



# The Firelands Express



Volume 10, Issue 81

November 2019

Serving the communities of Amherst, Amherst Twp., Birmingham, Brownhelm Twp., Camden Twp., Florence Twp., Henrietta Twp., Kipton Village, New Russia Twp., South Amherst Village, Vermilion and Vermilion Twp.

## High School Construction Meetings Underway

I am pleased to tell you that our construction process is underway! Firelands Local Schools and the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) jointly selected BSHM as the architectural firm to design our new high school. BSHM will also be working with Clark and Post Architects (based in Lorain, OH) on our project. BSHM has been in practice since 1962 and has vast experience working with and designing educational structures.

We are currently in the process of selecting our construction manager at risk and commissioning agent. While there are multiple delivery options available to public entities, the construction manager at risk model was chosen by our Board of Education because once selected, the firm will be immediately involved in the design of our new high school which will help ensure our project remains within budget and on schedule. A commissioning agent is required by the OFCC and acts as a checks and balance process for the district and our taxpayers. Commissioning agents have extensive technical background and

expertise with verification techniques, functional performance testing, system equipment and operations and maintenance knowledge.

Over the next several months we will begin a process called educational visioning. Through conversations with our staff, students, parents and community, we will discuss our vision for education in Firelands and how our new high school will support that vision. As part of our campaign commitment to our community in the design of our new building, please join us on December 5th at 6:30 p.m. in the Band Room at FHS for our first community visioning meeting. A second meeting will occur on January 29th at FHS at 6:30 p.m.

During the visioning process, the district will also create surveys to gather input from those that are not able to attend the meetings. Notices of surveys will be:

- Emailed to parents/guardians
- Available on our website at [www.firelandsschools.org](http://www.firelandsschools.org)
- Posted on the district Facebook page at The Firelands Falcons

**FALCON NATION**

**VISIONING MEETING**  
December 5th at 6:30 pm \* FHS Band Room

It's time to plan the new Firelands High School!

A Visioning Meeting to begin exploring the building scope and educational vision for the project has been scheduled. We will be addressing 21st Century learning opportunities and how we can best prepare our students for their future.

The public is invited to attend the meeting on December 5th at 6:30 p.m. in the Band Room at FHS for our first community Visioning Meeting.

The second meeting will occur on January 29th at FHS at 6:30 pm.

"We are preparing our students for their future, not our past."  
David Thornburgd

As a reminder, please visit our "construction update" tab on the district's website for current information on our building project or feel free to contact me with your questions or concerns regarding the construction of our new Firelands High School.

In closing, our district has much to be thankful for - wonderful students, a caring staff and a supportive community. On behalf of our district, I wish each of you a Happy Thanksgiving filled with much joy, love and friendship.

Mike Von Gunten  
Superintendent

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

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## Annual Holiday Preview is December 5th

The annual Holiday Preview takes place on December 5<sup>th</sup>!

Five years ago we had an idea for a morning program that would allow us the time to thank the members of our community for their ongoing support over the years. Our music departments agreed with our vision and the concept of the Holiday Preview came to life. What started out with 30 guests has grown to a few hundred people!

We are honored to invite retired staff members and local senior citizens for a complimentary breakfast and a morning filled with music and fellowship. Our performing art students from elementary to high school will share some of their best work for our guests. Our visual art students will have a display and students from the Teen Leadership Corps will support our guests through set

up and service. New this year will be a performance from our FHS Drama Department!

Grant funding through Friends of Firelands and the Fraternal Order of Eagles has made this event possible.

Reservations must be made by November 29<sup>th</sup> and can be returned to Jennifer at [jbutchko@firelandsschools.org](mailto:jbutchko@firelandsschools.org) or (440) 965-5821 ext. 1015.

*Submitted by Jennifer Butchko, Public Relations Coordinator*



## LETRS Training for Elementary Teachers

Starting this year, our first and second grade teachers from Firelands Elementary School are participating in a researched-based LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) training program led by the State Support Team of Lorain County. The training is a three year commitment from the teachers and the district. The training provides teachers with a core understanding of language structure and helps them to gain in-depth instructional information to complement their teaching practices.

The content in LETRS training address each of the following components: phonemic awareness, oral language development, vocabulary, reading fluency, comprehension and writing.

During the training, the teachers build a bridge between

research and practice. They cultivate knowledge about teaching literacy and language and develop the ability to diagnose and overcome students reading challenges. They learn practical strategies that work for every type of learner and increase effectiveness of core reading instruction.

Teachers matter more to student success than any other aspect of schooling. Research shows that LETRS training prepares teachers to teach the components of reading instruction and apply the learned strategies to their daily instructional practices which supports the increase of student achievement in reading.

