

Birmingham - Ferndale Stamp Club Newsletter



May 2026

Historically, the month of May was a lively time for Michigan's postal network. Rural carriers once welcomed the return of dry roads, small-town postmasters prepared for the seasonal uptick in travel postcards, and lakefront communities saw their first waves of summer visitors sending greetings back home. Many of the covers we handle today once passed through those very moments of transition. Here's to a month of good weather, good company, and good philately.



UK Scott #1

The featured "stamp of the month" is the "Penny Black" Scott #1. It was the first adhesive postage stamp, introduced in the United Kingdom on May 1st, 1840.

BIRMPEX 2026, held on April 12th, has been declared a success! Thanks to club member Phil Vallelunga and Faulmann-Walsh Funeral Home for hosting our spring show at the Infinity Hall in Fraser. A big shout out to all club members who helped, including members of the Pontiac Stamp Club who co-sponsored the event.

Al Schmidt presented information on Russian overprints on German postage stamps at our April 7th meeting and Dana Markey discussed British Commonwealth stamps commemorating the 1948 Royal Silver Wedding Anniversary at our April 21st meeting. Presentations are always welcome at club meetings.

Following the success of BIRMPEX, the club is making preliminary arrangements to hold FERNPEX 2026 at the same venue. However, Infinity Hall is only available for club shows on Sundays and this fact led to discussion on ways to improve turn-out at our philatelic shows. The Fraser facility was overwhelmingly approved to hold future shows, but no dates have been set.

Club Meetings –

May 5th and 19th, 6:00 p.m. at the NEXT Senior Center, Birmingham.

Upcoming Events –

May 16th, Modern Stamps Public Auction at their Oak Park facility, Saturday at 12N.

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Stamps in the Classroom

Pat Hensley

You may be tempted to skip over this article, but I believe that if you know a teacher or know someone else who knows a teacher, this article could be useful to them. You may have children or even grandchildren in school, so they would have teachers who could benefit from this information. I hope you will take time to share this with a teacher!

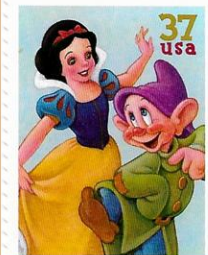
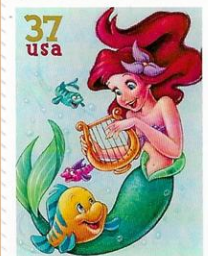
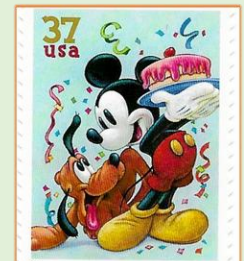
I have thought about how I could show teachers that using postage stamps in the classroom is a useful tool. Maybe when teachers see the many ways that stamps can be used, they might be curious and want to visit a stamp show (which are free and very interesting events!). If they aren't near your location, they might be able to find a stamp club or show closer to where they live.

Postage stamps can be a fun and engaging way to teach a variety of subjects in the classroom. Here are some ideas for how teachers can use postal stamps to teach:

History: Stamps can be used to teach about historical events, people, and places. For example, teachers could use stamps to teach about the American Revolution, the Civil War, or the First World War. They could also use stamps to teach about famous historical figures, such as Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr., or Marie Curie.

Social studies: Stamps can be used to teach about different cultures, countries, and customs. For example, teachers could use stamps to teach about the different cultures of Africa, Asia, or Europe. They could also use stamps to teach about the different countries of the world, their flags, and their capital cities

Language arts: Stamps can be used to teach about different aspects of language arts, such as vocabulary, grammar, and writing. For example, teachers could use stamps to teach about words related to travel, such as "airplane," "ship," and "passport." They could also use stamps to teach about different types of writing, such as persuasive writing, narrative writing, and descriptive writing.



Math: Stamps can be used to teach about different aspects of math, such as counting, addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. For example, teachers could use stamps to teach about counting by tens, hundreds, and thousands. They could also use stamps to teach about addition and subtraction problems involving money.

