



The Firelands Express



Volume 12, Issue 96

August 2021

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.

Firelands 2021-2022 School Year Opens with Optimism

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! The coming year will be an exciting time for our district. Most importantly, we look forward to welcoming back all our students as they return to in person learning. We also look forward to welcoming back our community to support our students in their extra-curricular activities. In addition, our new high school remains on budget and on schedule for opening at the start of the 2022-2023 school year. With the new high school ready next year, our middle school students will be moving from South Amherst Middle School to our existing high school creating one educational campus. Read more about our construction project below.

As we return to school, we continue to work with Lorain County Public Health on implementing Health and Safety procedures for students and staff. Our most up-to-date COVID information can always be found on our [website](https://www.firelandsschools.org/Default.aspx) under District News at <https://www.firelandsschools.org/Default.aspx>. We also will continue to send out important updates directly to parents and guardians.

Once again, we will utilize a staggered start for the 2021-2022 school year. The first day of school for students in grades 1-6 and 9 is August 31st. Students in grades 7-8 and 10-12 return to class on September 1. For our incoming kindergarten students, please refer to the letter you received from the elementary school regarding your child's first day of school.

Please join us for Open House on Monday, August 30th. The buildings will open according to the schedule on the right.

In closing, Firelands Local School District is committed to providing each of our students an educational experience that extends well beyond the walls of our buildings by ensuring that all students achieve and grow academically, socially and emotionally. Through the support of our parents, extended families and our entire community, we are looking forward to a successful 2021-2022 school year for each of our students.



GO FALCONS!

Mike Von Gunten,
Superintendent

Construction Continues on Schedule

Last fall construction began on the new High School. Lots of trucks and big earth moving equipment created quite a buzz of excitement. Although they moved a lot of dirt, leveling the ground for the new high school, parking lots and driveways, and installing foundations, there really wasn't that much to see. But our patience paid off this spring when more than just daffodils and daisies began popping up out of the cold winter soil! Even as the last of the snow was still flying and with the building foundations securely anchored in the sandstone our community is known for, the walls of our new school began to grow out of the ground!

Laying up concrete block walls is precise and skilled work. Small errors can cause big problems! The gymnasium walls were the first to be built, rising up straight and true. Soon the other exterior walls followed, up to the level of the second floor, and the Interior partition walls quickly followed. Throughout this part of the project the mechanical and electrical contractors were following along installing the conduit and plumbing pipes that need to be located inside the walls.

When the warmer weather finally arrived, the steel framing which serves as the structure for the gym roof and the second floor could be installed. You may have seen the tall cranes lifting each piece of steel slowly and carefully into place. Around this same time concrete for the first floor was also poured, one section at a time. Wet concrete is heavy and sloppy but must be leveled to

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Open House Schedule

Firelands Elementary School

Monday, August 30th
4:00 pm-5:00 pm Grades K-2
5:30 pm-6:30 pm Grades 3-5

South Amherst Middle School

Monday, August 30th
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Firelands High School

Thursday, August 30th
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Start Dates by Grade

8/31	1st day for 1-6, 9
9/1	1st day for 7-8, 10-12
9/3	1st day for kindergarten

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You may view this issue online at:

www.firelandsschools.org

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Construction (from p.1)

within a 16th of one inch. It's just another example of the many jobs that required skilled and knowledgeable craftsman when building a new school of this size.

You may not have noticed, but on any given day there are 60 to 100 men and women working at the construction site! It takes a lot of planning to ensure they don't get in each other's way and that each piece of the building is built in the proper sequence. In addition to the necessary daily coordination, there are weekly project meetings with the foreman for each trade.

Looking ahead the walls for the second story portions of the building will soon be completed. Then we'll finally have a chance to see the finished shape of the new high school! But the most important next goal is to get the building weather tight from rain and the snow and cold temperatures of winter. This will allow the contractors to work through the winter to complete all the interior work, which includes all the new flooring, ceilings, lighting, furniture and so much more!

In the meantime, the roofing material for the gym is being installed. The windows have already arrived and are being stored, and we may even soon see some of the exterior brick being installed!