*Submitted by Lori Roemer, Director of Educational Services*



See what these FES students are up to on page 7



**November 27, 28, 29 - all schools closed for Thanksgiving holiday**  
**December 23 through January 3 - all schools closed for Christmas break**

**School resumes January 6**

**Next edition of the Express is January 20**

## Bus Driver Carolyn DeWitt Honored

Each year the Firelands Schools recognizes one of our drivers at the Lorain County Driver recognition banquet. The driver we recognized this year was Carolyn DeWitt.

Carolyn and her husband Joe both attended and graduated from Firelands. After graduating and getting married, Joe entered the military so they were able travel throughout the world and the United States.

Carolyn trained to drive bus in the summer of 2005, after returning home when Joe retired from service, settling close to where they both grew up. In

addition to driving bus every day, Carolyn works at the elementary school cafeteria as a helper cook and cashier.

They have two grown sons, Ash and Joseph, and a granddaughter. Their son and his family are serving in the Coast Guard, stationed in Louisiana, so they do not get to see them as often as they would like.

We thank Carolyn and Joe DeWitt both for the service and sacrifice to our country and to Firelands Schools. We are grateful for the DeWitt family's continued service to our country!

*Submitted by Milt Saylor  
Fleet Operations Manager*



### Fun facts about bus driving

- Firelands' bus drivers drove 308,293 miles in fiscal year 2019.
- The total miles for extra trips was 26,929.
- The most miles driven by one driver: 29,432, Bus 12.
- The most extra trip miles by one driver: 6,039, Bus 7.

**Have you thanked a bus driver today?**

## Food Service News

Meal applications can be filled out anytime throughout the school year. The online portal is [www.payschoolscentral.com](http://www.payschoolscentral.com), print an application from the Food service tab on the school website or pick up an application in the school office. Below is the income eligibility chart to help determine if your children may be eligible. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Baumann, Food Service Director 440-965-5821 ext. 1011. This

website, [www.payschoolscentral.com](http://www.payschoolscentral.com), is used for online meal payments as well.

All negative accounts must be paid. The Food Service Department is self-supporting, it's very important that meal accounts are kept in the positive. If you are having difficulties paying for your child's meals, please reach out to Judy Baumann so she can assist you.

*Submitted by Judy Baumann  
Food Service Director*

FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2019-2020			
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$23,107	\$1,926	\$445
2	31,284	2,607	602
3	39,461	3,289	759
4	47,638	3,970	917
5	55,815	4,652	1,074
6	63,992	5,333	1,231
7	72,169	6,015	1,388
8	80,346	6,696	1,546
Each additional	8,177	682	158

## Firelands High School News

### Report Cards Available in PowerSchool

Students and Parents may now access the first grading period report card in PowerSchool. This can only be accessed through your account on a web browser. Report cards cannot be accessed through the PowerSchool smart phone app, although the grades that are posted on the app are exactly the same as what is seen on the report cards.

### TLC Sponsors Valiant Blood Drive

Teen Leadership Corps sponsored a Student Blood Drive through Vitalant on Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. Students 16 years and older could donate with parental consent. TLC is eligible for scholarship money through FHS participation in the Vitalant Blood Drive program.

### FFA to Indianapolis

Congratulations to our FFA Students, and advisor Mrs. Finnegan, on their participation

in the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. The students were involved in competitions and several Agricultural Educational events throughout the weekend. Thank you again to our chaperone who helped organize and supervise the students during this time.

### Greenhand Ceremony

FFA held the FFA Greenhand Ceremony on Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup> in the FHS Cafeteria. It was a great way to welcome our new members to FFA and to celebrate the great things our chapter does on a weekly basis.

### FHS Artists Represent Ohio in Washington D.C.

Congratulations again to Mrs. Tawil and our students on receiving the honor of decorating the State of Ohio Christmas tree in President's Park on the Ellipse.

*Submitted by Bob Maver  
Principal*

## South Amherst Middle School News

### Teachers Receive Grants

Congratulations to Kristian Novak for receiving the “You Belong” Grant from the Lorain County Board of Mental Health. Through this grant she has started the Inspire Club. The purpose of the group is to work to make everyone feel included and that they belong here at SAMS. The group has some great ideas on ways to include all students. Their first activity was to share kindness by putting notes on student’s lockers.

We would also like to congratulate Chuck Latto for receiving a grant towards his Project Lead the Way (PLTW) class. This program supports the creation of hands-on learning with student empowerment, and provides training for teachers and resources for students.

### New Clubs for SAMS Students

Many clubs and activities are now in full gear. Returning this year is Robotics Club, with several competitions scheduled, as well as Academic Challenge and Art Club. In addition to the Inspire Club, other new clubs for 2019-2020 include Anime Club, Veteran’s Club, and Choir/Drama Club.

Mrs. Szemplak says that an ambitious sixth grader

wrote up a proposal for Anime Club which now includes eight students from grades six through eighth. Early activities include making sketchbooks, guessing theme songs, sharing personal drawings and getting to know other students. As the club’s advisor, Mrs. Szemplak says “This club is much more than a group of kiddos getting together to talk about their favorite animated series, it’s a safe place for them to come and be themselves surrounded by friends that really understand each other.”

