

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Last week, the Ohio Department of Education released our District Report Card. As you may have seen, the results are not what our community has been accustomed to seeing over the past several years. As some of you might be aware, along with new learning standards, the State has changed the assessments given to our children multiple times over the past four years. While change can be a positive means to improve, the assessment system that Ohio has implemented has been a moving target, and some might say a complete debacle.

I want to assure you that our staff works incredibly hard each day to provide our children with opportunities to grow academically, as well as socially and emotionally. Great things are happening in our classrooms each day, the majority of which cannot be measured on a standardized test administered on one particular day of the year.

Firelands Local School District has a long standing tradition of focusing on what I refer to as "The Three C's"- **Character, Competence, and Commitment**. Unfortunately, what you won't see indicated on our report card are the following student and staff accomplishments:

### Character:

- Numerous community service events were organized across each of our buildings to assist those in need in our community.
- Each building formed student leadership teams, focused on empowering students to provide input on areas of concern they would like improved within their respected buildings.
- For the first time in school history, we now have a National Junior Honor Society at South Amherst Middle School, to recognize not only students who perform at high levels academically, but also demonstrate character and serve their communities.

### Competence:

- The Class of 2016 earned over 650 college credits and close to \$900,000 in scholarships.
- ACT composite scores are above the State average.
- Visual and Performing Arts.
  - \* Firelands Local Schools is recognized as one of **our country's 100 best** for music education.
  - \* Our students artistic work has been displayed around our region and State.
- Our FFA program is known to be one of the finest programs in the State and was recognized as **National Champions** last year in the category of Models of Innovation.
- Student participation in our athletic programs continues to grow and our student athletes continue to excel in our highly competitive athletic conference.

- In addition to our students, our staff received numerous accolades including:
  - \* Jean Bates, who is beginning her 12<sup>th</sup> year as a bus driver for our district, was selected as The Lorain County Bus Driver of the Year for her years of service, dedication and care for our students.
  - \* Stephanie Coultrip, an FHS graduate was recognized as one of only two middle school educators in our area to be recognized as a regional award winner from the Ohio Middle Level Association- the professional association for middle school educators.

### Commitment:

- Our district implemented programs and policies to protect our kids from the drug epidemic that is ravaging our area.
  - \* During last school year we hosted a parent education program, *Hidden In Plain Sight*, to build awareness of the risks our children are faced with related to substance abuse, technology, and eating disorders.
  - \* Last year we implemented, and expanded for this year, a comprehensive prevention service model through The Lorain County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services (LCADA).
  - \* This summer our Board of Education implemented a random drug testing policy for student athletes and those students with driving/parking privileges in grades 9-12.
- Students at FHS can now earn over 50 semester hours through our partnership with Lorain County Community College without leaving Firelands High School.
- During the last two months, through the extraordinary efforts of Cara Gomez, Principal at South Amherst Middle School, we have received over \$15,000 in grants to add a robotics component to our curriculum as well as establishing a competitive robotics club.

Moving forward, our district has a plan in place to address the areas of the report card that need immediate attention. During our opening day meeting with staff, I challenged each member with the following question, "How will you further Empower and Inspire Character, Competence and Commitment in Our Students?"

In closing, I am confident that our staff will meet the challenges of last year's report card while continuing to always make decisions based on a "**kids first**" approach. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 965.5821 or by email at [mvongunten@firelandsschools.org](mailto:mvongunten@firelandsschools.org).

GO FALCONS!

Mike Von Gunten  
Superintendent

FHS Class of 1995

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@FLSDSuper

You may view this issue online at: [www.firelandsschools.org](http://www.firelandsschools.org)

The Communities we serve: Amherst, Amherst Twp, Birmingham, Brownhelm Twp, Camden Twp, Florence Twp, Henrietta Twp, Kipton Village, New Russia Twp, South Amherst Village, Vermilion and Vermilion Twp.

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# FIRELANDS HIGH SCHOOL

## ANNUAL REPORT

### 2015-2016

#### ACADEMICS

- Class of 2016 earned over \$880,000 in scholarship offers
- Class of 2016 had 53 students earn 669 college credits, which equates to approximately \$202,000 in college credits through the College Credit Plus Program
- FHS had an average ACT score of 22.7, with historic high marks in mathematics, reading, and science
- 44% of FHS students who tested on the ACT passed the college readiness benchmark on all four areas of the test (English, Reading, Mathematics, and Science)
- 39 students in the Class of 2016 graduated with a GPA of 3.5 or better, with 10 students earning a Honors Diploma, and one student, Alexis Lough, earned both a Firelands High School diploma and an Associate's Degree from Lorain County Community College

#### LEADERSHIP, AWARDS, AND RECOGNITIONS

##### **FAMILY CONNECTIONS**

FHS began Family Connections, which is a Web-based resource that supports course, career, and college planning. It will be specific to FHS and linked with Naviance Succeed, a service that we use in the counseling office. Here is just a small sample of what this resource can do for our students; Share plans, complete surveys, compare colleges, link to selected third-party resources, track deadlines, produce research graphs, and show a schedule of college visits coming to FHS. Mrs. Zimmer and Ms. Goss, counselors at FHS, helped kick off this initiative, which will further assist our students in finding the right fit when it comes to college and career.

##### **MARCHING BAND REPRESENTS AT DISNEY**

The Mighty Falcon Marching Band represented FHS very well just before Thanksgiving vacation. The MFMB departed for the Magic Kingdom on Thursday, November 19th for their 5-day trip to Orlando. The band enjoyed many of the attractions at the Disney Parks, but their trip was highlighted by marching in the daily parade at the Magic Kingdom on Saturday afternoon. Congratulations to the band, staff, and our

parent chaperones for providing an outstanding experience for our students.

##### **GRAMMY SIGNATURE SEMI-FINALIST**

The Mighty Falcon Marching Band and Director Mr. Wiley on have been named a Grammy Signature School Semi-Finalist again this year. Only two other schools in Ohio have joined FHS for this prestigious honor.