We have come a long way since last spring. Although there is still much to be done we are right on target to complete the construction and have the building ready for the start of school in the fall of 2022!



Lighthouse Award Goes to Sarah Klinec

The Traci Johnston Lighthouse Award for Exemplary Teaching is an award that was created in memory of long time teacher, Mrs. Traci Johnston. The Lighthouse Committee receives annual nominations and from there they choose someone to acknowledge that holds their profession in the highest regards.

This year the committee chose Sarah Klinec to receive the honor. Sarah also received her service award for 25 years of service to the district.



Food Service Continues USDA Free Meals

Welcome back from our Food Service staff! Our goal is to get back to normal as much as possible. We still ask that students and staff continue to practice safe measures. Social distance, sanitize hands prior to entering the line, and please take the first item you touch.

Our department is self-supporting as we neither receive or use tax money. Our source of income includes federal reimbursements for every breakfast and lunch students receive. Please encourage your child/children to utilize our program.

School fees can only be waived if you complete the online meal application (or paper) and are APPROVED for free meals using your income or assistance received as a guide. Checkmark fee waiver. Go to www.payschoolscentral.com for the online application.

Online menus - Go to www.myschoolmenus.com you can filter the menu for allergens, check the nutritional as well as print the menu. Download the free my school menu app for iPhone and Android.

Free meals for all students

regardless of need have been extended through the 2021-2022 school year. All students may get a free breakfast and a free lunch every day at no cost. No application needed for the free meals.

Lunch – students must take 3 of the 5 components offered, one component must be a fruit or a vegetable. **Breakfast** – students must take 3 of the 4 items offered at breakfast, one must be a fruit.

Ala cart items including milk may be purchased using money on the meal account, check or cash. Elementary students – please put money in an envelope or baggie with the students name on it and give money to the homeroom teacher.

Packers bringing lunch from home – you are eligible for free items as well. Add to your packed lunch by selecting 3 items. (For example - milk, fruit, vegetable or main dish, milk and fruit or vegetable)

Elementary Students –

Due to enrollment size, Grades K-2 will still be served in their classroom. Grades 3-5 will walk

Traffic Alerts!

The traffic signal at the turnpike on Baumhart Road will be placed in a flash condition for a 90-day period to evaluate if the signal can be safely removed per the County Engineer.

A turning lane is being added in front of the new high school. Construction will take approximately four weeks and is expected to start each day after students have all arrived.

The intersection at Baumhart Rd. & Rt. 113 will be closed for 70 days for the installation of a round-about. ODOT is making this change starting after Labor Day.

to the kitchen to get lunch, then take their meal to their classroom. **Breakfast** is picked up in the gym (same as last year) and taken back to their homeroom.

Middle and High School Students will continue to eat in the cafeteria.

Food Service Director - If you have any questions please contact Judy Baumann, Food Service Director.



Judy Baumann
jbaumann@firelandsschools.org
(440) 965-5821 ext. 1011

THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

Young Authors Conference Inspires Writers & Artists



Firelands Elementary School

Congratulations to all of the motivated, creative writers from grades 3, 4, and 5, both in-person and online, who participated in the Young Authors project this year! Writing, editing, and publishing a book is a huge project that requires stamina and perseverance.

To celebrate, the young writers gathered, in a socially distanced manner, to participate

in the Young Authors Virtual Conference, hosted by the Lorain County Educational Service Center of Lorain County. A local author and a local artist inspired the audience as guest speakers. Author C.D. Koehler, who is also the principal of Avon Middle School, has published several fantasy and science fiction books for young readers. Guest artist and entertainer Jim Gill has inspired and entertained

local students with his talent and humor for many years.

Following the speakers, participating students were honored in an awards ceremony. FES students were represented as nominees in six categories, for both writing and art, and took home first place trophies in four of those categories!

Honored with awards were:

Best of Show Writer, 3rd Grade: Samuel Stephens for his book *Stranded*.

Best of Show Writer, 5th Grade: Everleigh Robinson for her book *Trapped*.

Best of Show Artist, 4th Grade: Regan Viocck for her book *Mila Weblo Walks on the Stars*.

Best of Show Artist, 5th Grade: Layla McGuire for her book *It's About Time*.