The Art Clubs at SAMS are also keeping Mrs. Szemplak busy. New last year, the group has had even bigger success this year. They have grown to 20 students. The group is almost evenly split between grade levels, which allows for collaboration and also the opportunity for the 8th graders to be mentors for the younger students. Mrs. Szemplak says, “They are all so excited and creative. They come to me booming with ideas and we have decided to “go with the flow”. I

have had the students tell me what they want to practice and learn about and then we are designing our own projects to reach our goals.”

Currently, art club is working on a pretty large project. They are in the process of painting the stall doors in the student bathrooms with positive quotes. They plan to possibly even expand into the teacher lounges and doors to the main office. The big goal is to beautify the school and add some positivity and excitement to the building, while also working to strengthen skills on an individual level.

The Veterans Club meets on Mondays after school with Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Budweg and Mrs. Doane. They are learning how to support our local Veterans and what it means to be a Purple Star School. (See the “White Table” article on the next page.)

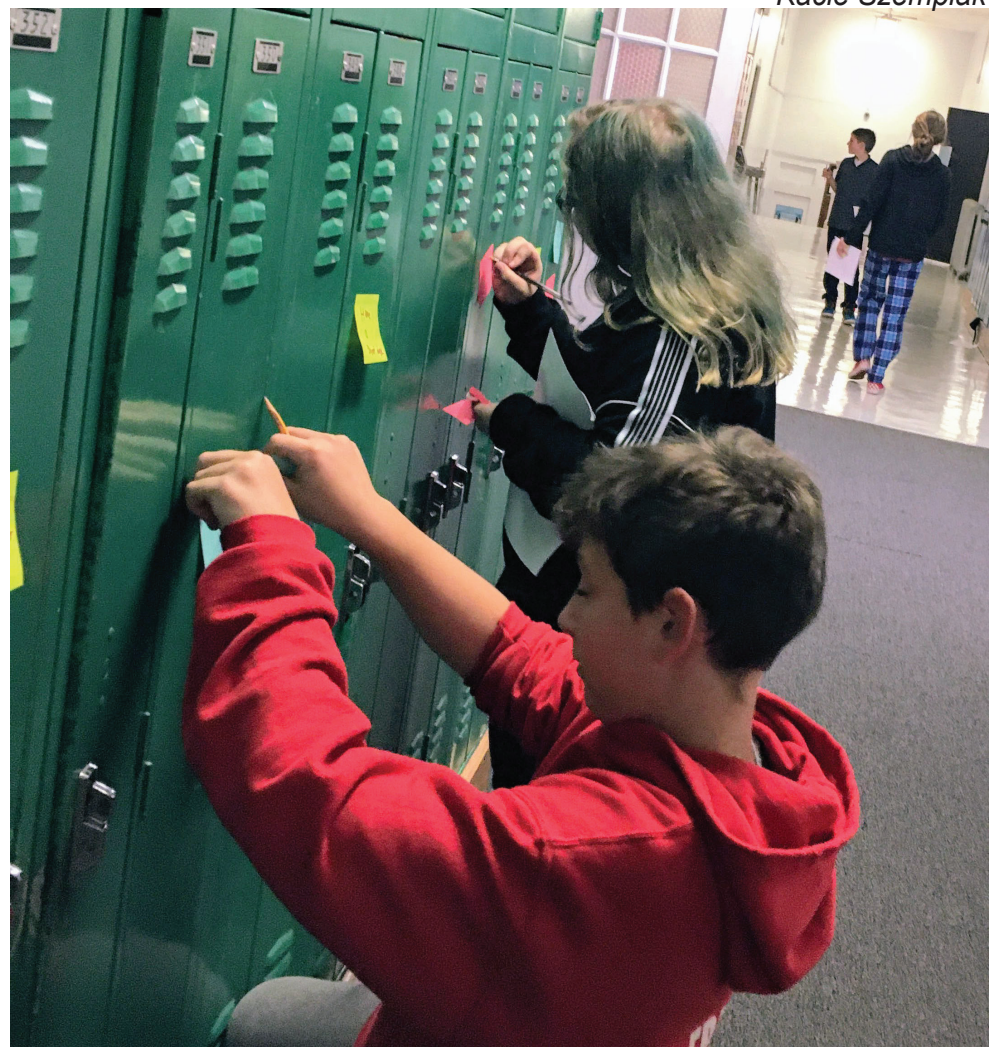
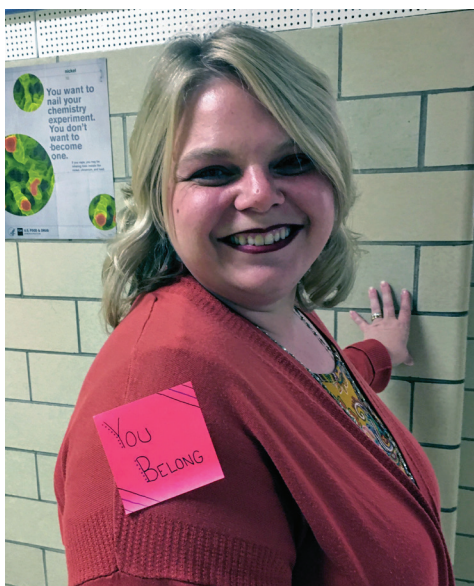
### Winter Activities

Fall sports have ended and Winter sports have begun. Boys basketball is underway and we wish them the best of luck.