Science: Stamps can be used to teach about different aspects of science, such as animals, plants, and the environment. For example, teachers could use stamps to teach about different types of animals, such as mammals, birds, and fish. They could also use stamps to teach about different types of plants, such as trees, flowers, and vegetables.

These are just a few ideas for how teachers can use postal stamps to teach. With a little creativity, teachers can find many other ways to use stamps to make learning fun and engaging.



Here are some additional resources for teachers who want to learn more about using postal stamps in the classroom:

The American Philatelic Society: This organization provides educational resources for teachers, including lesson plans, activities, and stamp collections.

The National Postal Museum: This museum offers a variety of educational resources for teachers, including online exhibits, lesson plans, and activities.

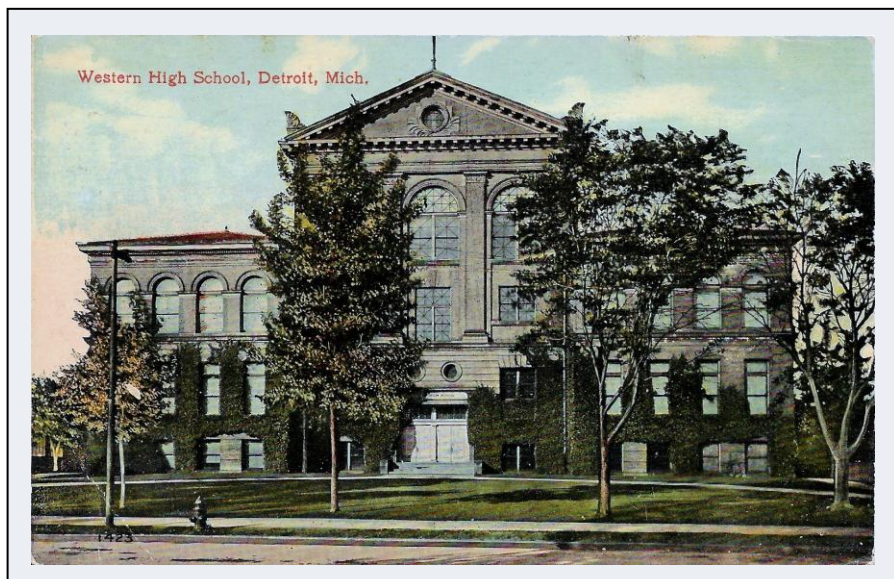
The Postal History Foundation: This organization provides free educational resources for teachers, including lesson plans, activities, and stamp collections.

Ref:

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Detroit Western High School

Michael Swope

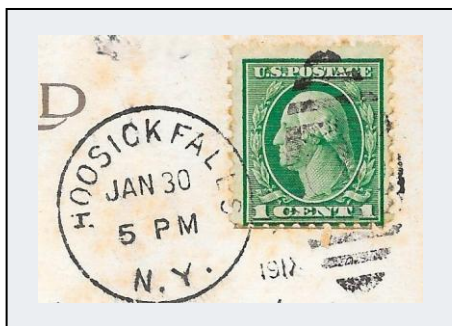


On August 8, 1895, the Detroit Board of Education voted to establish a west side high school at 1500 Scotten Ave. Originally known as the Webster Grammar School, the name was officially changed on October 8, 1897, to Western High School. The original building was enlarged twice, once in 1907 and then again in 1924. However, the building was destroyed by fire in February 1935.

In 1937, the “new” Western High School was rebuilt at the same location and is currently heralded as “a vibrant and diverse community serving over 1,900 students in grades 9–12, where academic innovation, cultural richness, and personal growth come together.” In 2007 the school name was changed to Detroit Western International School.



Western High School Fire, 1935



Featured above is a (c.) 1914, *Souvenir Post Card Company* (New York), post card of the original Detroit Western High School at 1500 Scotten Avenue. Above on the right is a photograph of a Detroit fire engine, working the February 1935 fire at the high school. The post card is franked with the 1¢ green Washington postage stamp, Scott #405 and cancelled at Hoosick Falls, New York on January 30, 1918.

Ref: Post Card from Author’s collection.
Western.detroitk12.org; Yahoo Images