 10:20 a.m.
10/5	Carroll University (Wisconsin) 11:10 a.m.		Lewis University 10:20 a.m.		Saint Mary's University of Minnesota 10:20 a.m.
10/7	Ball State University 10:20 a.m.		Illinois Wesleyan University 8:00 a.m.	10/22	Drake University 8:00 A.M.
10/8	Denison University 10:30 a.m.		Robert Morris University, O'Hare 8:50 a.m.		University of Tennessee, Knoxville 11:10 a.m.
	American University 12:50 p.m.	10/14	Illinois State University 11:10 a.m.		Aurora University 12:50 p.m.
	Marquette University 12:50 p.m.	10/15	Mount Mercy University 2:30 p.m.	10/23	Eastern Illinois University 11:00 a.m.
10/9	Trinity Christian College 8:30 a.m.	10/16	Central Michigan University 8:50 a.m.	10/26	College of DuPage 8:00 a.m.
10/9	Lehigh University 11:15 a.m.	10/19	University of Dayton 12:50 p.m.	10/27	Northern Michigan University 9:00 a.m.

October 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Fenton Girls Volleyball Hosts</i></p> <p>Volley for a Cure October 13 5:30 p.m. Fenton High School Proceeds benefit the Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation, Chicago</p>				1 GTEN H GBS JV 4:30 GTEN A GBS V 4:30 GVB A IC FA 4:30 GVB A IC JV 5:30 GVB A IC V 6:30	2 Orange and Blue Day FB A Aurora Central S 5:00 FB A Aurora Central V 7:15	3 GOLF A Lake Park Invite V 7:30am GCC A Lisle Invite V/JV 9:00am GVB A Ridgewood Invite JV 9:00am GS&D A IMSA JV/V 10:00am BCC A Peoria Invite V 10:30am FB A New Trier F 11:00am <i>Marching Band Competition at Knight of Champions, Prospect High School, 6:30 p.m.</i>
4	5 BSOC H GBW FB 4:30 GS&D A Proviso West JV/V 5:00 BSOC H GBW JV 6:30	6 2:00 pm Dismissal GOLF A Regionals V 9:00 GTEN A Proviso West JV 4:30 GTEN A Proviso West V 4:30	7 GVB A R-B FA 4:30 GVB A R-B FB 5:30 GVB A R-B JV 4:30 GVB A R-B V 5:30 Bison Boosters 7 pm	8 BSOC A MCS Crossover V TBA	9 Orange and Blue Day 12:08 Dismissal FB H R-B 5:00 FB H R-B V 7:15	10 GOLF Sectionals V TBA GTEN Conference JV/V TBA BCC A Elmwood Park Invite S 9am BCC A Elmwood Park Invite V 9:00am BSOC H Hinsdale Central S 1:00pm BSOC H Hinsdale Central V 3:00pm Homecoming Dance Ticket Required / No Tickets will be sold at the door
Homecoming Week See page 5 for details						
11	12 No School Columbus Day GOLF A Sectionals V TBA FB H St. Edward F 9:00am	13 2:00 pm Dismissal GOLF A Sectionals V TBA BSOC H Benet F 4:30 BSOC A Benet JV/V 4:45 GS&D A South Elgin Jv/V 5:00 GTEN A GBE V 4:30 Volley for a Cure 5:30 p.m. Hosted by girls volleyball FA: 4:30 JV: 4:30 V: 5:30	14 BSOC H GBS JV 6:15	15 BSOC A Lake Park F 4:30 BSOC A Lake Park S 6:30 BSOC H Lake Park V 4:30 GVB A Wheaton FA 4:30 GVB A Wheaton JV 4:30 GVB A Wheaton V 5:30 GS&D H DeKalb JV/V 5:00	16 GOLF A STATE V TBA BSOC H St. Joseph S 4:30 BSOC H St. Joseph V 6:30 FB H Wheaton S 5:00 FB H Wheaton V 7:15	17 GOLF A STATE V TBA SSOC A Regionals TBA GTEN A Sectionals V TBA GVB A West Chicago FA 8am BCC A Wheaton MSC S 9am BCC A Wheaton MSC V 9am GCC A Wheaton MSC JV 9am GCC A Wheaton MSC V 9am GS&D A Maine East JV 12:30 GS&D A Maine East V 12:30pm
18  Fall Choral Concert 7:00 p.m.	19 FB A IC F 4:15	20 2:00 pm Dismissal BSOC A Regionals V TBA GVB H GBS FA 4:30 GVB H GBS FB 5:30 GVB H GBS JV 4:30 GVB H GBS V 5:30 BANDARAMA 7:00 pm	21 BSOC A Regionals V TBA GS&D A R-B JV/V 5:00	22 GTEN A STATE V TBA GVB H Aurora FA 4:30 GVB H Aurora FB 5:30 GVB H Aurora JV 4:30 GVB H Aurora V 5:30	23 Orange and Blue Day BSOC A Regionals TBA GTEN A STATE V TBA FB A IC S 5:00 FB A IC V 7:15	24 BCC A Regionals V TBA GCC A Regionals V TBA BSOC A Regionals V TBA GTEN A STATE V TBA
Fall Play 7:00 p.m. Up the Down Staircase						
25	26 GVB A Regionals V TBA Board of Education Meeting 7pm	27 2:00 pm Dismissal BSOC A Sectionals V TBA GVB A Regionals V TBA	28 BSOC A Sectionals V TBA GVB A Regionals V TBA	29 No School Parent - Teacher Conferences GVB A Regionals V TBA	30 No School All Staff Institute FB First Round V TBA BSOC A Sectionals V TBA	31 BCC A Sectionals V TBA GCC A Sectionals V TBA FB First Round V TBA BSOC A Sectionals V TBA