SAMS also held the first PBIS quarterly reward on Friday, November 1, 2019. Students were treated to a number of fun choices to celebrate their adherence to the SAMS Falcon Code.

Plans for the first Family Night are underway. There will be many Winter Wonderland activities that the whole family can enjoy together right before the band concert, including arts and craft ornament making, cookie decorating, air brush artist, concessions, photo opportunities and a visit from the big man himself!

*Contributors: Cara Gomez  
Kristian Novak  
Debbie Neal  
Kacie Szemplak*



## Severe Weather Policy and Procedures

### Winter is early this year!

The bad weather can be difficult for parents *and* the school system. To best prepare for the season, we will again share information regarding our District's policy for closing or delaying school due to inclement weather. The Superintendent may close the school, dismiss students early or delay the opening of school in the event of hazardous weather.

When severe weather approaches, we typically begin monitoring roads and facilities at 4:00 a.m. Mr. Mike Von Gunten, Superintendent, and Mr. Milt Saylor, Transportation Director, work together to determine if a weather delay or closure is necessary. Typically delays or cancellations occur between 5:15 – 6:00 a.m. In some cases, a closure can occur the night before but most often a final decision is made in the early morning hours on the day of the closure or delay.

How does a district make the decision to delay or close? Road conditions, building and grounds conditions, air temperature and weather forecasts are all taken into consideration.

As a reminder, we must comply with minimum hours of instruction each year. The district may extend its school year if the school closes enough that it approaches the minimum instructional hours of required time. Calamity make up days have been included on the District Calendar. You can see the calendar here.

In the event we alter a school day due to the weather, FLSD will post information on:

- District website: FirelandsSchools.org
- Twitter accounts: @FLSDSuper and @Falcon\_Update
- The Firelands Falcons Facebook page
- School All-Call and/or district email
- Local media outlets

**Please note that it is very important to submit your current email address and telephone number through the Oneview portal.** Our database must be current in order for parent or guardian calls/emails to be initiated. If you need to update contact information please do so through the parent portal here.

Wishing our community a safe and enjoyable winter!

*submitted by Jennifer Butchko*

## SAMS Sixth Graders Honor Veterans

On November 12th the sixth grade students set an "American White Table" for local Veterans. The play was adapted from the children's book "America's White Table" by Margot Raven.

The white table has been set in many mess halls across our globe for over 35 years on Veterans Day as a symbol for and remembrance of service members fallen, missing, or held

captive in the line of duty.

The table where no one will ever sit is filled with familiar items that contain military symbolism such as the glass that was turned over as a symbol of the meal that won't be eaten or the red rose that was placed on the table with a red ribbon as a symbol of hope that all of our missing will return someday.

This story not only helps bring awareness to the sacrifices

of soldiers through the ritual of remembrance for our Veterans but it educates our students on the cost of freedom that every man and woman who puts on a military uniform is willing to pay for them. As a Purple Star School, it is our pleasure at South Amherst Middle School to continue to educate our students on the importance of our military as well as to support our military families. Thank you to every Veteran who has risked their life for our freedom and a special thank you to every Firelands Veteran!

*submitted by Debbie Neal*



## Firelands Elementary School News

### Red Ribbon Week

During the last week in October, FES recognized Red Ribbon Week, which is a nationwide effort to prevent substance abuse by our children. It is a week set aside to educate students in developmentally appropriate ways about the dangers of drugs and alcohol, teach refusal skills, and celebrate a drug-free lifestyle.

The theme of this year's celebration was "Follow Your Dreams, Live Drug-Free". We want our children to be determined and passionate about their dreams. In order to reach their goals, students need to work hard and make wise choices along the path to their dreams, including making healthy choices for their mind and body. It was a fun-filled week with clothing worn backwards, dressing up as what students want to do when they get older, and crazy costumes!

### Fox 8 News Cool School

FES was excited to find out that we had won the

honor of "Cool School" during the last week of October. Different students and learning opportunities were highlighted during the filming. We also had two students visit the studio and participate on air during the "Coffee Quiz." It was wonderful to see our school recognized in such an amazing way!

You can see the video on the Fox 8 Cleveland [website](#). Click on "AM Show" and then "Cool Schools".