##### **STUDENT ARTISTS DOUBLE UP eXpressions HONOR**

The FHS Art Department has doubled its representation in the esteemed Cleveland Clinic eXpressions competition in 2015-16. Once again, senior Victoria Krejci earned a ribbon, this time white (3rd place) for her mixed media sculpture "Whatever Suits You" illustrating the treatment of chronic heart patients with depression. This is a Firelands first-ever two-time winner! Freshman Cora Lynn Born breaks into the field of winners with a blue ribbon (1st place) win for her mixed media sculpture "Ordering at a Restaurant". Her effort examining different demographics' perspectives of after-life plans beat out experienced upperclassmen. This is a Firelands first-ever blue ribbon in the art competition! Born and Krejci's works are the only winners from Lorain County and among only 54 selected for the exhibition from a field of 25 mostly AAA high schools.

##### **CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY MEMBERS**

44 FHS Students were inducted into the Firelands High School Chapter of the National Honors Society on Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The program was completely student directed and led by Chapter officers Katie Iwanek, Emily Novak, and Emily Rich. Also, congratulations to our five JVS students who were inducted to the National Technical Honors Society on the same evening.

##### **ONE ACTS A HUGE SUCCESS**

The Drama Club presented a "Night of One Acts", on April 21st at 7pm in the gymnasium. The crowd of over 300 people watched as our Drama students presented several outstanding One Act Plays, and delighted the crowd with a series of outstanding performances.

##### **FHS STUDENT OF THE YEAR**

Firelands High School, in conjunction with the Firelands Lions Club, is proud to announce the 2015-16 Student of the Year is:

##### **Katy Tuggle**

Katy was the September Student of the Month. Katy was involved in student council, FFA, Tri-M, national honor society, yearbook, marching band, symphonic band, and was the mighty falcon marching band president. She is also active in JSA. Katy will attend Ohio Wesleyan University in the fall.

##### **FFA – NATIONAL CHAMPIONS:**

Models of Innovation, Community. Also procured six State and 2 American Degrees, along with ranking in the top four chapters in Ohio with 8 proficiency degrees.

#### COMMUNITY SERVICE

##### **FFA WORKING TO FEED THE HUNGRY**

The Food for America Committee has been working in conjunction with students from Wellington & the JVS for the past year, to develop the countywide Food for America agricultural literacy program that will be presented to 300 3rd graders from several Lorain County schools. This program was designed to teach elementary age students where their food comes from and our FFA students have worked hard to connect it and teach it according to Ohio 3rd grade science standards. Congratulations to our FFA students and Mrs. Finnegan on this initiative, which showed Lorain County's third graders where their food comes from.

##### **SENIOR CITIZEN CONCERT**

FHS opened its doors to our Senior Citizens in the community on Thursday, December 3rd at 9:30 am in the FHS Gym. Our guests enjoyed performances from several people, including the Select Choir. The performance lasted just over an hour and our guests were thoroughly entertained. Next year, FHS is hoping to expand this special event to include even more musical acts.

##### **MIGHTY FALCON MARCHING BAND BRINGS JOY TO THE HOLIDAYS**

The Mighty Falcon Marching Band brought Holiday Cheer and Music to a family in need over the Holidays. A local family lost a

mother to a tragic accident, and the MFMB delivered Holiday Cheer in the form of music and gifts for the family. It was an outstanding show of community support by the Marching Band, led by Mr. Wiley.

##### **ATTABOY ASSEMBLY A SUCCESS**

FHS enjoyed a fun and positive assembly in April as the group, Attaboy, entertained the student body and mixed in positive messages as we head for prom and end-of-the-year activities. The group commented that the students were great and they have never been around students who are as helpful as the Firelands students.

#### **GRADUATION 2016**

##### **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2016**

143 members of the Class of 2016 proudly participated in the 62 commencement exercises at Firelands High School on Friday evening, June 3rd. The ceremony was highlighted by speeches from Class President Emily Rich, Salutatorian Emily Novak, and Valedictorian Julia Ohle. The evening ended with the ceremonial changing of the tassel and then the Firelands fight song played as graduates celebrated their achievements with family, friends, and community members.

#### ATHLETICS

2015-16 saw the Falcon Football team qualify for the Division IV OHSAA Playoffs for just the second time in school history, as the Falcons finished the season at 8-3, earning them the right to play in the Regional Quarterfinals. Brad Thrasher, was named the Division IV District Offensive Player of the Year, and earned first team All-Ohio honors as quarterback. Aaron Miller earned first team All-Ohio defensive honors, and Jake Grasso captured a second team All-Ohio offensive lineman award. The Falcon wrestling team also captured the PAC title, outlasting Buckeye by 5 points to win their first wrestling title in 20 years. Congratulations to DJ Childers and Sean Lipscomb, who each earned individual PAC championships. Also, congratulations to Coach Malave for being named PAC Wrestling Coach of the Year.

The Boys Soccer team qualified to the District Semi-Final

Continued on page 3

# FIRELANDS HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

match against Bay, falling to the Rockets 7-1. Patrick Brightbill was named to the 2nd team All-Ohio for Division II Soccer. Head Girls Coach Morgan Ziegler was named the Lorain County Division II Coach of the Year, while her assistant, Kassie Davis, was named the Lorain County Assistant Coach of the Year. Finally, Assistant Boys Coach Brett Thompson was named the Lorain County Assistant Coach of the Year. The Volleyball team also played in the District Semi-Finals at Holy Name dropping their match to the Green Wave 3 sets to 0. The Boys' Cross-Country team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the District meet, qualifying for the Regionals at Tiffin. Finally, Tori Hritsko qualified as an individual into the Regional Meet.

In the Spring, the Baseball team qualified to the District Semi-Finals, dropping a tough ballgame to Padua at CCC West. The track team had several Regional qualifiers, including the Girls 4x400 m Relay team (Allison Viliagi, Mikayla Mains, Maddie Sims, and Dalaney Rogala). Rogala also qualified in the Girls' High Jump. Colin Myers qualified in the Boys' 200m and 400 m Dash races, and Robbie Becker in the Boys' 110m High Hurdles.

**TAILGATE GREAT SUCCESS** Homecoming 2015 kicked off with the annual Tailgate. Beginning at 5 pm, the students ate and enjoyed each other's company as parents and supporters fed the students. At 6 pm, the Mighty Falcon Marching Band kicked off the Homecoming Parade and they were followed by four floats, one from each class. The students put a lot of time and effort into these floats, and it was clearly evident as they traveled around the FHS Parking Lot. The evening culminated in the annual jersey auction, which is always a great fundraiser for The Falcon Football Program.