Homecoming Week, October 5 - 10

Theme: Carnival

Monday, October 5

Bison Time Doors Revealed
Pajama Day
Ultimate Frisbee 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 6

Country/Western Day

Wednesday, October 7

Twin Day

Thursday, October 8

- Tie Dye Day
- Golf Cart Decorating, Field House, 3:30 p.m.
- Powder Puff Football Games:
Freshman v. Sophomore 6:00 p.m.
Junior v. Senior 7:00 p.m.

*Admission:

Adults: \$5 or \$4 with canned food item

Students: \$3 or \$2 with canned food item

**Proceeds from the Powder Puff Football game benefit the Bensenville /Wood Dale Food Pantry.*

- Senior Movie Night: immediately following the Power Puff Games. Bensenville Theater.

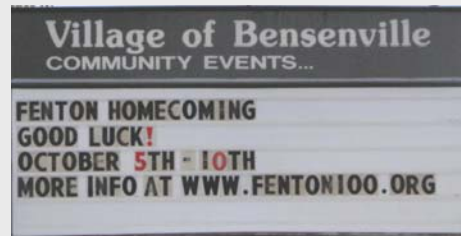
Friday, October 9

Orange & Blue Day
12:08 Dismissal
12:30 p.m. Pep Assembly, Field House
1:15 p.m. Outside Activities, Football Field
2:00 p.m. Homecoming Parade
5:00 p.m. Sophomore Football
7:15 p.m. Varsity Football

Saturday, October 10

Homecoming Dance
7:30 p.m. (ticket required)

Tickets for the homecoming dance are available in the bookstore until October 9 for 14 dollars with activities paid and 15 dollars without. No tickets will be sold at the door. Students who plan to bring a guest from another school are required to complete a Guest Permission Slip.



We encourage local businesses to place homecoming messages on their marquees.

Thank you to the Village of Bensenville for your support!

Boys Soccer Victorious at Toyota Park



On Tuesday, September 22, the boys varsity soccer team had the unique opportunity to compete at Toyota Park, home of the Chicago Fire Soccer Club. The Fenton Bison defeated Leyden 2-0 with both goals scored by senior, Jakub Slomkowski.

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Parent Connection

After focusing on career goals during the month of September, the SEL program now turns its focus to how our students' current actions can affect their long-term goals. This concept can be hard to grasp for teens, and psychologists have discovered a biological reason why. The teen brain has an immature frontal cortex, the area that controls decision-making and long-range planning. Until this part of the brain matures (around age 25), teens are more likely to act on impulse and less likely to consider the consequences of their actions. However, this doesn't "mean that young people can't make good decisions or tell the difference between right and wrong...or be held responsible for their actions. But an awareness of these differences can help parents and teachers understand, anticipate, and manage the behavior of adolescents" (American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry).

To assist our students and protect them from the potential negative consequences of their immaturity, we as parents and teachers can help educate them in certain areas. Two areas related to career goals include our students' internet presence and their high school grade point average (GPA). Sadly, some studies suggest that 20% of teen girls aged 13-16 have "electronically sent, or posted online, nude or semi-nude images of themselves" (National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy). Talking to both female and male teens about their presence online can prevent these kinds of behaviors; it is suggested that parents inform their children that anything they post online or send electronically will last forever, even if they attempt to delete it. College admissions officers and future employers are very savvy at finding such information.

Another area of teens' lives that will affect their future careers is their GPA. According to Peterson's, which provides career and college planning resources, "Many colleges set a 3.0 as a baseline for freshman and transfer admission, though they might still consider students with lower GPAs. What you need to realize is that nationally, maintaining a B average has become routine. As you climb up the college selectivity ladder, you will find colleges expecting the B as a minimum GPA, and then evaluating thousands of applications from students with B+, A-, and A averages." Teens need to be reminded of the future impact of their current study habits and decisions related to schoolwork, and sharing this type of information during a calm, non-confrontational conversation can be a great start. Until next month, stay healthy!

