



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



**Planning for the Future
- Your Input is Needed**

South Amherst Middle School and Firelands High School have served our community well, but the educational and financial challenges of maintaining a 107-year-

old and 63-year old building continue to grow. Antiquated boilers, roof repairs, inefficient windows and doors, leaky plumbing, dim lighting, failing electrical systems that cannot handle modern technology, lack of ADA compliance, and safety and security mechanisms are just some of the challenges that impact our students, teachers, and staff every day. We cannot ignore these issues-but we also cannot ignore our community. That's why after a series of failed attempts to address our facility issues, we're taking a step back.

Opportunities for Involvement:
Building Advisory Committee: September 28th
at 7:00 pm, Firelands High School

We are re-establishing the Building Advisory Committee – a committee that will represent a broad cross-section of our district. The BAC will meet four times to thoroughly assess the needs of our facilities. This committee will be charged with:

- Reviewing enrollment studies, demographics, and property values
- Examining OSFC building assessments detailing exact issues with each of the facilities and the costs associated
- Touring the district facilities
- Reviewing the results of listening sessions with teachers, staff, parents, and residents

- Evaluating the results of a statistically-valid telephone survey of our community
- And lastly, recommending a long-term facility solution to the school board

Community Listening Session: October 11th at 6:00 pm, Firelands High School

Listening to residents is a key component to understanding what is in the best interest of our students, community, and the educational excellence of our district. To that end, we invite you to attend and share your thoughts regarding our facilities at a listening session on Wednesday, October 11 at 6:00 pm at Firelands High School in the cafeteria. The session will be facilitated by an impartial moderator. We are limiting the groups to 17 participants to maximize conversation and, therefore, ask that you **RSVP to lseman@firelandsschools.org or by calling 965.5821**. If necessary, we will add additional session times to ensure everyone that would like to participate has a chance to do so.

The input and feedback offered by our stakeholders and community members is essential in this process, and will help us determine our next steps. We cannot sit back and do nothing as our buildings deteriorate around us, with the cost to fix them rising each and every day.

If you are interested in being a part of the BAC or have questions about our facilities, please contact me at mvongunten@firelandsschools.org or by phone at 965.5821.

District Report Card

Last week the Ohio Department of Education released our district report card. The table in the following column, compares our results from the past two school years.

Report Card Measure	2015-2016	2016-2017
Indicators Met	5/24	8/24
Performance Index	63%-D	91.4%-C
Gap Closing	23.3%- F	83.4%-B
K-3 Literacy	20%-F	72.1%-B
Growth	D	B
Graduation Rate	4 year-B; 5 year-B	4 year-A; 5 year-A
Prepared for Success	D	D

As you can see, we have made significant progress in the last year. 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! Continued on page 2

Table of Contents	
Firelands High School Annual Report.....	page 2
South Amherst Middle School Annual Report.....	page 4
Firelands Elementary School Annual Report.....	page 5
Curriculum News.....	page 6
Friends of Firelands Membership Drive.....	page 6
South Amherst Fire Department Open House.....	page 7
School Immunization Requirements.....	page 8
Class of 1967 Reunion.....	page 9
Class of 1977 Reunion.....	page 9

SUPERINTENDENT CONT'D

Beyond data related to testing, I am most proud of the accomplishments listed below. 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.**

Character

- ◆ A collaborative effort at Firelands Elementary School (FES) collected over 1,600 pounds of food
- ◆ At South Amherst Middle School (SAMS), our 6th grade students provided Thanksgiving baskets with all the trimmings for over 20 families in our community
- ◆ At Firelands High School (FHS), the FFA led the Harvest for America Food Drive, collecting over 2000 pounds of food. In addition, FFA supported farming communities in the Midwest devastated by fire by organizing a relief trip to Ashland, Kansas during spring break to deliver supplies such as fencing, straw and hay
- ◆ Staff and students at both SAMS and FHS created clothing closets for students in need
- ◆ Our music and athletic programs supported various causes including raising money for victims of the tornadoes in the south, shared their artistic and musical talents with seniors in nursing homes, and helped support a former coach from Edison who was diagnosed with Melanoma
- ◆ Students at FES created a Buddy Bench for students in need of a friend to play with at recess

Competence

- ◆ FHS was nationally ranked by US News & World Report as one of the best high schools in the country
- ◆ The Class of 2017 earned 829 college credits and over \$900,000 in scholarships
- ◆ Visual and Performing Arts
 - * Our district was recognized as one of our country’s 100 best for music education
 - * Students from elementary to high school had their work selected for display at exhibitions across the State
- ◆ Last year our bus drivers safely traveled over 300,000 miles
- ◆ Our food service department served over 140,000 meals and continues to be 100% self-sufficient

Commitment

- ◆ Students at FHS have the ability to earn 60 semester hours of college credit on our campus
- ◆ Students at SAMS competed in their first robotics competition and students at FES took first place in a computer coding competition at Lorain County Community College
- ◆ Thank you to Bettcher Industries and Nordson Corporation for their longstanding support of various programs in our district.

GO FALCONS!

Mike Von Gunten

Superintendent

FHS Class of 1995

@FLSDSuper

FIRELANDS HIGH SCHOOL

2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT

ACADEMICS

- ◆ Class of 2017 earned over \$910,000 in scholarship offers
- ◆ Class of 2017 had 59 students earn 829 college credits, which equates to approximately \$400,000 in college credits through the College Credit Plus Program
- ◆ Class of 2017 had an average ACT score of 23.2, which is a historic high for a Firelands graduating class
- ◆ 29 members of the Class of 2017 earned an Honors Diploma through the criteria set by the Ohio Department of Education
- ◆ 42 students in the Class of 2017 graduated with a GPA of 3.5 or better, earning the honor of Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, or Summa Cum Laude
- ◆ Four and Five-year Graduation Rate is an A, as deemed by the Ohio Department of Education

LEADERSHIP, AWARDS, AND RECOGNITIONS

FIRELANDS HIGH SCHOOL RECOGNIZED BY US NEWS & WORLD REPORT

Firelands High School is recognized in the National Rankings and earned a bronze medal for the 2016-17 school year. Schools are ranked based on their performance on state-required tests and how well they prepare students for college.