## GAME NIGHT AND DANCE

The Falcons hosted Brookside on Friday night in the annual Homecoming Game. The Falcons moved their record to 5-1 with a hard fought 19-13 win over Brookside in the "Battle of the Birds." The senior class elected Katie Iwanek as Homecoming Queen and Brad Thrasher as Homecoming King. Finally, the weekend ended with the annual Homecoming Dance on Saturday evening, from 7-10 pm. Over 350 students enjoyed the culminating activity. Congratulations to Student Council on a successful dance and Homecoming weekend.

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Bob Maver, FHS Principal

# FHS Counseling Corner

**Seniors:** We kicked off the college application process on September 12th during English classes at FHS. For Seniors who do not have an English course on the FHS campus, you need to schedule a meeting with Mrs. Zimmer (email: [dzimmer@firelandsschools.org](mailto:dzimmer@firelandsschools.org)). We will be utilizing Naviance to send your transcript, school profile, and teacher letters of recommendation to the college in which you are applying. The site provides a wealth of information regarding the college application process including a list of college representatives that will be coming on campus, scholarship search information, and the Financial Aid Process. Parents, have your student show you their portal by going to the [www.firelandsschools.org](http://www.firelandsschools.org) >FHS> Counseling Office>open the Naviance/Family connection tab.

**Lorain County College Fair at Lorain County Community College** – Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., Ewing Activities Center, 1005 North Abbe Road, Elyria. More than 130 Colleges, Universities, and Military Academies will be there to answer your questions.

**College Visit Forms:** Seniors are allowed 3 college visits to view colleges of their choice and ask questions of the college admission staff. A form is available in the guidance office. This form must be given to the main office **before the student can visit the college**. It counts as a day of attendance, but missed school work must be made up. Juniors are allowed 2 college visits.

The fall administration of the OGT will be **October 24-28**. Only the seniors who have NOT passed all five portions of the Ohio Graduation Tests will need to participate. The students who will be participating have already been contacted by the guidance office.

**College Now Representative, Dave Newman**, will be at Firelands High School every other Wednesday starting on September 27th for the 2016-2017 school year. He will be working with college bound students and families on the financial aid process. **Contact information: [dnewman@collegenowgc.org](mailto:dnewman@collegenowgc.org)**

**Juniors:** ASVAB Testing is scheduled for Thursday, **September 29th**, and Thursday, **October 6th**. Stop in the counseling office if you are interested in taking it at FHS. National Test Date for the PSAT is **October 19th**. Juniors who took the PSAT and scored in the 70 percentile and above are on the list to take the test with the cost covered by a grant. There is a limited number of tests. If a student wants to take the PSAT, register and pay the \$15.00 fee in the counseling office.

**Sophomores:** This month Miss Goss will be in the classroom utilizing Naviance for resume building along with reviewing credits, College Credit Plus, and the JVS timeline for this year. If you have any questions about future career planning, scheduling, or any additional resources please contact her at [kgoss@firelandsschools.org](mailto:kgoss@firelandsschools.org). Students taking Honors and CPP classes are on the list to take the PSAT and a grant will cover the cost. There is a limited number of tests. If a student wants to take the PSAT, register and pay the \$15.00 fee in the counseling office.

**Freshmen:** The class of 2020 will meet with Miss Goss at the end of September to review tips for success in high school, Naviance log-ins, and goal setting for the 2016-2017 school year.

**FIRELANDS HIGH SCHOOL  
SCHOOL LUNCH MENU FOR OCTOBER**

Breakfast - \$1.50 Reduced breakfast - .30 Lunch - \$2.85 Reduced lunch - .40

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3 Philly steak & cheese w/roasted peppers & onions Or Honey crunch corn dog BBQ baked beans Celery sticks Chilled peaches	4 Domino's pizza or stuffed crust pepperoni Baby carrots Grape tomatoes Chilled pears Mini rice krispie treat	5 Taco salad w/tortilla chips, or Soft taco wrap (meat, cheese, salsa cup) Shredded iceberg lettuce Seasoned corn Chilled applesauce Whole grain roll, sour cream	6 Chicken strips w/roll Chicken patty w/bun Baked fries California blend veggie Fresh fruit Jello w/topping	7 Macaroni & cheese w/ breadstick Or Bbq Riblet w/bun Seasoned broccoli Cucumber slices Mandarin oranges
10 Pepperoni stuffed calzone Or French bread pizza BBQ baked beans Steamed cinnamon carrots Chilled Applesauce	11 Pizza hut or stuffed crust pepperoni Seasoned green beans Romaine garden salad Chilled mandarin oranges 100% fruit smoothie	12 BBQ Tex Falcon burger (bbq, french fried onions) Shredded Iceberg lettuce, Ranch seasoned potato wedge Roasted sweet potato cubes Chilled pears	13 Falcon Chicken bowl w/ Seasoned corn Whipped potatoes Topped w/gravy & cheese Fresh fruit Whole grain roll	14 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> <b>NEOE DAY</b>
17 Chicken parmesan/wg roll (Sauce & cheese) Or Chicken patty/ bun Spaghetti / sauce Seasoned green beans Chilled peaches	18 Domino's pizza or stuffed crust pepperoni Riviera vegetable blend Baby carrots Chilled pears Mini rice krispie treat	19 Beef & cheese nachos Or Taco Fries w/cheese Refried beans w/cheese Romaine garden salad Chilled applesauce Whole grain roll	20 Spicy chicken wrap w/lettuce & cheese Or Chicken strips w/roll Crispy tator tots Seasoned corn Fresh fruit Strawberry shortcake cookie	21 Toasted cheese sandwich Or Cheese garlic bread Seasoned Steamed broccoli Tomato soup Chilled mandarin oranges
24 BBQ pulled pork wg bun Or Philly steak & cheese w/roasted peppers & onions BBQ baked beans Coleslaw Chilled peaches	25 Pizza hut or stuffed crust pepperoni Seasoned steamed broccoli Baby carrots Chilled pears 100% fruit smoothie	26 Pasta Bar/marinara, alfredo cheese sauce or falcon awesome sauce Or meatball sub Romaine garden salad Cucumber slices Chilled applesauce	27 General Tso's chicken Stir fry vegetable Carrot vegetable blend Seasoned rice Fresh fruit Fortune Cookie	28 Ham & Cheese calzone Or Fish fillet sandwich w/shredded lettuce Seasoned baked fries Red pepper strips Chilled mandarin oranges
31 Salisbury steak or Breaded pork chop Seasoned corn Whipped potatoes Chilled peaches Whole grain roll				



Dedicated to the father of Michael Kelley 8<sup>th</sup> grader at South Amherst Middle School, to help with medical bills from a recent stroke and ongoing treatments/rehabilitation.