### Firelands Head Start Participates in Read for the Record

"Read for the Record" is a national campaign to bring young children together with valued grown-ups in their lives to read the same book, on the same day, in communities all over the world. On November 7, the Firelands Head Start students had a special guest reading this year's book, "Thank You, Omu!"

Our reader, Mr. Dick Killen, is not only the former principal at Firelands Elementary School, but

also the father of our Head Start teacher, Mrs. Jenny Ketcham.

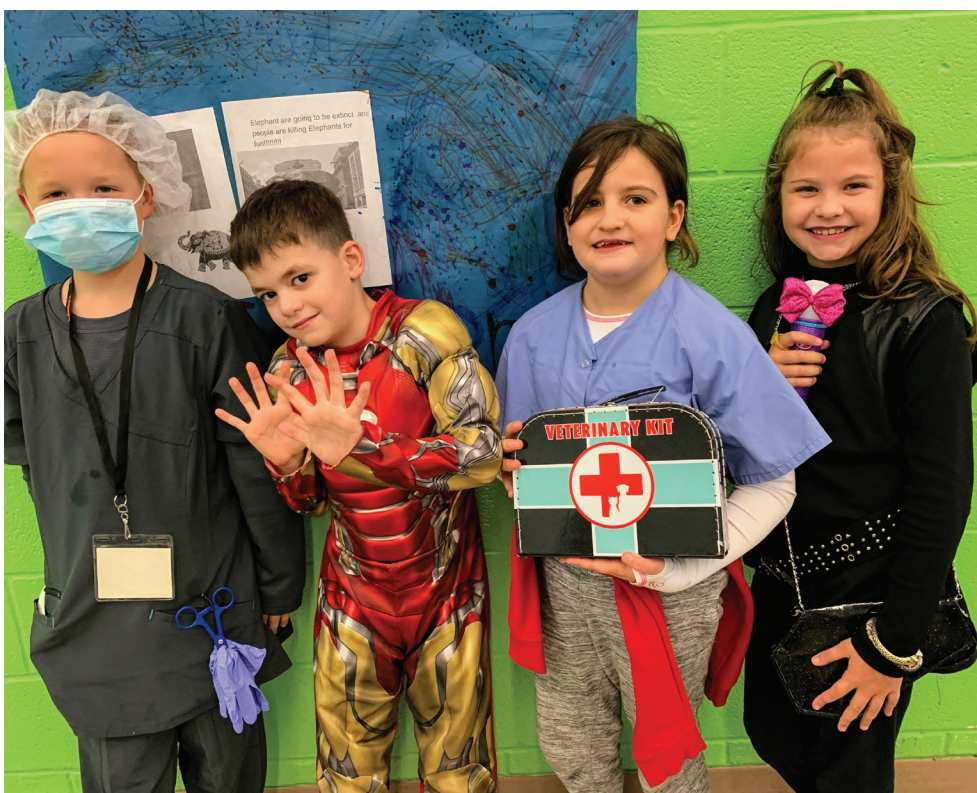
### First Grade Says Thank You

The first grade classes at FES would like to thank Schlechter Brothers Country Harvest (owned and operated by Will and Carl Schlechter) for their very generous donation of pie pumpkins this year. Besides the excitement (and lots of smiles) of being able to have their very own pumpkins to take home and share with their families, first graders were able to put their newly acquired math and science skills to good use, measuring the circumference, height, and overall size of their pumpkins. Students also made a prediction on whether or not they thought their pumpkin might float in a tub of water (the results were surprising!). Anyone interested in conducting their own pumpkin experiments or simply enjoy baking a pumpkin pie will find a large selection of pumpkins, gourds, and other fall produce at Schlechter Brothers Country Harvest roadside stand, 51593

St. Rt. 113 in Henrietta. They are open seasonally from July to mid-November.

### Fourth Graders Present a Veterans Day Program

Firelands Elementary School celebrated Veterans Day on November 8<sup>th</sup> with a Veterans Day Program put on by fourth grade students. Fourth grade classes each represented one of the five branches of the military including, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard. The students spoke about the history of each of the branches and sang the anthem representing each branch. Students courageously volunteered for speaking parts in the program and spoke in front of veterans, teachers and fellow classmates. Veterans were recognized at the program and given a few tokens of appreciation from the fourth grade students. At the end of the program, all fourth grade students enjoyed a cupcake with the Veterans in attendance. We would like to thank the PTG



## Firelands Elementary Photo Gallery

### Elementary, continued

for all of their support with The Veterans Day Program as well as Mrs. Choe and Mrs. Groboske for recognizing the Veterans, Mr. Wiley for giving us the gym, and Mrs. Woods for providing the music. A big thank you to our Firelands High School trumpet player, Nathaniel Boucher, who played TAPS.

### Parent Teacher Group (PTG)

FES is lucky to have a valuable Parent Teacher Group. This group of parents works hard to provide needed items to our staff and building. They also plan and fund many activities for our students.