FHS - CLEVELAND CLINIC BANNER SCHOOL

Congratulations to Firelands High School for being a 2016- 2017 Cleveland Clinic Banner School. This award recognizes FHS’s noteworthy success in leveraging community resources to advance student learning. The Cleveland Clinic Civic Education Department offers programs designed to promote health and wellness,

academic achievement, and career preparedness for students in grades K through 12. It takes ambitious teachers and encouraging administrators, though, to deliver these opportunities to students. The effort Laura Tawil invested in implementing the Cleveland Clinic eXpressions® program, and the support she provided in the process, demonstrate an exceptional commitment to student enrichment and distinguish Firelands High School as a 2016- 2017 Cleveland Clinic Banner School: a distinction earned by fewer than 30% of the 159 schools in four states that participated in Civic Education program-ming this year.

MR. MOYER WINS GRANT

Congratulations to Mr. Moyer, who was the winner of a CenturyLink Clarke M. Williams Foundation Teachers and Technology grant. The program, which has been offered since 2008, awards grants to schools in CenturyLink’s local service areas on behalf of teachers who have developed specific plans to innovatively implement technology in their classroom. Mr. Moyer won a \$4,895 to purchase wireless scientific probes and tablets to implement into the science curriculum.

TLC FLAG PROJECT

Through the efforts of TLC, Mr. Miller, and Mr. Stillman, Firelands High School is raising money to place a retractable American Flag in the gym, in honor of our military. The fundraising goal has been reached to purchase the retractable flag for our gym! Thank you to everyone who honored our troops last week. Firelands student and staff raised a total of \$368. That, with donations from local veterans’ organizations, brings our total raised to \$5567.00.

SELECT CHOIR OUTSTANDING AT OMEA

Congratulations to the Select Choir Members on an outstanding job at OMEA. Select Choir participated in 15 events, and received 9 Superior Ratings and 5 Excellent Ratings!!!

SENIOR CHOIR EARNS SUPERIOR RATING AT OMEA STATE CONTEST

Congratulations to the FHS Senior Choir for earning a Superior Rating at the OMEA State Choir contest last April at Medina Highland High School. The Choir students, Mrs. Johnson, and her staff have

FHS ANNUAL REPORT Cont'd

worked extremely hard through Lorain County and District contests to get to this point.

BAND EXCELS AT LC SOLO & ENSEMBLE

Congratulations the Band members who participated in the Lorain County Solo and Ensemble contest at Midview High School on Saturday! There were 6 Excellent Ratings and 9 Superior Ratings.

FHS ART STUDENTS IMPROVE SCHOOL RECORD

The Lorain County Regional Scholastic Art Exhibition has been providing a program to recognize, exhibit and honor excellence in visual art from 7-12 grade students for 50 years. The 2017 exhibition kicked off Jan. 17 and includes artwork from 20 Firelands High School students with 40 works. That's 48% of our work entered which is the highest acceptance rate we've achieved.

ACADEMIC CHALLENGE TEAM JUST MISSES A PAC TITLE

Congratulations to the FHS Academic Challenge team on a fantastic season, finishing 7-1 in the PAC, and ending in a three-way tie, as they were edged by Lutheran West 68-66 on the final day of competition. Unfortunately, the Falcons lost the title on a tie-breaker.

FHS MUSIC EDUCATION PROGRAM AGAIN SELECTED FOR BEST COMMUNITIES FOR MUSIC EDUCATION

Firelands Music Education Program is one of 4% of school districts in the nation to receive this distinction. Firelands has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. The Best Communities Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students.

FFA AT STATE CONVENTION

The Firelands FFA Chapter will be attended the State FFA Convention held at the Ohio State Fairgrounds on May 4th & 5th. 23 FFA members attended this event. The convention recognized members for their excellence, leadership education, and motivating those attending to achieve to their greatest ability. Eight Firelands students earned the State FFA Degree for their excellence in leadership, scholarship, and their Supervised Agricultural Experience Projects. Only the top two percent of FFA members receive this award. The chapter secretary, treasurer, and reporter were honored with gold officer awards, a feat only accom-

plished nine times in Firelands FFA's 63 years. Further, five Firelands FFA proficiency applications were selected as Top-Four-in - State Proficiency Award finalists. Brandon Palmer, FFA Grad 1, was selected as finalist for Star State Degree in Agribusiness finalist and Star American Degree in Agribusiness finalist, Firelands first ever! Macey Butchko was again chosen as a State FFA Talent finalist and performed several times.

FHS STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Firelands High School, in conjunction with the Firelands Lions Club, is proud to announce the 2016-17 Student of the Year is:

GRACE POHORENCE

Grace is a leader in many different activities at Firelands High School. She was very active in our Future Farmers of America Program (FFA), where she has achieved several awards, while volunteering for Harvest for America, Food for America, setting up a school Petting Zoo, and working as the Citizenship Chairperson in FFA. Grace's talent is evident in the hours she spent in both Marching Band and Concert Band. She also took part in Buckeye Girls State in June of 2016, taking on leadership roles with top female students around the State of Ohio. As for her non-school activities, Grace is a Gold Award winner in the Girl Scouts, achieving the award for setting up a summer art camp which helps elementary school children cope with stress and allows them to display their creativity. She has also volunteered for numerous causes, including the APL, Genesis House for Women, and the Ronald McDonald House. She has done all of this while working 10-15 hours per week at a local orchard and theatre. Grace will attend Lorain County Community College to work toward her nursing degree through the Community Partnership with four-year universities.