Also recognized were 3rd grader Isabella Harper, an artist nominee for her book *Find your Spark*, and fourth grader Amelia Branco, nominated for her writing in her book *The Days I'm Here*.

Many of these students are already creating plans for the book they will write next year. We are proud of all our growing writers and artists!

submitted by Teresa Dempsey
FES Gifted Specialist

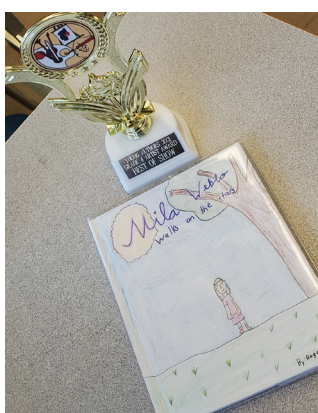
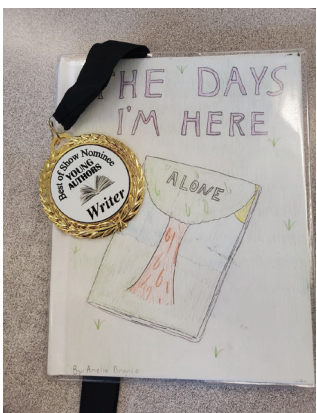
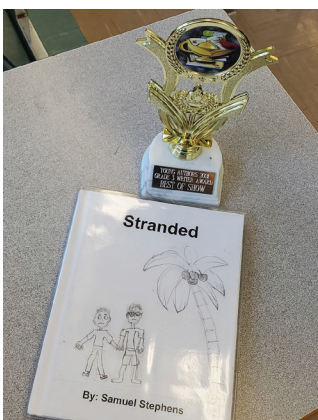
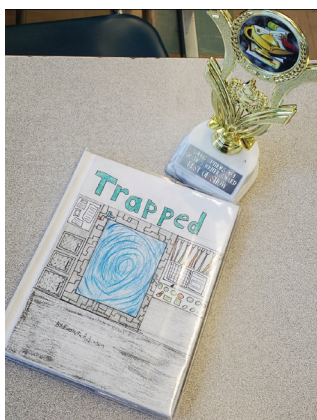
South Amherst Middle School

Congratulations also goes to Preston Kirschner and Brigid Zeise for their outstanding performance for Young Authors. Preston received the Top Author Award and Brigid received the Top Illustrator Award from South Amherst Middle School.

submitted by Char Mahon

SAMS 40 Book Challenge

Congratulations to Kate Yakunovich for completing the 40 Book Challenge at South Amherst Middle School. Way to go Kate for reading 40 books and completing all necessary activities to successfully fulfill this challenge.



The next meeting of the Firelands Board of Education will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 13, 2021 at the board office building.

We are located at 112 North Lake Street in South Amherst. For more information call the board office at 440-965-5821 x. 1010.

Firelands Welcomes New Staff Members for 2021-2022

Firelands is welcoming many new staff members this year, so we asked them to tell us a little about themselves. A common thread is that they are looking forward to their new positions, and we are looking forward to having them here!

Monica Arora joins Firelands as our Behavioral/Autism Specialist through our partnership with the Educational Service Center of Lorain County.

Elizabeth Ault-Cook, FES Intervention Specialist. Elizabeth Ault-Cook is an Intervention Specialist joining the FES team. Originally from Orrville, she earned her Bachelor's degree from the College of Wooster and Master's degree from Malone University. Elizabeth moved to Huron over the summer with her husband, Ryan, and two sons, Alistair (11) and Arthur (9). She and her family enjoy backpacking, sailing, as well as playing bagpipes and drums with their pipe band. Elizabeth is very excited to be part of the Firelands Local School District!

Bryon Barhoover, SAMS Maintenance Assistant. Bryon was hired during the pandemic as a sanitation cleaner, and we are pleased to add him to our permanent staff as a Maintenance Assistant at SAMS.

Hannah Chernock, Technology. Hannah is joining the Technology team this year on a part-time basis through our partnership with the Educational Service Center of Lorain County.