**When: Sunday October 16, 2016 1 pm till 5:30 p.m.**

**Where: Fireland's Elementary School Gym**

**Tickets: Adults age 16 and older \$20.00, age 15 and under \$10.00**

**Family 4 pack for \$40.00**

*Menu:*

*Salad*

*Pasta in Marinara Sauce ~ Meatballs*

*Bread*

*Dessert*

*Beverages*

50/50 & Basket Raffles

For tickets please contact:

Cindy Talbott 440-752-9682 / Tracey Newman 440-669-3676 / Roger Lipscomb 330-720-4149

Jeff Robinette: 440-773-9036 / Bill Whitacre 440-541-8891

*If you cannot attend but would like to make a donation please contact one of the above and they will assist you. Thank you for supporting our Fireland's Family!! All ticket sales will go directly to family.*

Mike, Julie and Michael Kelley

# SAVE THE DATE

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Celebrate Firelands Event  
March 4<sup>th</sup> at the New Russia  
Township Hall**

**All proceeds will benefit the positive  
promotion of the Firelands Local  
School District**

# Firelands Elementary School

## Annual Report

### 2015-2016

Our Parent Teacher Group (PTG) remained active through the school year and organized many events for our students. Their financial support also provided transportation costs for field trips. Some of the many events included Father/Daughter dance, Movie Night, Duct tape night and Mother/Son dance. They also continued with the updates to the playground for FES students.

Throughout the year, staff professional development was focused on ELA (English/Language Arts). Staff worked to unpack the standards, conduct curriculum mapping and creating benchmark assessments. Professional development time was also focused on curriculum mapping and writing of common assessments in the area of Math.

A total of 63 students (grades 3-5) participated in Young Authors. Autumn Buchanan was awarded Best Writer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade for Lorain County. Tucker Frame was awarded Best Artist, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade. We are very proud of all of our young authors and illustrators.

Fourth grade students in Ms. Roth's and Mrs. Thoms' class completed random acts of kindness to celebrate national Make a Difference Day. Parents and staff members sent in candy, treats and little trinkets that could be utilized. Students decorated bags for the gifts and wrote individual letters in English/Language Arts class with Ms. Roth. These bags were then delivered to all administrators and support staff members at FES (principals, secretaries, lunch ladies, custodians, aides, etc.) Ms. Roth and Mrs. Thoms related this activity to the Social Studies curriculum (ways that citizens make a difference, and citizen responsibilities).

The fourth grade students organized and participated in a Veteran's program. Mrs. Thoms was awarded the Meinke grant for \$500 to pay for the materials and supplies that were needed. This event was hosted in the school gymnasium and refreshments were provided in two of the 4<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms. Approximately 100 people were in attendance. Trumpet players from FHS played "Taps" during the program. Each veteran that attended was presented with a copy of the program and a small gift as a token of appreciation. This event tied to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies and English/Language Arts. Students discussed and learned about citizen rights and responsibilities, as well as public speaking. Members of the public that attended were appreciative and provided positive feedback.

Fourth grade students in Mrs. Scalli's, Ms. Roth's and Mrs. Thoms' classes also prepared a Thanksgiving feast. This was held the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Staff members provided turkey and needed supplies/equipment. Parents provided other food items. Parent volunteers were present to serve the meal to the fourth grade students during their lunch.

Third grade students held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Macy's Day Parade. They studied the history and process of making balloons for the Macy's Parade and then created balloons/floats of their own and parade around the school.

Third grade students, Olivia Halliwell and Autumn Buchanan decided to write an FES newspaper about the happenings in the building. They sold copies for 25¢ a piece in the teacher's lounge. These two students determined that they would donate the money they earned back to the FES library.

Mrs. Thoms ran an ice cream shop with each of her Social Studies classes. The shop was funded through a \$225 Creative Cash grant. The curriculum link was entrepreneurship, fiscal literacy, and innovation. The students did product/customer research, price research, advertisement and ran all aspects of the shop. Students used Thoms Bucks for money and as a behavior reward for the month of May. These bucks are what the students used to make their individual shop purchases. They also discussed profit and the class that made the most earned "bragging" rights.

Fourth grade students competed in the "Design an Ad" program through the Chronicle Telegram. There was a winner from each homeroom. Money was awarded to the grade level and utilized to pay for a grade level positive behavior reward.

Some of our teachers participated in the Junior Achievement program. This is an outside program that trains volunteers to present lessons to students. Lessons cover a range of business topics, including entrepreneurship, profit and others.

Mrs. Thoms' Social Studies classes participated in an Ohio Inventors Hall of Fame. After completing a unit on Ohio inventors, students came up with their own inventions and presented them during class.

Mrs. Dempsey offered students the opportunity to participate in Invention Convention. FES inventors included Danny Dempsey, Jocelyn Bednar, Machaela Clark and Sam Gibson. Sam was also an award winner for FES.

Joe Formholtz was a Math Olympiad award winner.

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Spelling Bee Winners included: Daniel Ohle (was a 6<sup>th</sup> grader), Alex Pennington (was a 6<sup>th</sup> grader), Savannah Leverknight (was a 5<sup>th</sup> grader), Maggie Edwards (was a 6<sup>th</sup> grader), and Gemma Hager (was a 6<sup>th</sup> grader). Gemma Hager was first in the county spelling bee and Cohl Green was in the top 10.