COMMUNITY SERVICE**TLC CLOTHING DRIVE**

The Firelands TLC Group hosted a clothing drive to help needy students at FHS and members of the community in October.

A WONDERFUL SHOW FOR OUR SENIOR CITIZENS

The FHS Jazz Band, Select Choir, and FES 4th Grade Choir put on a fabulous performance last in December for our Senior Citizen guests. Our guests were treated to brunch and then fantastic entertainment from our FHS and FES students. Macey Butchko and Nathan Hammond were sensational in their individual performances before and during brunch. It was an outstanding day for our Senior Citizen guests.

FFA LEADS FOOD DRIVE

The Firelands FFA again led the Thanksgiving Food Drive which collected almost 2000 lbs. of food to donate to local pantries to help those in need during the holiday season. Mrs. Finnegan and her students are leaders in Lorain County service, also providing a student seminar on food sources at the Lorain County Fairgrounds, and shopping for Christmas items for less fortunate community members. The Firelands FFA students are a fantastic community resource.

MELANOMA AWARENESS NIGHT

The Falcon Boys Basketball team traveled to Edison in February to team up to bring awareness of this terrible disease to students, staff, and community members. Both teams came together to show that people battling this disease are not alone in their courageous fight.

TLC BLOOD DRIVE

TLC sponsored a blood drive, in conjunction with the American Red Cross in March as FHS students donated blood to help with the constant shortage needed in area hospitals.

TRI-M HELPS DOWN SOUTH

Firelands Tri-M organized a fundraiser for those affected by the early season tornadoes in Southern Georgia by selling paper hearts, which were displayed on the cafeteria wall to demonstrate FHS's support.

FFA TO SUPPORT FARMING COMMUNITIES IN THE MIDWEST

Several FHS students in FFA raised money and collected materials to help communities in America's heartland. Due to wildfires, tens of thousands of acres of land have been lost, thousands of cattle have been destroyed, and miles of fencing ruined. FFA students organized a relief trip to Ashland, Kansas during spring break to deliver supplies such as fencing, straw, hay, and other materials to support the local community.

GRADUATION 2017**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2017**

128 members of the Class of 2017 proudly participated in the Sixty-Third Commencement Exercises at Firelands High School on Friday evening, June 2nd. The ceremony was highlighted by speeches from Class President Libby Skonik, and other speeches from Summa Cum Laude award winners Emily Wagner, Matthew Brightbill, and Sarah Slack. 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**BOYS SOCCER – PAC CHAMPS**

The Falcon Boys' Soccer Team as they clinched a PAC Stars Division title last week. The Falcons finished the regular season at 13-2-1, and were unbeaten in the Stars Division at 8-0-1 in the PAC.

WRESTLERS WIN PAC REGULAR SEASON TITLE**BURGDORF FINISHES FOURTH AT STATE MEET**

The Falcon Wrestlers clinched the Stars Division regular season title in 2017. Freshman wrestler Payton Burgdorf continues to make FHS Wrestling history. Payton finished fourth in Division II at 106 lbs., scoring 11 points for the Falcons, as they finished 38th in the team scoring. More impressive, however, was Payton's run in the State Championships. After dropping his opening match, Burgdorf won four straight matches over the next day and a half to battle all the way back to the third place match. Even though he fell in his third place match, Payton made FHS history with his performance, which he will look to build upon again in 2017-18.

FALCON LADY BOWLERS

The Firelands Girls' Bowling teams won the Division II North Shore Bowling Conference championship, beating 8 other teams.

12 FHS SENIORS SIGN TO CONTINUE ATHLETIC CAREERS

Good luck to the 12 Firelands High School members of the Class of 2017 who will be continuing their academic and athletic careers in college. The student-athletes will play seven different sports and have signed to continue their careers at 10 different colleges or universities. The Senior signees were: Patrick Brightbill (Malone, soccer), Trevor Damron

(Coastal Carolina, baseball), John Gall (Heidelberg, soccer), Tori Grasso (Capital, basketball), Kyle Hieb (Mount Union, wrestling), Daniel Hribal (Mount Union, baseball), Doc Januzzi (Waynesburg, basketball), Ben Markovich (Heidelberg, football), Colin Myers (Wilmington, basketball), Maddie Sims (Mount Union, track), Trevor Stefanski (Ashland, football) and Megan Vaughn (Baldwin Wallace, track).

Submitted by FHS Principal Bob Maver

SOUTH AMHERST MIDDLE SCHOOL 2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Our students and staff returned for another brand new school year, eager to see what this year holds for everyone! Our 6th grade teachers held a meeting on Sunday, August 20 for incoming sixth grade parents. Turnout was spectacular!! This was very encouraging. The teachers went over classroom procedures and expectations, website information and much more.

Open house was very well attended and students were so proud to show off their new classrooms and teachers.

The 2016-2017 school year saw many opportunities for SAMS. We had a club or activity for just about any interest imaginable. Some examples of our activities and clubs were; Academic Challenge, Student Council, Student Advisory Committee, Yearbook, Gaming Club, Robotics, Community Service activities, Athletics, Pep Rallies, Staff vs Students games and assemblies, TLC mentorship, National Junior Honor Society, field trips, dances, reward days, the musical, and much, much more!!

Congratulations to the 7th and 8th grade choir members who participated in the 24th annual musical, "Princess Whatsername". 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 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. We are so proud of our kiddos! The next time you are at SAMS, stop and see the musical wall of fame that displays posters from the many musicals over the years.

We were proud to host a lunch for our community members and treat them to a matinee show of the musical. This event was well attended and received positive reviews. We hope to continue this tradition. We want to thank Friends of Firelands for hosting the event.

The 6th 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.