Cristin Cicco, Director of Special Education. Cristin comes to Firelands with many years of experience – 9 years as an intervention specialist and 8 years as a principal. The Director of Special Education position has been one of her goals since graduate school and she feels

like she has landed her dream job at Firelands! She is very excited to be here with us and in this new role.

Originally from Pennsylvania, Cristin has lived in Ohio for 18 years with her husband. Together they have two children Renee (14) and Christopher (11). Remington, their 3-year old Chesapeake Bay retriever, is their 3rd child. Cristin's hobbies include fishing, gardening and hiking, anything that takes her outside, and time spent with

family and get to know all of the amazing students and staff members. Christian loves being a school counselor because she believes that school counselors are in an optimal position to form positive relationships with students and provide them with the support and skills they need to succeed. Outside of school, Christian enjoys running, reading, and spending time with family and friends! This summer has been full of adventures and exploring her new home in

grade, starting JVS this school year. Her youngest is Thomas and he is entering 9th grade at Firelands High School.

Jackie Flaczynski, FES Aide. Jackie is well known to Firelands for both her photography and her work in our SAFE program. She has been a Vermilion resident for over 40 years. Her daughter graduated from Firelands in 1987, as well as some of her grandchildren, nieces and nephews. She already has five years of aide experience under her belt through the after school program at FES, and she has been photographing Falcon sporting events for many years!

Holly Grills, FES Special Needs Paraprofessional. Holly is a Firelands graduate who lives in Camden Township with her husband John and their three children. Holly has worked in the medical field for the last 12 years. She enjoys camping spending time with her family and tending to her chickens. Holly has experience at Firelands as a sub for our bus drivers.

Brooke Howells, Bus Driver. Brooke has been a substitute bus driver since 2019 and got the chance this year to apply for a full time position. Her husband and she moved to the area in 2017 after he retired from the Air Force. Firelands is where he grew up and wanted to come back to. They have four children in the Firelands school district. Brooke is currently deployed to Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar with the United States Air Force Reserves, but looks forward to starting work once she returns in the Spring.

Laura Janosik, SAMS Cleaner. Laura is originally from North Ridgeville, but has lived in Amherst 28 years with her husband Mark and two



Pictured from left to right: Bryon Barhoover, Holly Grills, Diana Pierson, Michelle Saunders, Lisa Ebert and Jackie Flaczynski.

family. She also has many years of participating in and coaching basketball and softball.

Christian Conner, FES School Counselor. Christian is coming to us from Buffalo, New York! She received her Bachelor's in Psychology and Sociology from Canisius College, and continued there to obtain her Master's in School Counseling. Christian has prior experience working as a Research Clinician at the Institute for Autism Research and as a school counseling intern at Cleveland Hill Elementary School in Buffalo. She is thrilled to join the FES

Lakewood, Ohio. Christian is feeling recharged and ready to have a great year.

Jared Drury, joins the Technology team on a part-time basis this year. He was previously a student worker until he graduated in 2021.

Lisa Ebert, SAMS Assistant Cook. Lisa started subbing for Firelands this past year and will continue as a substitute bus driver. She has lived in Brownhelm Township for the last 18 years with her husband Tim. They have three sons. Her oldest (Joe) graduated from Lorain County JVS. Tyler is in the 10th

Firelands Welcomes New Staff Members for 2021-2022

daughters. The family has a farm with a roadside stand, chickens and bees. She enjoys cooking, especially baking bread and cookies. She likes raising flowers, reading books, yoga, running and sewing.

Catherine Kiewel, FHS School Psychologist. Catherine joins Firelands through our partnership with the Educational Service Center of Lorain County. She is assigned to support the high school.

Makenzie Lahoud, SAMS English Language Arts Teacher. Makenzie Lahoud brings three years of teaching experience as a Math and ELA/Reading Intervention teacher from Olmsted Falls City Schools and Amherst Exempted Village Schools. She was born and raised in Northeast Ohio. Makenzie received her Bachelor's Degree of Middle Childhood Education from Cleveland State University in 2017. She received her Master's Degree in Reading Education from Bowling Green State University in 2018. Makenzie loves to spend her free time reading books or watching a good movie! She currently lives in Westlake with her husband William. Together they enjoy spending lots of time with family and friends. They also enjoy spending time outdoors and being huge Cleveland sports fans! Makenzie is excited to join the Firelands School District and be a Falcon! She is looking forward to starting this school year and creating a positive and engaging learning experience for her students!