Highlights from the Art room at FES include:

- ◆ 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders enjoyed a 4-week after school art club in March. 4<sup>th</sup> graders designed and carved their own printmaking stamps, made decorative paper, and then used it in covering and binding their own journal. 5<sup>th</sup> grade students used unusual materials, such as discarded CDs, wire, laminate samples and water bottles to create one-of-a-kind upcycled works of art.
- ◆ Two students went to State exhibitions because of their amazing artwork. Andrew Pawlak and Maggie Tansy (both in 1<sup>st</sup> grade at the time) had their art recognized and displayed in Ohio Art Education Association exhibit tions held in Columbus.
- ◆ The Educational Service Center of Lorain County conducted an art show at the Elyria West River Public Library in May. The following students had work represented at that show: Kinsey Wissinger (K), Addison Smath (1<sup>st</sup>), Emersyn Lehman (1<sup>st</sup>), Addison Beal (2<sup>nd</sup>), Samantha Manges (3<sup>rd</sup>), Telaysia Kraus (3<sup>rd</sup>), Colin Arnal (5<sup>th</sup>) and Cohen Overstreet (5<sup>th</sup>).
- ◆ 4<sup>th</sup> graders had the opportunity to tour the Allen Memorial Art Museum and Oberlin Heritage Center in May. We were able to travel there thanks to funding from the FES PTG.
- ◆ Two respected artists from the Cleveland area, Wendy Mahon and Chris Young, joined the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades for multi-day workshops. These artists taught rotating sessions on mask-making and the artwork of Wassily Kandinsky. Ms. Mahon and Ms. Young work with The Center for Arts-Inspired Learning and were able to join us due to funding assistance from the Nord Foundation and the Firelands Endowment Grant.
- ◆ Another fabulous Firelands Fine Arts Festival took place in May. Attendees enjoyed a K-12 gallery of artwork at SAMS, as well as musical performances and entertainment, food and art vendors and make-it/take-it booths. Because of the generosity of the FES PTG, the following grades had the opportunity of participating in distance learning with the Cleveland Museum of Art: K, 3, 4, 5. Subjects included animal-themed art in the CMA galleries, African masks, Arms and Armor and Simple Machines, and Origami and Math.

**Firelands Elementary School continues to be a safe environment for students that promotes learning for all students. The staff pledge is, "We pledge to promote a positive school environment by collaborating, communicating, effectively, and taking pride in our profession. We will encourage, support, and show respect for all staff and students. We will treat others with compassion and work together to provide a safe, nurturing community for all."**

# South Amherst Middle School Annual Report 2015-2016

Our students and staff returned ready for a brand new school year. We had an INCREDIBLE turn out for Open House and have had a very smooth opening. Students and staff have worked on establishing routines and building relationships.

Last school year saw the beginning of many new opportunities for SAMS. The development of a Student Advisory Committee was one that allowed students to have a voice in their school. We believe in our students and want them to have a voice to improve their school to meet their needs. This committee wrote our "SAMS Mission Statement", and this is read each morning on the announcements to reinforce who we are at SAMS. We also have Student Council, developed a Gaming Club, Academic Challenge and many other clubs throughout the year.

Last school year saw the beginning of National Junior Honor Society and we held our first induction ceremony in May. This is a huge honor to be part of such a prestigious organization.

We are proud to announce that we have received \$15,000 in donations/grants to begin a competitive robotics organization along with being able to provide our classes with more exposure to robotics.

## SAMS CHORAL/BAND

Congratulations to the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade choir members who participated in the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual musical, Dorothy in Wonderland!! The musical was a huge success with over 1,000 students, parents, and community members watching and enjoying the display of all 4 fine arts standards: Dance, Drama/ Theatre, Music and Visual Arts. The students are the ones to be congratulated as they all did an amazing job within the role they played. Some were student directors, dance captains, stage crew, lights/sound crew, make-up/ costume crew, and publicity/ tickets, crew members etc. We are so very proud of our students!! The next time you are at SAMS, stop and see the musical wall of fame that displays posters from the many musicals performed!

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade students created Thanksgiving baskets for families in the area that needed a little extra help around the holidays. This is a great opportunity for our students to discover the beauty of giving back to a community that gives them so much.

The blanket making club made close to 50 blankets to donate to the Blessing House for children who needed some extra warmth.

Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders cleaned up the local cemetery and planted flowers as their community service project. These projects build character and create the caliber of student that Firelands is so proud of.

## PROJECT LEAD THE WAY/STEM/ROBOTICS

The STEM/Robotics Lab was moved from upstairs to the location of the old Library. More than 15,000 books were moved to allow for a larger area for students to be able to participate in hands-on opportunities. Have no fear, the Library was moved and is beautiful!! The new location of the Library within the academic wing, allows easier access for classroom use.

## FIELD TRIPS

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade took the annual trip to Philadelphia, Gettysburg and the Flight 93 Memorial.

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade took a trip to Put-In-Bay.

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade took a trip to Beulah Beach for the outdoor education experience.

## SPELLING BEE

We sent four students to the regional bee in Avon. Those students were Renee Clippinger, Maribeth Petrey, Gabriella Keith and Donovan Kormish.

## YOUNG AUTHOR'S

Tucker Frame (6<sup>th</sup> grade) won the Illustrator Award for all of Lorain County at the Young Author's conference held at Lorain County Community College. Congrats to Tucker!

## 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE BRIDGING

We held the first annual bridging ceremony in June, to send our 8<sup>th</sup> graders off to high school in style.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Cara Gomez, SAMS Principal

# CURRICULUM UPDATE

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year! We are excited to have you as a part of our district family. Our goal is to provide our students, staff and community with the educational resources to ensure our students thrive in an ever-changing global society. We are here to serve you as we put children first in everything we do. We look to provide teaching and learning services that enable our students to achieve beyond high standards. Our district will provide students the opportunity to learn by offering them the combination of high quality teachers, adequate resources and a rigorous curriculum that prepares them to effectively think, to communicate and to be citizens of good character.

Our district focus for this school year will reflect high quality assessments, meaningful feedback and student centered instruction. As educators, we are responsible to know and understand the tools and technology available to our students, and to incorporate them into our lesson designs. Instruction must be rigorous and relevant! Our students are top priority at Firelands! Increasing student achievement and preparing successful students for the future is what we are committed to do.

We look forward to a great year of teaching, learning and leadership!