Please consider being a part of this volunteer group. Their next meeting is scheduled for December 5 at 5:00 pm. The meeting will be held at FES. Come to find out what events are happening and how you can help.

You can also find out more by finding them on Facebook (Firelands Elementary School PTG) or on Twitter (@FESPTG).

*submitted by Laura Groboske  
Assistant Principal*



### Firelands Elementary School Important Dates

- November 25-26 – COSI on Wheels
- November 26 – PTG Fall Fundraiser Pick-up  
(3:45-6:00 pm in FES Cafeteria)
- November 27-29 – Fall Break
- December 5 – PTG Meeting at 5:00 pm in the Staff Lounge
- December 6 – Movie Night sponsored by PTG at 6:30 pm
- December 4-13 – Not Forgotten Box Toy Drive
- December 9-13 – Santa Shop sponsored by PTG
- December 16 – BOE Meeting
- December 18 – Grade 4 Winter Concert 6:00 pm
- December 20 – Winter Classroom Parties at 2:30 pm;  
Last Day before Break
- December 23-January 3 – Winter Break
- January 6 – Classes Resume
- January 9 – PTG Meeting at 6:30 pm in Library
- January 13 – BOE Meeting
- January 20 – MLK Day – No School

### From the Blog - Bus Safety

The Firelands Local Schools Blog is a great way to stay in touch with the district in between your Express issues.

Here is an excerpt from the blog post regarding a new bus safety initiative.

*Nationwide, the safety of students entering and exiting school buses is a very real concern. Most of us have watched clips of distracted drivers not paying attention to the flashing lights and extended stop-arm. These reckless drivers are responsible for unnecessary tragedies that are absolutely preventable.*

*In an effort to protect our children, several of our school buses are now equipped with*

*stop-arm cameras. This initiative is designed to raise awareness and affect driver's behavior. These cameras run automatically when the stop-arm is extended and will record any stop-arm violation.*

*Reducing the illegal passing of stopped school buses is a community effort. The District and law enforcement wants to remind our local drivers to be patient when traveling near school buses. Further, we ask that you review bus laws, especially with young drivers.*

**To read more, please visit the [Firelands Local Schools Blog](#). Sign up for new posts by email and stay in touch!**

# THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

## Girls Basketball Schedule




### FIRELANDS FALCONS GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

ADMISSION - ADULT \$6/ STUDENT \$4

2019-2020 SCHEDULE

■ HOME ■ AWAY ■ NEUTRAL

VERMILLION NOV. 23RD 7PM	CLEARVIEW DEC. 11TH 7PM	AMHERST STEELE DEC. 23RD 530PM	OPEN DOOR CHRISTIAN JAN. 11TH 1PM	ROCKY RIVER JAN. 27TH 730PM	LORAIN FEB. 10TH 730PM
MIDVIEW NOV. 25TH 7PM	MAPLETON DEC. 14TH 230PM	COLUMBIA JAN. 4TH 130PM	KEYSTONE JAN. 15TH 7PM	OBERLIN JAN. 29TH 6PM	BLACK RIVER FEB. 12TH 7PM
KEYSTONE DEC. 4TH 7PM	OBERLIN DEC. 18TH 7PM	EDISON JAN. 6TH 7PM	BROOKSIDE JAN. 22ND. 7PM	WELLINGTON FEB. 1ST 130PM	
BROOKSIDE DEC. 7TH 130PM	WELLINGTON DEC. 21ST 130PM	BLACK RIVER JAN. 8TH 7PM	CLEARVIEW JAN. 25TH 130PM	COLUMBIA FEB. 5TH 7PM	

## Firelands Fall Sports Round Up

It has been a fantastic fall sports season for the Falcons as the class of 2020 did a fantastic job leading the way on the fields, courts, fairways and trails. The leadership and positive energy that these young men and women brought to Firelands helped build the culture that will help the underclassmen understand what it will take to reach their goals for years to come.

The new conference has a lot of parity from top to bottom in all sports, which has made the games exciting and competitive on a night to night basis. The boys' varsity soccer team was able to capture the schools first Lorain County League Championship and defeat Elyria Catholic in the OHSAA Sectional Semi-Finals all in a weeks' time.

The Falcons were also able to qualify for the 2019 OHSAA State golf tournament as junior Jackson Talbott represented our golf team in Columbus for the first time since 2006.

Adding to the first place boys Soccer finish, the Falcon teams as a whole finished well as Girls Cross Country and Girls Soccer both finished second in the conference. While Golf finished third and Volleyball finished fourth in the LC8. Volleyball was able to capture a Sectional Championship as they defeated Clearview in the semi-finals and Rocky River in the Championship game. They would fall to last year's State Champs in Holy Name the following week, but the girls were able to secure more wins in a season than any other in the history of Firelands (as far as we have been able to find) with a 17-7 record.