Our 7th graders collected items for our soldiers overseas. This is a phenomenal way to support those service members and for the students to take a moment to think about the sacrifice of others. We are proud of our student body for learning to give back.

The 8th grade group cleaned up the local cemetery and planted flowers as their community service project. These projects build character and create the caliber of student that we are so proud of.

The 8th grade class took our annual trip to Philadelphia, Gettysburg and the Flight 93 Memorial.

The 7th grade took our annual trip to Put-In-Bay and our 6th grade class went to Beulah Beach.

We sent four students to the regional spelling bee. Renee Clippinger, Gemma Hager, Sammy Novak and Madison Bragg. They represented us very well.

Our Academic Challenge team placed first in the county in both the 5/6 grade groups and the 7/8 grade group. Way to Go Falcons!!!!

The Falcon Robotics team competed in their first competition at Lorain High School and placed in the top half of the group against seasoned middle school and high school teams. They even placed above the team that went to the world's championship the year before.

We can't wait to see what this year brings to SAMS!!

Respectfully submitted,

Cara M. Gomez, Principal



Join us for Homecoming on September 29th at The Falcon Stadium!

- ◆ Our Alumni Choir will join our choirs to sing the National Anthem
- ◆ Our Alumni Band will again perform pregame & during the halftime show with the MFMB
- ◆ Our Alumni Cheerleaders will join our cheer squads for the 3rd quarter

Alumni Choir members: Please help us honor America by joining us to sing the National Anthem at the FHS Homecoming Game on Friday, Sept 29th. Meet in the music room at 6:30 pm and wear your Falcon Pride attire! We look forward to joining in one voice on this very special night. To add to the fun of the night, join us in the cafeteria from 5-6:15 pm for an Ice Cream Social and catch up with your old friends!

Alumni Band members will once again join the MFMB! We will be rehearsing on September 28th. Contact the Band Director, Mr. Wiley, at dwiley@firelandsschools.org for additional information.

Alumni Cheerleaders will be practicing on September 20th at FHS at 7 pm. Contact Kathy Sklarek at (440) 225-9775 for additional information.

Looking for all Military and First Responders for our Appreciation Night on October 20th!

In honor of your service we are again holding our Military and First Responder Night at The Falcon Stadium. Those that serve the public are invited to the game and will be acknowledged on the field. Please allow us to show our thanks as your presence provides a powerful message about dedication and sacrifice. Contact Jennifer at (440) 965-5821 ext. 1015 with questions.

Looking for Alumni Updates

Send your military updates, graduation information, new job, marriage/engagement announcements, baby, and grandbaby announcements to us! We love to share good news with our community. Email to jbutchko@firelandsschools.org

Follow us on Facebook at The Firelands Falcons, <https://www.facebook.com/TheFirelandsFalcons/>, and stay connected!

Follow us on Twitter: @Falcon_update for all things Firelands

Firelands Elementary School 2016-2017 Annual Report

Firelands Elementary School had countless events and documented student progress and achievement during the 2016-2017 school year. There was a great deal of learning and fun that took place within our walls.

Our Parent Teacher Group (PTG) remained active through the school year and organized many events for our students. They organized fundraisers that provided funds to cover transportation costs for field trips.

Some of the many events included Father/Daughter dance, Movie Night, Duct tape night and Mother/Son dance. One of the huge successes of the PTG was the installation of a new playground set for the FES falcons to enjoy. The students could not have been more excited!

Staff members were also provided opportunities to gain more professional knowledge and training. Topics included providing feedback to students, setting clear learning targets, further understanding of reading and writing instruction, and time to further develop common assessments.

Each quarter staff nominated students to be Fabulous Falcons based on a character trait. 153 students were recognized for their efforts. Each Fabulous Falcon received a certificate and a yard sign. They, and their family members, were also invited to attend a recognition ceremony/breakfast. These ceremonies were well attended and a definite highlight of the school year.

FES implemented a PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports) program. This program recognized students for demonstrating positive behavior in each setting of our school. Staff provided students with falcon bucks that they could then use to purchase various rewards.

Various trinkets, coupons and raffles were available for the students. Some of our bigger rewards consisted of raffles for autographed sport

balls by FHS athletes, snow-cones, time on a Game Truck, and participating in a dance party. Many teachers also provided other incentives within their own classrooms.

2016-17 was the tenth year of Falcons on the Fly at Firelands Elementary. A huge thanks to the FES PTG and Bettcher Industries for their continued support of this program! Despite a very wet, rainy year, 160 students completed a marathon and participation throughout the year was strong.

The Principals' Advisory Committee members implemented the use of a Buddy Bench on the playground, a place where students looking for a friend could sit. Each grade level designated "spotters" who kept an eye out for classmates who might sit on the bench. The PAC members created a video to inform the student body about the Buddy Bench.

One of the many highlights in our kindergarten classrooms was the celebrating of the 100th day of school. Our kindergarten teachers and many students took the time to dress as if they were 100 years old. It was truly interesting and enjoyable to see.

First grade students were provided the opportunity to participate in an activity that recognized Earth Day. The first grade teachers and Nordson were able to work to bring in the "Trees into Cartons, Cartons into Trees" program. Our students with the help of Nordson volunteers learned about benefits of trees, how paper is made, and importance of recycling. Nordson volunteers utilized the program with our students to help them hold onto the significance of maintaining a clean environment.

Our second grade class participated in many different activities. They celebrated Johnny Appleseed in the fall by making applesauce. They also celebrated Grandparent's Day by inviting grandparents in to assist

with making gingerbread houses for the holidays.

Mrs. Krumwiede, Miss Andorka, and other staff also organized a Lego night for our students. There was also an after school Lego club that was available for students to further develop their creativity.

In November, our third grade students participated in the Third Grade Thanksgiving Day Parade. Students learned about the history of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and parade balloons. They were then able to make balloons and parade through the FES halls.