Go Falcons!

Mrs. Lori Roemer, Director of Educational Services

## FIRELANDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SCHOOL LUNCH MENU FOR OCTOBER

Breakfast - \$1.50 Reduced breakfast - .30 Lunch - \$2.65 Reduced lunch - .40

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3 Sausage links French toast sticks Hash brown potatoes Celery sticks Orange juice cup Syrup cup	4 Domino's pizza Or school pepper pizza Seasoned broccoli Baby carrots Chilled fruit	5 Baked chicken fries Seasoned baked fries Bbq baked beans Chilled pears Dipping sauce	6 Pepperoni Calzone Seasoned green beans Sliced cucumbers Fresh fruit	7 Toasted cheese sandwich Tomato soup Saltines Seasoned peas Chilled peaches
10 Baked chicken nuggets Sweet tots Celery sticks Chilled applesauce Whole grain roll Dipping sauce	11 Pizza hut pizza Or school pepper pizza Seasoned Corn Baby carrots Chilled fruit or 100% fruit smoothie	12 BBQ boneless Riblet sandwich Green beans Sliced cucumbers Chilled pineapple	13 Taco salad Lettuce & cheese Seasoned refried beans Fresh fruit Salsa Tortilla chips	14 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> <b>NEOE DAY</b>
17 Popcorn chicken Hashbrown patty Bbq baked beans Chilled peaches	18 Domino's pizza Or school pepper pizza Seasoned mixed vegetables Sliced red peppers Chilled fruit	19 Chicken strips Seasoned broccoli Baby carrots w/dip Chilled pineapple Chez it crackers	20 Hamburger w/bun Smiley fries Coleslaw Chilled pears Sliced pickles	21 Pizza Day Seasoned corn Sliced cucumbers Chilled applesauce
24 Roasted hot dog/ bun Bbq baked beans Match stick carrots Chilled pears	25 Pizza hut pizza Or school pepper pizza Seasoned peas Celery sticks Chilled fruit or 100% fruit smoothie	26 General Tso's Chicken Stir Fry Veggies Seasoned Rice Chilled pineapple tidbits Fortune cookie	27 Soft beef taco Ultra grain wrap Shredded lettuce & cheese Seasoned corn Fresh fruit Salsa cup	28 Cheesy bread Romaine garden salad Grape Tomatoes Chilled mandarin oranges
31 Sausage links French toast sticks Hashbrown potatoes Celery sticks Orange juice cup Syrup cup				

## 2016 - 2017 SCHOOL LUNCH PRICES

FES - \$2.65

FHS - \$2.85

SAMS - \$2.85

## Pitchfork Pals 4-H Meeting Sunday, August 7, 2016

In today's meeting we discussed upcoming events for the fair such as the home Economics booth at the fair for anyone to participate in. We also shared schedules for fair week highlighting when fellow club members are presenting and showing their projects. Project judging for Ag Products/Still Life is Wednesday, August 10<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at New Russia Township Lodge. Large Ag Products/Still Life project judging will be Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-2:00 p.m. at the fairgrounds in build-

ing #11. Cloverbuds will be judged on Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in show ring #9. Pitchfork Pals' home economics booth set up is being decorated on Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. Alex Sabine is in charge of the booth so please contact her to offer additional help. All club members are expected to help decorate for the club. Throughout the week go to barn 9 where the goats, chickens, sheep, pigs, and turkeys show. Barn 3 in the cow ring will be showing steers. Have a good fair week and remember school starts Tuesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>!

Ryan Ortner, News Reporter

## FHS Art Students Qualify for State Art Exhibition



Solowiej, Drury and Grame with their artwork readied for Columbus.

Four Firelands High School Art students have their work selected for a state-level art exhibition on display now through Oct. 8 in downtown Columbus. From over 200 submission, 143 works were selected by retired art teacher Ellen Minch and artist Morgan Minch for the "Emerging Artist" exhibition. The focus of this exhibition is to feature individual creativity, advanced crafting skill and encourage the brightest potential among underclassmen. Sophomores Sarah **Drury**, Henry **Grame** and Isabel **Solowiej** and junior Sean **Lipscomb** qualified for this exhibition with their works. Drury entered a linocut print self-portrait on canvas. Grame entered a colored-pencil and pen radial design. Lipscomb entered a self-portrait linocut on braille paper. Solowiej entered a card-board relief sculpture of a cockatiel. Their works are being juried a second time for best-in-

category and best-in-show honors. Winners and all

participants will be celebrated at a reception on Saturday Oct. 8. The Ohio Art Education Association, a non-profit professional organization of art educators, holds this exhibition annually at the State Teachers Retirement System atrium on Broad Street in our state capital.

## Emergency Alert Notifications

Should situations arise that necessitate district personnel to communicate information to you regarding school closings, delays or other non-routine or emergency situations, the district will notify parents/guardians in the following ways:

- ◆ district all-call system
- ◆ online at [www.firelandsschools.org](http://www.firelandsschools.org)
- ◆ via Twitter at [@Falcon\\_update](https://twitter.com/Falcon_update)
- ◆ Facebook at [iAmFirelands](https://www.facebook.com/iAmFirelands)

Should parental/guardian contact information change over the year, please remember to update your information.

## 1977 FIRELANDS HIGH SCHOOL CLASS REUNION

Saturday, October 8, 2016

4pm to 12pm

Matus Winery

15674 Gore Orphanage Road

Wakeman, Ohio

It's been way too long since we had our own class reunion! And, let's face it, we aren't getting any younger!

So plan on attending and starting a new tradition at the winery.

Invite those classmates you know that are not on social media, this way we can reach as many classmates as possible for this one day informal gathering. In house appetizers available and entertainment provided. No coolers or containers allowed.

Any questions or comments, please contact Janie Largent Betka at [betkajanie@yahoo.com](mailto:betkajanie@yahoo.com) or Marcia Kneisel Eichelberger at [marciaeichelberger@hotmail.com](mailto:marciaeichelberger@hotmail.com)

SEE YOU AT THE WINERY!!



# SAMS NEWS

Our STEM lab is up and running. Students are engaged in hands on learning and we are so proud to provide these opportunities for them. Students are engaging in real-world, problem solving experiences and being exposed to many of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century opportunities. We want to provide those creative outlets for students that could spark an interest in learning.