For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/studentssel> or contact Melissa To at to@fenton100.org

Fenton Chess Team and Club Kicks off Ninth Season

The Fenton chess program, under the direction of Ms. Downen and Mr. Kekstadt, is an inclusive after school program that welcomes all students

interested in the game of chess. Students can drop in to play for fun or develop skills and compete in tournaments and matches. Last year, over 100 students participated in chess after school and over 20 students were on the competitive team. The new year begins on October 14 from 3:15 - 5:00 p.m. in Room 228. The regular schedule is below:

Chess Practice Schedule
Monday / Wednesday
3:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Room 228

Tuesday / Friday
7:00 a.m. - 7:40 a.m.
Room 532



For more information about the team, please visit <http://bit.ly/chessfhs>.

Speech Team Prepares for Upcoming Competitions

Congratulations to the members selected for the 2015 - 2016 Fenton Speech Team. The competitive season runs October 31 through February 20 and members have the chance to compete in two to three events throughout the season. The Fenton Speech Team has advanced to the IHSA state competition for the past twelve years and the coaches are looking forward to continuing this tradition! This year marks the 75th annual edition of the state final. The speech team is under direction of Co head coaches Nicole Hendricks and Kevin Martin and Assistant Coach and Fenton alumna, Melissa Feinberg.

Varsity and novice members include:

Robert Aristakessian
Carolynn Boatfield
Chelsea Cabanada
Lori Caballero
Samantha DeLuna
Nathan Evans
Katrina Frank
Spencer Franke
Annie Gonzales
Ellie Gonzales
Clarissa Guevara-Hernandez
Enoc Hernandez
Jessica Jalowiec

Emily Jarecki
Sylvia Jarecki
Tara Kiscanin
Liz Kolze
Jacob Kowalski
Alex Krynski
Sorcia "Nicole" Lahey
Ashley Lira
Emily Marcondes
Markus Mendoza
Malia Miles
Adrian Nevarez
Monika Nevarez

Victor Pacheco
Norbert Pawlik
Justine Petrow
Kenia Ramirez
Nicole Rybak
Tori Samborska
Fernando Sanchez
Destiny Santana
Uma Shivde
Ripal Shah
Jacob Trzeciak

Students who are interested in joining the team but missed auditions can attend a team meeting on Mondays at 3:30 p.m. in Room 539.

The team's first competition is on October 31 at Huntley High School. For more information on the Fenton Speech Team, please visit: <http://bit.ly/SpeechTeamGoogleSite>.

Music Department News

IMEA Auditions, October 13

On Sunday, October 13, band and choir students will audition for the Illinois Music Educators Association (IMEA) District 1 festival. After the audition, only the best musicians are chosen to participate in the district festival.

Swing Choir Selected

On Wednesday, September 2, over 90 students attended try-outs for the Fenton High School Swing Choir.

Congratulations to the following students who were selected: *Briana Aldama, Sheeza Anwar, Robert Aristakessian, Karen Balderrama, Ricky Blanche, Lauren Buena, Andre Claveli, Alondra Davila, Kaitlyn DiFatta, Sammy DiFatta, Brianna Dompke, Spencer Franke, Haley Gills, Clarissa Guevara, Jordan Gurin, Lizzy Huerta, Karsen Idelman, Maggie Jalowiec, Aidan Johnson, Lexie Kiamco, Aleksandra Klepacki, Sadie Kosmach, Matt Kotomski, Anita Kuchlewski, Carlos Lozada, Adrian Markowski, Daniel Matthew, Patrycja Mojsiewicz, Georgio Moran, Rimsha Naseer, Monika Nevarez, Sarah Nixon, Kirby O'Donnell, Ashley Olsen, Mary Ovan, Stephany Padilla, Dominick Panicola, Ayush Patel, Dale Perry, Kathryn Radziwonski, Luis Rago, Gabriella Rago, Yetsira Ramirez, Nina Rauzi, Melissa Reyes, Gali Rivera, Rucha Shastri, Uma Shivde, Vanessa Silva, Danielle Smith, Maddie Subach, Judah Swallow, Isabelle Swanson, Kimberly Thang, Jacob Trzeciak, Yahira Valdeolvar, Oscar Varela, Abel Zepeda. The Fenton Swing Choir is under the direction of Mrs. Williams.*

BISON FHS PRIDE BANDS Jazz Ensemble News

Jazz Ensemble auditions are the week of October 26 and are open to any Fenton student. Any instrument may audition and piano players, bass players, drummers and guitarists are encouraged to audition. Audition materials will be available by October 12. Visit the jazz webpage @ music.fenton100.org/bands/jazz or call/email the band office for more information.



The Bison Band will perform at the *Knight of Champions* Marching Band Competition on Saturday, October 3 at 6:30 p.m. The group will perform their "Back to the Future: 60 Years of Fenton High School" halftime show.