Our fourth grade students also participated in an assembly to honor veterans on Veteran's Day. Local veterans were invited and enjoyed the presentations by the students. They were also served cake to thank them for their service.

Fourth grade students in Mrs. Kerestury's and Mrs. Thoms' class continued their tradition of completing 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 Mrs. Kerestury. These bags were then delivered to all administrators and support staff members at FES (principals, secretaries, lunch ladies, custodians, aides, etc.) The activity tied to the Social Studies curriculum (ways that citizens make a difference, and citizen responsibilities) and brought smiles to many faces.

Prior to the holidays, Mrs. Watson, our fifth grade students, and the Principals' Advisory Committee organized and ran a food drive to stock our school pantry for needy families and benefit Second Harvest Food Bank. After filling the school pantry, 1,651 pounds of food was provided to Second Harvest Food Bank. The food will provide over 1980 meals!

In December, hundreds of toys were collected for The Chronicle Telegram's Not Forgotten Box. Firelands staff, families, and community members also provided toys for 31 Firelands children.

Two students from FES had artwork accepted in two of Ohio Art Education Association's annual State exhibitions in Columbus. Ava Leimbach (First Grade) had her "Rub a Dub Sub" mixed media painting accepted for inclusion in the 37th annual Young People's Art Exhibition, held at the Rhodes State Office Tower. Her work was included in a display of 107 works from students across the state. Ava Camera (Kindergarten) had her pumpkin painting selected and exhibited in the Youth Art Month show, held at the STRS building. This exhibit was comprised of 111 Ohio student works. Three artists also had their work exhibited at the 2017 Regional Youth Art Month Exhibition. Jordyn Copley (Third Grade), Saige Loyd (Fifth Grade) and Nikolas Zagar (First Grade) were part of an exhibition sponsored by the Ohio Art Education Association held at the Case Art Studio Building in University Circle.

Mrs. Dempsey's 4th or 5th grade math classes at Firelands Elementary participated in a Sphero competition and quickly became experts. Sphero robots were introduced to students in January by the gifted education department at the Educational Service Center (ESC). To prepare for the competition, teams of students learned to code Sphero using block style coding in an app called Lightning Lab. Using an iPad, students worked collaboratively, making decisions about speed, distance, and angles. This allowed them to move the Sphero through an obstacle course. The school was excited that our 4th grade team won the district level 1st Place Trophy.

Creative young authors at Firelands Elementary School in grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 had the opportunity to participate in the 2017 Young Authors annual program. Approximately 125 students worked hard to imagine, draft, write, edit, revise, and illustrate their narratives before finally publishing them as real hard-back books. Nominees from each grade level for Best Writer and Best Artist awards were forwarded for county-wide judging. Our very own Max Dougan, a 3rd grader at FES, was chosen by judges to win the Best Artist award for Lorain County

at his grade level! The following Firelands students were also nominated for Best Writer and Best Artist:

Best Writer Nominees: Cara Thomas, 3rd grade; Aiden Bokulich, 4th grade; Olivia Bonomolo, 5th grade; and Julianna Deremer, 6th grade

Best Artist Nominees: Max Dougan, 3rd grade; Claire Ohle, 4th grade; Mandy DeWitt, 5th grade; and Cohen Overstreet, 6th grade.

The 5th/6th grade Academic Challenge team finished in *first place* in the first Lorain County middle school academic challenge competition. Our student participants included 5th graders; Jocelyn Bednar, Trenton Jones, Garrett Schlechter, and Grace Tansey. 6th grade participants included; Thomas Ives, James Yorko, Joe Formholtz, and Julianna Deremer.

In March, FES provided a spelling bee for our top third and fourth grade spellers and a spelling bee for our top fifth and sixth grade spellers. Five finalists were chosen at each of the spelling bee. The five finalists for the third and fourth grade were: first place – Andie Eberhardt (4th grade), second place – Jordyn Copley (3rd grade), third place – Katie Smith (3rd grade), fourth place – Micah Lee (3rd grade), and fifth place Daren Aslaksen (4th grade). The five finalists for the fifth and sixth grader were: first place – Ricky Scheufler (6th grade), second place – Katerina Carr (5th grade), third place – Kaleb Adams (6th grade), fourth place – Joe Formholtz (6th grade) and fifth place – Trenton Jones (5th grade). The five finalists were invited to participate at the Lorain County Spelling Bee. Joe Formholtz won the *first place* title at the county spelling bee for 5th and 6th graders.

FES also had the pleasure of sending 17 student athletes to participate in the Lorain County Special Olympics in May. The entire building supported our students and provided a clap out to send them on their way. They had a beautiful day and there were many smiles on their faces. We are so proud of their accomplishments. Our staff members were dedi-

FES ANNUAL REPORT Cont'd

cated to providing our students with a wonderful experience and they did not disappoint.

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."



CURRICULUM NEWS

ONLINE DISTRICT REPORT CARDS

District report cards will be available online for all buildings starting with the first reporting period. Parents from SAMS and FHS experimented with printing report cards last spring. Many parent and students were satisfied with the change. I understand that change is difficult and takes time; therefore, if you wish to receive a paper copy of your child's report card, you will need to contact your child's school office and request a copy to be sent home with your child. We are always looking at our processes and rethinking them to see if we can do them better. Online reporting allows parents to have constant access to midterm and quarterly grades, and attendance information. There are many benefits to getting report cards online-it saves time, saves district money and is environmentally friendly!