Competitive Robotics will begin soon. We are working to get all of our supplies and putting the field together. This is being made possible by Grants and donations from



**SAMS NEW ROBOTICS CLASSROOM**

Nordson, Lorain-Medina Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc., and the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation. Look for many more updates on this as they come available.

We switched our Library and STEM/ Robotics Lab to provide the students with the space they need to engage in these amazing opportunities. The Library is now open for business thanks to the efforts by Mrs. Leimbach to get this enormous task complete and ready for our students.

Our second annual "Jr. Falcon Homecoming Pep Rally", is scheduled for September 23.

We are just getting started and there is much more to come at SAMS this year!!



**SAMS LIBRARY**

## SOUTH AMHERST MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHOOL LUNCH MENU FOR OCTOBER

Breakfast - \$1.50 Reduced breakfast - .30 Lunch - \$2.85 Reduced lunch - .40

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3 Roasted hot dog w/ bun Philly steak & cheese w/roasted peppers & onions BBq baked beans Celery sticks w/pb Chilled peaches	4 Domino's pizza or stuffed crust pizza Seasoned Broccoli Grape tomatoes Chilled Fruit or 100% fruit smoothie	5 Taco salad or soft taco wrap, cheese Shredded iceberg lettuce Seasoned refried beans Chilled applesauce Tortilla chips Salsa / sour cream	6 Spicy chicken patty/bun or chicken patty w/bun Parsley potatoes Seasoned corn Fresh fruit Goldfish grahams	7 Macaroni & cheese /breadstick or Rib a cue w/bun Baby carrots Seasoned green beans Chilled pears
10 Pepperoni calzone Or French bread pizza Seasoned cauliflower Celery sticks w/pb Chilled applesauce	11 Pizza hut pizza or stuffed crust peppro Romaine garden salad Grape tomatoes Chilled Fruit Mini rice krispis squares	12 Falcon burger w/wg bun w/ iceberg lettuce cheese, sauce BBq baked beans Sweet potato fries Chilled pears	13 Popcorn chicken bowl, gravy & cheese Seasoned corn Whipped potatoes Fresh fruit Whole grain roll	14 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> <b>NEOE A DAY</b>
17 Chicken parmesan, sauce & cheese w/ roll or Chicken patty /bun Spaghetti / sauce Seasoned green beans Chilled applesauce	18 Domino's pizza or stuffed crust peppro Romaine garden salad Baby carrots w/dip Chilled Fruit or 100% fruit smoothie	19 Taco salad or soft taco wrap, cheese Shredded iceberg lettuce Seasoned refried beans Grape tomatoes Chilled peaches Salsa / sour cream	20 Spicy chicken wrap w/lettuce & cheese Or Chicken strips w/roll Crispy tator tots Seasoned broccoli Fresh fruit	21 Toasted cheese sandwich Or Cheesy garlic bread Seasoned peas Tomato soup Chilled mandarin oranges
24 BBq pulled pork wg bun Honey crunch wg corn dog Baked beans Celery sticks Coleslaw Chilled peaches	25 Pizza hut pizza or stuffed crust peppro Seasoned broccoli Baby carrots w/dip Chilled Fruit Mini rice krispis squares	26 Cheeseburger / bun Or Hamburger / bun Oven baked fries Romaine garden salad Chilled mandarin oranges	27 General Tso's chicken Stir fry vegetable Carrot vegetable blend Seasoned rice Fresh fruit Fortune Cookie	28 Ham & cheese calzone Or Cheese quassodilla Roasted seasoned sweet potatoes cubes Red pepper strips Chilled pears
31 Salisbury steak or breaded pork chop Whipped potatoes Seasoned corn Chilled peaches Whole grain roll				

# SAVE THE DATE

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Celebrate Firelands Event

March 4<sup>th</sup> at the New Russia  
Township Hall

All proceeds will benefit the positive promotion  
of the Firelands Local School District

# FIRELANDS FFA AT THE LORAIN COUNTY FAIR

As the 171th annual Lorain County Fair has come to a close, the Firelands FFA has stepped back and appreciated the experiences that the members have been a part of. 2016 has been an enormous year so far for this FFA Chapter and the Lorain County Fair added to the excitement. The projects that FFA members complete and exhibit at the fair are called "Supervised Agricultural Experiences" or "SAE" for short. These can range from growing vegetables to sell in a small stand to raising 100 head of cattle or anything in between. This year members have taken home many awards and proceeded to fill the Firelands High School trophy case with their achievements.

The Supreme Exhibitor was Sophia Pohorence. To receive this prestigious award you must bring the largest amount of shop, crop, and animal projects. She also received reserve grand champion medium reconstruction and second place in senior turkey showmanship. Graduate, Rachel Minek received class champion hog and overall swine showmanship. Graduate, Caitlin Gallagher received reserve grand champion steer, class champion steer with both steers, and reserve grand champion overall beef showmanship. Graduate, Mike Anadell earned third overall beef showmanship. Graduate, Ali Butler received pygmy goat overall reserve grand champion doe, class champion wether, class champion doe, and reserve grand champion doe. Bianca Inman earned second in beginner beef showmanship and a honorable mention for overall horse showmanship.