Taylor Lowman, FES Intervention Specialist. Taylor is a 2020 graduate from Ashland University. Last school year she worked as a Title One teacher in the Sheffield-Sheffield Lake

School District. Teaching has always been her passion. She loves that every day with her students is different! Taylor is looking forward to being a part of the Falcon family! In her free time, she enjoys reading, shopping, and spending time with friends and family. She also enjoys traveling and exploring new places with my fiancé. She is looking forward to this school year and becoming a part of this wonderful community! Taylor is proud to call herself a Falcon!

time, she enjoys helping out with the grandchildren. Merri Jo is excited to be welcomed into the Firelands family and working the students at Firelands Elementary School.

Sydney Novak, FES Kindergarten Teacher. Sydney is a 2017 Firelands alum, and a 2021 graduate from Bowling Green State University. She graduated in May with her Bachelors in Inclusive Early Childhood Education and is completing her reading

coached football, basketball, and track and field while at Brooklyn. At Cleveland State University, Keith gained teaching experience in a variety of different schools. This work experience came from Cleveland's Marion-Sterling Elementary, Design Lab Early College, and Garrett Morgan High School. He also gained experience at North Royalton, North Olmsted, and Brooklyn schools. In Keith's spare time, he enjoys spending time with his girlfriend, friends, and family. He loves to stay active by playing in adult basketball leagues around Northeast Ohio and walking my dog Weber. Keith is extremely excited to begin his teaching career at Firelands! He can't wait to meet all of the Falcons and bring his passion for education into the classroom this fall!

Collin Pecoraro, FHS Science Teacher. Collin graduated from Heidelberg University in 2019 and acquired his teaching licensure from Cleveland State University in 2021. At Heidelberg University, he played football for two seasons and graduated with honors. For his first year at Firelands, he is excited to be teaching Biology and Physical Science as well as being involved in the football program. In his spare time, Collin enjoys spending time with family and friends as well as coaching his club baseball team that he has been with for 6 years. He said he is blessed to have the opportunity to become part of the Firelands Family and is looking forward to a great first year.

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Pictured from left to right: Sydney Novak, Elizabeth Ault-Cook, Merri Jo Meehan, Clifford Sewald, Christian Conner, Collin Pecoraro, Makenzie Lahoud, Keith Paul and Becca Skiles.

Tami McKay. Tami joins Firelands as our literacy coach through our partnership with the Educational Service Center of Lorain County.

Merri Jo Meehan, FES Title One Tutor. Merri Jo comes to Firelands after retiring from 33 years of teaching as an intervention specialist. For 31 of those years, she was employed by Cuyahoga and Summit Educational Service Centers where she taught at private schools. Merri Jo and Mike have three sons and six grandchildren. During her spare

endorsement this summer. She currently lives in Amherst with her fiancé, Ryan, and their two dogs, Skye and Sira. Coming back to serve this community has been a dream of hers. She is very excited for a new school year and to join the amazing staff at FES!

Keith Paul, SAMS Health and PE teacher. Keith is a 2020 graduate of Cleveland State University. He graduated from Brooklyn High School. Last year he was the building substitute for Brooklyn City Schools, teaching preschool to 7th grade. He also

Consistency: The Key for Bus Safety

Welcome to the start of the 2021-2022 school year. As we get ready to start the year, we anticipate some road construction that will make it a challenge to get from FHS to SAMS. We expect the intersection at Baumhart and S.R. 113 to be closed from early September to early November for the installation of the roundabout. We also expect Vermilion Road to be shut down to one lane in front of the new school building for a few weeks for the installation of a left hand turning lane. Updates will be on the website as they become available.

COVID-19 and its variants are still here and we at Firelands will be doing all we can to make sure your children are transported to and from school as safely as possible. We will continue doing regular disinfecting and cleaning of the buses as well as providing hand sanitizers on all of our buses. Our drivers will be encouraging the students to use it as they get on and off the bus. The drivers will be wearing a face covering while driving the bus with students on board.