Check the school calendar for end of the quarter dates. Here are the interim and end of quarter dates for the 2017-2018 school year:

1 st quarter interim: September 29 th	End of first grading period: October 27th
2 nd quarter interim: December 1 st	End of second grading period: January 12th
3 rd quarter interim: February 16 th	End of third grading period: March 16th
4 th quarter interim: April 27 th	End of fourth grading period: May 25th

STANDARDS BASED REPORT CARDS

Standards based report cards will continue with 3rd grade for the 2017-2018 school year. Grades K-3 will now be standards based with the plan to add one grade per year starting next year. Standards based report cards are designed to reflect student mastery of state standards and provide an objective measure of student grade level performance. With its focus on student mastery of content material, standards-based grading is intended to provide a more meaningful indicator of student growth.

Below is the new standards based rating rubric that will be used on the report cards.

4- The student consistently and independently demonstrates mastery of the grade level standard.

3- The student is progressing toward consistent and independent mastery of the grade level standard.

2- The student is progressing with support toward the mastery of the grade level standard.

-1- The student is not yet demonstrating progress toward the grade level standard.

The report card will use the rubric instead of letter grades. This change allows more clarity of student mastery in each subject area.

Friends of Firelands Membership Drive 2017-2018

Friends of Firelands is a 503c non-profit organization that's sole purpose is to positively support the staff, students, and communities that make up Firelands Local Schools.

Please consider being a part of our organization by taking part in our 2017-2018 membership drive. Current members of FoF will be available at many school events during the months of September and October.

Memberships will be \$20.00 each, and with that membership you will receive a one-of-a kind free T-shirt available in adult sizes small – 2X with the design below.



Any Questions? Feel free to contact FoF President, Ellen Gundersen at friendsoffirelands@gmail.com.

BREAKFAST SERVED AT ALL SCHOOLS

Breakfast is served at all of our schools every morning. All students can go to the cafeteria when they arrive at school to get their breakfast.

- High and Middle school students can eat in the cafeteria prior to school starting.
- Elementary students will pick breakfast up in the cafeteria and take it back to their classroom.



THE COST IS:

- \$1.50 for breakfast
- .30 cents for a reduced breakfast
- and those that qualify for free meals can get a breakfast for free as well.
- The breakfast menu items are printed on the right side of the lunch menu and can be found on our website. Click on the Food Service Tab, then click on the Menu tab for each building.

Reminder: The previous year's meal status will roll over for the first month of school only. AN UPDATED MEAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATION MUST BE TURNED IN AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR TO CONTINUE BENEFITS. Applications can be filled out anytime throughout the year.

Do you know how to receive information from FLSD in the event of bad weather or unforeseen circumstances?

In the event that a change occurs to a normal school day, information can be obtained from multiple sources. The District uses an all-call system, multiple Twitter accounts, Facebook, text alerts, and web page banners to share important information. We recommend that parents/guardians choose at least *two* methods to receive information from the Firelands Local Schools.

Our communication tools include the following:

1) All Call Alert System: If your telephone number or custodial information has changed, please contact your building secretary to notify her of the change(s). **If you have made a change to your phone number, our database must be updated in order for parent calls to be initiated.** Please see the information below to contact the appropriate building to make phone number (or custody) updates:

- Firelands Elementary School: (440) 965-5381
- South Amherst Middle School: (440) 986-7021
- Firelands High School: (440) 965-4255

2) Twitter Accounts: Follow these Twitter accounts for up-to-the-minute information!

- @FLSDSuper (Superintendent Mike Von Gunten)
- @Falcon_update (Public Relations, Jennifer Butchko)
- @Firelandstrans (Transportation Coordinator Milt Saylor)

3) Facebook: We have created The Official Facebook page for Firelands! Like us at **The Firelands Falcons**

Visit us at <https://www.facebook.com/TheFirelandsFalcons>. <https://www.facebook.com/TheFirelandsFalcons> to stay connected.

4) Text Alert System:

Parents have the option of utilizing our text alert system as well. In order to enroll in this program, simply go to our home page at FirelandsFalcons.org and click on the social media tab. Follow the newsletter icon and create an account. You will receive text messages regarding school cancellations, delays or special circumstances once enrolled.

5) Web Page Notifications:

Alerts will be posted on our web pages in the event that our school day will be altered.

6) Blog

Click our Blog tab & sign up for inbound blog posts @ <https://ffalcons.nordpress.com>

Information will also be shared to traditional news sources. If you have any questions or need assistance in setting up account please contact Jennifer at (440) 965-5821 ext 1015!

The Mighty Falcon Marching Band Presents

DATE: 10/07/2017

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

Join us for the 10th Annual Parade of Bands. Come see the Mighty Falcon Marching Band and other local high school bands for an evening devoted to marching bands show casing their music and marching skills!

Watch for discounted Pre-Sale Ticket information coming soon!

Firelands High School Field
10643 Vermilion Road
Oberlin

VISIT WWW.MFMB.ORG OR EMAIL US AT FIRELANDSBANDSBOOSTERS@GMAIL.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION.

10th Annual Parade of Bands



**SOUTH AMHERST FIRE
DEPARTMENT IS HOLDING AN OPEN
HOUSE ON SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 14, 2017, FROM
11:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. AT
SOUTH AMHERST FIRE STATION
105 WEST MAIN ST.
S. AMHERST, OH 44001**

The Mighty Falcon Marching Band 2017/2018 Sponsors

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Miller's Apple Hill
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SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR 2017-18

It is now time to update your child's immunizations. If your child will be entering school for the first time, or after attending school elsewhere, please be sure to check that he/she 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 possible, have them done and bring a copy of the record to Kindergarten registration May 12 - June 16, 2017 at FES.

Grades 1-6 – same requirements as for Kindergarten

Grades 7-8 – Grades K-6 requirements plus Tdap (DPT booster) and MCV (meningococcal vaccine)

Grades 9-11 – Grades K-6 requirements plus Tdap (received in 7th grade or later)

Grade 12 – Grades 9-11 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!

The **Lorain County General Health District** (LCGHD) is now offering immunizations by appointment. Call **440-284-3206** to make an immunization appointment for 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 2nd dose of varicella (chickenpox), hepatitis A and human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines.