## Boys Basketball Schedule



### FIRELANDS FALCONS BASKETBALL 2019-20

ADMISSION \$6 ADULTS / \$4 STUDENTS

2019-2020 SCHEDULE

■ HOME ■ AWAY ■ NEUTRAL

MEDINA NOV. 27TH 3PM	OBERLIN DEC. 10TH 7PM	WELLINGTON JAN. 3RD 7PM	BROOKSIDE JAN. 24TH 7PM	EDISON FEB. 1ST 730PM	CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS FEB. 15TH 5PM
WESTERN RESERVE NOV. 30TH 730PM	BROOKSIDE DEC. 13TH 7PM	COLUMBIA JAN. 10TH 7PM	OPEN DOOR CHRISTIAN JAN. 25TH 730PM	OBERLIN FEB. 7TH 7PM	BLACK RIVER FEB. 21ST 7PM
PADUA DEC. 3RD 7PM	CLEARVIEW DEC. 17TH 7PM	BLACK RIVER JAN. 14TH 7PM	VERMILLION JAN. 28TH 730PM	WELLINGTON FEB. 11TH 7PM	
KEYSTONE DEC. 6TH 7PM	AMHERST STEELE DEC. 23RD 7PM	KEYSTONE JAN. 17TH 7PM	CLEARVIEW JAN. 31ST 7PM	COLUMBIA FEB. 14TH 7PM	



## Sports, continued

In the classroom the teams also showed why reaching their full potential is something we strive for in all that we do as the teams GPA soared higher than it has in years as:

Football	3.03
Volleyball	3.55
Boys Soccer	3.48
Girls Soccer	3.54
Cross County	3.31
Golf	3.37
Cheerleading	3.68

This led to a 3.42 overall Firelands High School Student Athlete average GPA. It was quite an accomplishment for the kids, coaches, parents and teachers of Firelands.

The winter sports season are already off and running as SAMS Boys Basketball has already played a game while the other teams have practices, parent meetings, pictures and scrimmages all lined up and ready to go for the 2019-20 winter season.

*Submitted by Ty Stillman  
Athletic Director*



### Firelands Youth Community Basketball

We are currently accepting registration forms for your community basketball program. We have programs for K-6 grades.

Visit [leaguelineup.com/fcyb](http://leaguelineup.com/fcyb) for more information.

**DEADLINE IS  
NOVEMBER 30**

## Modeling Leadership in an Authentic Learning Experience

Fourth and fifth grade gifted classes recently attended Food For America, an agriculture education program hosted by our own Firelands FFA in conjunction with other local FFA chapters.

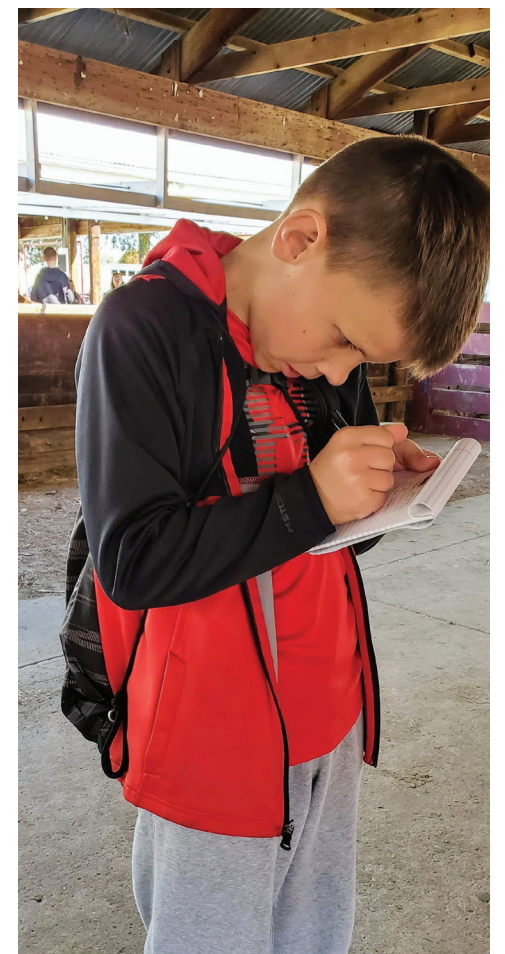
Prior to this fun and informative experience, the elementary students were asked to plan to share what they learned with students in younger grades. Armed with notepads and pencils, students furiously took notes on every topic at the event. Once they were back in the classroom, additional research was done for each student's topic of interest.

Fourth and fifth grade gifted math and reading students were able to then collaborate on similar topic choices and work together to create presentations, while keeping their audience in mind, just as the high school FFA students had done for theirs.

First and second grade classrooms hosted presentations given by the fourth and fifth graders. Topics included wheat, corn, soybeans, maple syrup, draft horses, rabbits, and tractors and farm equipment, to name just a few.

This is a great example of our older students modeling leadership and expertise while inspiring younger students, as well as teachers working together to support students in authentic learning and collaboration!