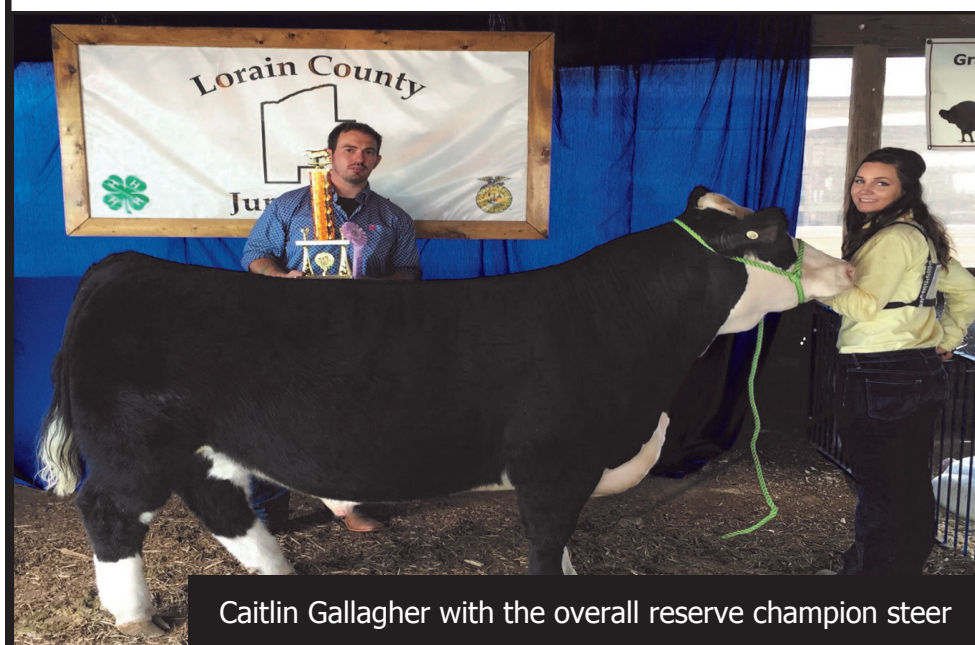
Ty Ostrander received second place for FFA Engineering. Sean Miller received grand champion horticulture crop award. Ian Valerius earned grand champion FFA vegetables crop award. Ben Bickel received grand champion Ag engineering exhibit. Samantha Ives earned pygmy goat senior showmanship and showman of showman grand champion pygmy goat. Braedan Casper received reserve class champion gilt in type. Breanna Dechant earned grand champion poster, reserve grand champion type class pygmy goat, and reserve grand champion type class bantam hen. Kaitlyn Frazier received grand champion pygmy goat doe 0 to 6.

Erica Benton received second place Showman of Showmen and overall grand champion pygmy goat doe. Aaron Myers earned reserve grand champion type for pen of two chickens. Megan Brandich received grand champion level two pack goat. Genalda Finely received second place in boer goat showmanship. Grace Pohorence earned first place in senior turkey showmanship.

The 2015 Firelands FFA Junior Fair Board Members should be recognized for their hard work and devotion to the success of the Lorain County Fair. Thank you to all Junior Fair Board Members. We would like to especially recognize the Firelands FFA members that serve on the board: President: Ali Butler, Vice President: Katie Fath, Treasurer: Claire Vilagi, Executive Members: Jessica Beran, Evan Born, Christopher Fath, Bianca Inman, Samantha Ives, Jesse Jones, Nathan Kovach, Garrett Lewis, Sean Miller, Rachel Minek, Colin Myers, Madi Stanley, and Allison Vilagi.

The Firelands FFA would like to extend congratulations to all exhibitors at the 2016 Lorain County Fair as well as a sincere "Thank You" to all of the volunteers, judges, sponsors, buyers, and everyone who helped to make this year successful. Check out additional pictures on our Firelands FFA Instagram and Twitter.

Submitted by Grace Pohorence, 2016 -2017 Reporter



Caitlin Gallagher with the overall reserve champion steer



Rachael Minek was the grand champion pig showman

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On July 8, 2016 eleven people, sent from Trinity E-Free Church in Amherst, left the comforts of home and headed for Sao Paulo, Brazil. When they arrived in Sao Paulo, Brazil on Saturday morning, they took off running. The Ohioans visited several favelas (slums, or shanty towns) in the city. In each favela the poverty was evident. But in each favela they met people who were known by the people from AMO (the group they were partnering with). The people were so excited that some people from America were stopping to see them. AMO brought these people food, clothing, and encouragement. Sometimes they sang as a group with the people and always prayed with the family.  
 The group from Ohio was partnering with AMO. AMO means - Apascentai Minhas *Feed My Sheep* in Portuguese. This is based on the verses from the Bible, John 21:15-17. The mission of AMO is to establish Family Ministry Centers for the poor and spiritually needy in the favelas (slums) of Brazil, supplying the spiritual and physical needs necessary for abundant living with Christ.

At the AMO compound they helped with some projects - mixed & poured concrete for a better basket ball court, sanded & painted in a new house for single moms, helped in their garden, worked with the children & teens when they came to the compound for the day, and helped in the many church services. They did whatever they could to help the missionaries at AMO.  
 At the end of the week the group was tired but encouraged by the work that AMO is doing in Brazil.  
 Of the group of eleven, seven have Firelands connections: Libby Skolnik and Liz Lewis are seniors at FHS, Christie and Stephen Budweg are FHS alumni ('13 & '15), Lauren Budweg is a teacher at SAMS, Kevin Kelley is son of Jill Kelley, teacher at FES, Chris Reutepohler is a favorite sub at SAMS.  
 One may never know the far reaching influence of the Firelands family. This summer it reached all the way to Brazil.

On several days the group visited the favelas and brought encouragement to the people. Some families were given a water filter made from two five-gallon buckets. These buckets allowed the families to have clean drinking water. It was also a tool to share the Gospel. What a great tool - you put the dirty water in and the filter cleans it and gives living fresh water. So it is with Christ He will take the dirt in your life and give you fresh living water. Everything was done with the mindset of sharing the Gospel, being the hands and feet of Christ in practical ways.



**F A B C NOTICE**  
 Attention all parents, grandparent and students: The Firelands Athletic Booster Club is always looking for new members to help our organization. The meetings are every fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the high school library. Visit the website for further membership information or contact any booster officer for more information.

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 Office of Homeland Security,  
 844-SaferOH (844-723-3764) is an anonymous tip  
 line that will accept both calls and texts 24 hours a  
 day. This service allows both students and adults to  
 share information regarding any safety concerns  
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## 2016 - 2017 Board Meetings

- AUGUST 8, 2016
- SEPTEMBER 12, 2016
- OCTOBER 10, 2016
- NOVEMBER 9, 2016
- DECEMBER 12, 2016
- JANUARY 9, 2017\*\*
- FEBRUARY 13, 2017\*\*
- MARCH 13, 2017\*\*
- APRIL 10, 2017\*\*
- MAY 8, 2017\*\*
- JUNE 12, 2017\*\*
- JULY 10, 2017\*\*

\*\*Tentative, subject to Board approval

**Meetings Begin at 7:00 pm**

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