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
- ◆ via Twitter at @Falcon_update
- ◆ Facebook at The Firelands Falcons

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

FHS ART STUDENTS INCLUDED IN STATEWIDE ART EXHIBITION

Five Firelands High School Art students have their work selected for a statewide art exhibition on display now through Oct. 21 in downtown Columbus. From over 200 submission, less than 130 works were selected the annual "Emerging Artist" exhibition. The focus of this exhibition is to feature advanced crafting skill and encourage the brightest potential among underclassmen. Sophomores Mia Kuncel, Jenna Selent and Hannah Spiegelberg and juniors Bailey Borer and Marley Buckner qualified for this exhibition with their works. Kuncel's work is an exquisite hand-drawn celtic knot. Selent is competing with a dizzying zentangle design. Spiegelberg is represented by an oil pastel portrait of her cat, Geo. Borer enters a miniature triptych of a beach landscape. Buckner is showing an oil pastel portrait of a dog named Buster. 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. 21 at the exhibition in Columbus. The Ohio Art Education Association, a non-profit professional organization of art educators, hosts this exhibition at the State Teachers Retirement System atrium on Broad Street in our state capital.

Swept Away Robotics



Robot building and programming is underway at SAMS. 7th and 8th grade students enrolled in the Robotics/STEM Elective class are learning the basic parts of a robot while building and preparing to program their VEX robotics kits. Part of the programming involves using RobotC software to assign functions to the remote controls. Once programmed, the robots will compete in a Swept Away challenge on an 8 foot by

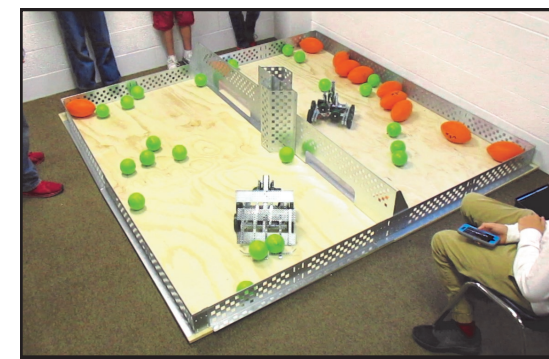


8 foot playing field where the objective is to score points by transferring various objects over to their competitor's side of the field. Once students have had an opportunity to do some practice and testing with their initial design, they will use the engineering design process to redesign and rebuild their robot in an attempt to make it more efficient at scoring points. This class is intended to expose students to the problem-solving process used by scientists and engineers to better prepare them for a technology based society and related career fields. The Robotics/STEM elective is independent of the after school robotics club starting later this month.



Students in attached pictures:

Colin Adams
Mitchell Sweinhagen
Collin Poole
Colin Tehoke
Vlad Hamilton
Colin Arnal



THE PARENTS OF TROOP 450 PRESENT

CHILI COOK OFF!WHO DOESN'T LOVE CHILI?
COME ONE COME ALL!

Location:

Birmingham Community Center
15018 South Street
Birmingham, OHOctober 21, 2017
1:00-5:00 p.m.

ATTENDEES

YOU BE THE JUDGE!\$5.00 ADMISSION
CHILI SAMPLES
TOPPINGS BAR
BAKE SALE**FALCON STRONG T-SHIRT RALLY!****"We make a LIVING by
what we GET..."****but we make a LIFE by
what we GIVE."****~ Winston Churchill****BUY A SHIRT FOR \$20.00 & HELP SUPPORT****MEMBERS OF THE FALCON NATION!**

Four members of our **FALCON NATION** are going through cancer treatments as we speak! **Sara Schlechter**, FLSD bus mechanic, **Debra Standen** FHS aide, **Traci Johnston** FHS Math Teacher, and **Wendy Baxter** FES 2nd grade teacher, have all recently been diagnosed. As many of us know, while going through this treatment it is very difficult to work. We at FLSD in conjunction with *Friends of Firelands*, would like to offer the opportunity for staff and community members to offer their help if they can. All checks should be made to Friends of Firelands. You may make your donation and place your t-shirt order at all 3 buildings and also at the Board Office. The T-Shirt order will be placed on September 22, 2017, with hopes of having shirts at homecoming 9/29/17.

Falcon Strong T-Shirt Order: Name: _____

*All checks written to *Friends of Firelands* please.

Adult Size: Sm Med Lrg XL 2XL 3XL 4XL (2x-4x add \$2.00 each)

Location of shirt Delivery: FBOE FES SAMS FHS FB game 9/29

Looking for**Community Information:**

Firelands publishes a weekly blog on all community activity. If you have a group that is active in the Firelands district, we are happy to post information regarding events, fundraisers, open houses, etc.

You can visit the blog page at:

<https://ffalcons.wordpress.com>

and look for Community Updates.

In addition to the Community Updates, a monthly article is published regarding our Falcon Alumni. Topics covered include graduations, engagements, career changes, new businesses, birth announcements and more.

The above information is also shared on Twitter, @Falcon_update, and on our new Facebook page, The Firelands Falcons.

To submit information please contact Jennifer at (440) 965-5821 ext. 1015 or at: jbutchko@firelandsschools.org

REUNION**CLASS OF 1977****Saturday, October 7th at****Matus Winery****5:00 p.m.—12:00 p.m.****Sunday, October 8th****Meeting at Mill Hollow—Shelter #1****1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

Call Marcia Eichelberger at: 440-213-5298

If you have any questions!

50 Year Reunion!

The class of 1967 will be holding a reunion on September 29th and 30th, 2017! The class will have a tour of Firelands High School on the 29th at 6:00 pm and then will stay to watch the Homecoming football game. On the 30th, members of the class of 1967 will gather at the recently renovated Brownhelm school (located on North Ridge Road) for dinner.