Parents and guardians will

need to follow all the guidelines as stated on the Firelands Schools website under the reopening plan! **All children K-12 will be required to wear face coverings while riding the school buses**, so please make sure they have them on PROPERLY before getting on the bus. Continue to monitor updates on the school website on safety precautions!

Students that do not ride the bus to school on the first day will need to check with their teacher or the office to find the correct bus number to ride home in the afternoon. Lists will be posted in the halls at SAMS and FHS. Please do not assume that they ride the same bus home as last year as several of the **bus numbers have changed**. If the bus that arrives at your house is different than what is published, the driver will instruct the students of the proper number.

Please remember these times are approximate and may vary especially the first week or two of school, and with a few road detours and other construction, the pick-up and drop off times may change after the first week. **We ask that you have your child ready ahead of time,**

and wait for the bus in a safe location, approximately 10 feet from the road. Remember to social distance and be courteous to others at bus stops. There will continue to be an emphasis on designated place of safety both before and after school. Even students on the right hand side need to stay back away from the edge of the road and wait until the bus driver signals them before students approach the bus. For those who need to cross the road, please wait for the drivers hand signal before crossing and check traffic on your own.

Post cards or emails will be sent out approximately one week before school with bus numbers and times to alleviate phone calls. All of the information listed here, and the morning routes will be available on the Firelands website: <http://www.firelandsschools.org>, under the Central Office tab / Transportation along with the variance form procedure and a printable variance form for your convenience.

Please do not assume that your child will ride the same bus home as last year as some of the bus numbers have changed.

Starting Dates:

8-24-21 – Open Door
8-25-21 – St. Mary's
8-30-21 – St. Joe's
8-30-21 – LCJVS
8-30-21 – Early Learning Ctr.
8-31-21 – Firelands
(Staggered start this year)
Grades 1-5, 6 & 9
9-1-21 – Grades 7,8,10, 11,12
9-3-21 – Kindergarten

If your child's school begins before August 31, 2021 and you will need transportation, you will need to call Mr. Saylor at

965-4105 to make arrangements.

Changes to pick-up and drop-off locations:

As the school year approaches, many of you will be making daycare arrangements for your children. Please keep the following procedure in mind for the safety of the children. Remember, pick-up and drop-off locations at the child's home address is always best, but we realize it is not always possible. When a change for pick-up or drop-off is necessary, we are asking you to adhere to the following procedure.

IMPORTANT: Even though there is a place on Final Forms to enter this route change information, **you MUST have the proper forms filled out each year!** Variance forms are available at the elementary and middle school offices, and can also be printed from our school website under the forms and links tab, [K-12 Bus Variance Forms](#). These forms are designed for permanent or steady route changes.

WITH THE SAFETY OF YOUR CHILD IN MIND, VARIABLE AND ALTERNATING DAYS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED.

Please have variance forms completed and turned into the school or bus garage FIVE DAYS prior to the effective dates, so everyone involved may have proper notice of the change. We ask that the change be in effect for the entire year. The change must be in effect through an existing route.

YOU MUST FILL OUT A NEW FORM EACH SCHOOL YEAR.

With the safety of your child in mind, school transportation must remain consistent. Variable and alternating days will not be allowed. However, we realize



Two Brand New Buses are Ready to Go!

THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

Middle School Prepares for Last Year in South Amherst

I am very excited about the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year! This looks to be our last opening for SAMS, as the new building looks to be on track and we should open in our new space on Vermilion Road next year.

SAMS currently looks great! Our staff has worked tirelessly over the summer to get the building back to pre-COVID status.

We are excited to welcome six new staff members to SAMS this fall. Our new teachers are Mrs. Makenzie Lahoud, English Language Arts; Mr. Keith Paul, Physical Education/ Health; and Mr. Clifford Sewald, Science. Joining our hard working classified staff are Mrs. Lisa Ebert, Assistant Cook; Mr. Bryon Bar Hoover, Maintenance Assistant; Ms. Michelle Saunders, Cleaner; and Laura Janosik, Cleaner.

Athletic practices started in the middle of August and it is great to see kids take the fields again!

Our counselors began August 9th and worked hard to finalize student schedules during the week of August 9th.