*Submitted by Teresa Dempsey*



**Honor and Merit Roll Listings for both  
South Amherst Middle School and Firelands High School  
are posted on the school pages at [firelandsschools.org](http://firelandsschools.org).**

## Subbing for Firelands Schools

Classified substitutes are always needed to help out in the following areas: kitchen, custodial, SAFE before and after school program, lunchroom and recess aide, classroom aides (special needs attendant, paraprofessional), bus monitors, and bus drivers.

To be eligible, you must pass a background check and complete an interview at the Board of Education. Some positions require additional credentials, such as bus drivers and aides.

All aides must have the "Educational Aide" permit through the [Ohio Department of Education](#) (ODE) for \$25. For information on bus driver training, please contact Milt Saylor at 440-965-4105.

To apply for classified substitute positions, visit the [Firelands website](#) and click on Employment. Applications are submitted by following the link to the North Coast Council

Application Consortium, where all of our positions are posted.

Teacher substitutes are hired through the [North Coast Shared Services Alliance \(NCSSA\)](#) and are paid \$95 per day, \$100 on the 11th day. Applicants must have a clean background check, bachelor's degree, and the proper license from the Ohio Department of Education.

Please visit the NCSSA website for more information on being a substitute teacher at Firelands.

All applicants for all positions must be fingerprinted. We use the [Educational Service Center of Lorain County](#) for that process. Please call ahead for an appointment at 440-324-5777. The cost is \$60 for both state and federal checks.

If you have any questions, please contact Sue Schaefer at the board office, 440-965-5821.

## Donations Needed

The Firelands Band Boosters will be hosting their annual Breakfast with Santa and Craft Bazaar on Saturday, December 7th at South Amherst Middle School. Proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit the SAMS band program.

To help keep costs low we are asking middle school band families, or anyone wanting to help, to make product donations. We are in need of the following items:

- Pancake Mix
- Syrup
- Sugar Free Syrup
- Juice (refrigerate after

opening).

Middle School band students can bring donations to SAMS starting today through December 4th. Donations will also be accepted at the SAMS band concert on November 20th.

This event also requires many adult and student helpers. Please consider going to the following URL and signing up as a volunteer. Various jobs are listed. Thanks for your consideration.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0445a8ab23abf85-breakfast3>

### Operation G.R.A.S.S. Reminder

Firelands FFA is offering free green reflective address safety signs to improve emergency response time. Phase I of the project is aimed at community members 60 and over and families with disabilities. Deadline for sign orders is February 1st. A donation of \$15 will be appreciated if the requester is willing and able, otherwise the signs are free while supplies last. For more information contact [sfinnegan@firelandsschools.org](mailto:sfinnegan@firelandsschools.org). The order form is available here:

<https://ffalcons.files.wordpress.com/2019/10/operation-grass-order-form>.

## School Immunization Requirements for 2019-2020

If your child will be entering 12<sup>th</sup> grade, 7<sup>th</sup> grade or any grade for the first time -- it is now time to update immunizations. If entering school for the first time, or after attending school elsewhere, please be sure to check that your child is in compliance with State of Ohio immunization requirements.

- **Kindergarten** – once your child has reached age 4, s/he can complete all required immunizations for diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus (DPT), polio (IPV), hepatitis B (HBV), measles mumps, rubella (MMR), and varicella (chickenpox). If going to be entering kindergarten next year, if possible, have them done and bring a copy of the record to Kindergarten screening in May.
- **Grades 1-6** – same requirements as for Kindergarten
- **Grades 7-10** – grades K-6 requirements plus Tdap (DPT booster) and MCV (meningococcal vaccine)
- **Grade 11** – grades K-6 requirements plus Tdap (received in 7th grade or later)
- **Grade 12** – grade 11 requirements plus MCV (must be received at age 16 or older)

Remember to bring your child's immunization records with you when you go to your healthcare provider or clinic. Please send a copy of the immunization record to the school nurse in your child's building, being sure your child's name is on it. Don't forget to keep a copy for yourself!

**Lorain County Public Health**, 9880 S. Murray Ridge Rd., Elyria, OH 44035 is now offering immunizations (also known as vaccines) Monday through Friday, 8:30 am – 3:30 pm, with evening hours throughout the month. A full vaccine clinic schedule is available at [www.LorainCountyHealth.com](http://www.LorainCountyHealth.com). Appointments are encouraged, although walk-ins are accepted. Call **440-284-3206** for information or to make an appointment for both children and adults. Bring all immunization records, insurance cards, and cash or check; although some children may be eligible for discounts under the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. All children under age 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

**Note:** Ask your provider about additional vaccines that are recommended for children ages 11-19 such as 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of varicella (chickenpox), hepatitis A and human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines.

submitted by Linda Matus  
School Nurse

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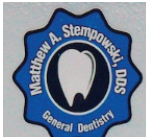
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