In order to include everyone, we need your help in locating the following people:

Mr. Gordon M. Brown
Mr. Richard David Bures
Ms. Cindy Gerstacker Wickham
Ms. Norma Krosen Miller
Ms. Marlene Simmons Harmon
Mr. Don Van Meter

If you have any information on these classmates please contact

Jim Tansey at (419) 706-8458
or jmtanse@aol.com
(subject line: class of 1967).

Thanks for your help and
Go Falcons!

NOTICE

The Board has a duty to protect and promote the health and well-being of all students and staff. To that end, The Board of Education passed a resolution prohibiting the use of all forms of tobacco, including electronic cigarettes, from being used at any time on school grounds, athletics facilities, or parking lots.

THANK YOU BETSY & JAY KUHN



South Amherst Middle School would like to once again recognize the generosity of Betsy and Jay Kuhn, Amherst residents, who have continued to provide book bags full of school supplies for student at South Amherst Middle School over the past 10+ years. Betsy's sister is a teacher at Firelands and over the years her and her husband have adopted the students at South Amherst Middle School as a way to pay forward the opportunities that the teachers in Betsy's family provided to her and her children over the years. These generous gifts are greatly appreciated by the staff, but more so by the students in need at South Amherst Middle School.



On behalf of the Firelands Band Boosters and The Firelands Instrumental Program, we would like to thank all of our past, present, and future sponsors, fans, community members, administration of Firelands Local Schools, teachers, staff, and families for all of the support over the years. Without your support, the program would not be as successful as it has become and our students would not be able to perform at their highest levels while representing our school district. For more information on upcoming events and the latest news on the program, please visit the band's web page at www.MFMB.org.



Firelands Band Boosters Membership Meetings

Location: Firelands High School Band Room

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Date: 3rd Tuesday of Each Month

Date/Time	Event	Topic for Discussion
08/15/18 7:00	General business Meeting	Parade of Bands Marching Season
09/19/17 7:00	General Business Meeting	Craft Bazaar Parade of Bands Marching Season Updates
10/17/17 7:00	General Business Meeting	Basketball Concessions Parade of Bands Marching Season Updates
11/21/17 7:00	General Business Meeting	Christmas Concert Basketball Concessions
1/16/18 7:00	General Business Meeting	Spring Trip Mattress Sale/Mulch Sale Basketball Concessions
2/20/18 7:00	General Business Meeting	OMEA Competition Spring Trip Mattress Sale/Mulch Sale
3/21/18 7:00	General Business Meeting	Pancake Breakfast Mulch Sale Band Banquet
4/18/18 7:00	General Business Meeting	Parades Nomination of Officers Band Banquet
5/16/18 7:00	General Business Meeting	Election of Officers Band Camps

For more information, please contact us via email at firelandsbandboosters@gmail.com

Firelands Band Boosters
10643 Vermilion Road
Oberlin, Ohio 44074
www.MFMB.org

Friends of Firelands



"Our strength will grow
through community"

Friends of Firelands is a 503c non-profit organization that's sole purpose is to positively support the staff, students, and communities that make up Firelands Local Schools.

Did you happen to see a yard sign for a 2017 graduate? That was **FoF** !!

SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday March 10, 2018

@ German's Villa.

Join us for our 3rd annual fundraising event. Food, music, raffles, auctions, and much more!

*Would you like to become a member of FoF? Look for our booth at various school events, or email friendsoffirelands@gmail.com with your request. Membership is \$20 for the 2017-2018 school year, and each member will get a **FALCON NATION T-shirt**.*

SPECIAL NOTICE

Firelands Local Schools Institutes A New
"Safer Schools Tip Line"

Operated by the Ohio Department of Public Safety-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 with school officials and law enforcement.

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Sunday School: 10:00a.m.

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Contact the Fire-
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at 440.965.5821 for
more information.

Please submit all
articles and photos
to: [lseman@ fire-
landsschools.org](mailto:lseman@fire-landsschools.org)



ATTENTION: FHS JUNIOR CLASS PARENTS!!

PARENTS FOR A SAFE AFTER PROM is looking for
parents to help plan and volunteer for our
Annual Night at the Races Event.

Next Meeting will be:
Thursday, September 28, 2017 at 7:00pm
We will meet at FHS Library

Questions contact: Sonia Bowyer 440-823-5364
or Roxanne Turton 440-396-5363
Any FHS parents are welcome to attend and volunteer



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tives, Farm Collectibles, Historical Memorabilia for
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Booklets, Advertisements, & Ephemera
Of All Areas.

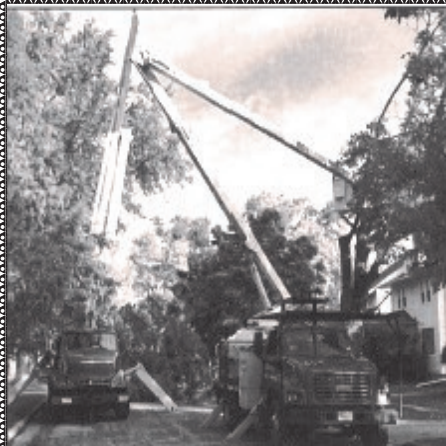
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2017 - 2018 Board Meetings

- AUGUST 14, 2017
- SEPTEMBER 11, 2017
- OCTOBER 9, 2017
- NOVEMBER 8, 2017
- DECEMBER 11, 2017
- JANUARY 8, 2018 **
- FEBRUARY 12, 2018**
- MARCH 12, 2018**
- APRIL 9, 2018**
- MAY 14, 2018**
- JUNE 11, 2018**
- JULY 9, 2018**

**Tentative, subject to Board approval

**Meetings Begin
 at 7:00 pm**

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You may view this issue on line at:
www.firelandsschools.org