Here are some important dates coming up for SAMS:

- August 25th - New Student Orientation (for new students to Firelands)
- August 30th - Open House for all, 6:30-7:30 PM
- August 31st - First day for 6th grade only. This will also serve as Orientation for 6th grade.
- September 1st - All students attend
- September 6th - Labor Day, No School
- September 10th - School Picture Day

*Submitted by Cara Hutchinson
SAMS Principal*

Transportation Information, continued

that emergencies do occur.

In the event of an emergency, parents will need to call Mr. Sayler at 440-965-4105 to see if a possible alternate bus route is available 24 hours in advance. If this one time change is approved, parents need to send a note with the child to be given to the bus driver upon boarding. If Mr. Sayler does not have space available on a particular bus route or if a child does not bring a note, the one-time temporary route change will be refused out of safety concerns.

CONSISTENCY IS THE KEY!

Our Drivers do an awesome job keeping our students safe! They will accept all the changes related to the COVID situation and continue to provide the

safest form of transportation to and from school! We are all looking forward to another safe school year.

REMEMBER it has been a long time since school buses have been stopping on the roadway, and as schools across the area will be starting back up soon, please remember to observe all laws pertaining to school buses and their red lights. It takes everyone practicing safe driving habits to ensure a safe school year.



Milt Sayler,
Director of
Transportation
msayler@
firelandsschools.org

Office:
440-965-4105
[https://www.
firelandsschools.org/](https://www.firelandsschools.org/)

Congratulations to SAMS Principal Mrs. Cara Hutchinson



Congratulations are in order for Mrs. Cara Hutchinson, our South Amherst Middle School principal.

Mr. and Mrs. Hutchinson were married at the Lorain Lighthouse on August 7, 2021. Her new email address will be chutchinson@firelandsschools.org.

You can continue to reach her at the main office for South Amherst Middle School, 440-986-7021.

Firelands Band Boosters 1st Annual

ATV Raffle



Buy tickets at the home varsity football games next to the ticket booth.

Proceeds benefit the Firelands local schools instrumental music department.

Drawing will take place no later than the last home varsity game during halftime. Presence not required to win.

1 in 400
chance
to win
a 2021
Can-Am
Outlander 450
and
8x5 trailer
valued at
\$7000

Taxes and title fees not included.

raffle ticket price

\$50



Sponsored by:



THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

Firelands Schools Endowment: Connect to a Cause 2021

The Firelands Schools Endowment Fund is partnering with the Community Foundation of Lorain County and its Connect to a Cause Day, a 12-hour crowdfunding campaign that will hopefully generate donations to the Endowment Fund.

On September 16, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., donors are asked to donate through the Community Foundations website: peoplewhocare.org, to help the Firelands Endowment Fund leverage potential additional donations and dollars through the Community Foundation. Donations can also be made by check as well. A donation form can be found on the Firelands Endowment website.

Since 1991, the Firelands Endowment Fund has been able to award over 600 grants and scholarships to support educational enrichment programs in the school



CONNECT TO OUR CAUSE



Firelands Schools Endowment



GIVE on **SEPTEMBER 16, 2021** from 8 AM to 8 PM

peoplewhocare.org

Sept. 16, 2021
8:00am - 8:00pm

For more information about the Firelands Endowment Fund, please email firelands_endowment@firelandsschools.org. You can also read more on the website by going to www.firelandsschools.org then clicking on the "Firelands Endowment" link, bottom left side.

and student scholarships. Contributions to the Endowment Fund, all of which are tax deductible, will never be spent. Only the interest earned will be available for disbursement. Contributions keep working over and over again to improve the educational process of our schools.

The Endowment Trustees are hoping that the Firelands community will support this event by making a donation on this date, September 16th. Donating to the Firelands Endowment Fund is the perfect way to help continue the legacy to enhance the lives of those in the Firelands Schools.

Please consider making a donation in support of the Firelands Schools Endowment through the Community Foundation on Thursday, September 16th.

Thank you,
Ann Buchs, President

Firelands High School Prepares for a Great 2021-2022

FHS welcomes two new staff members this year. Collin Pecoraro is teaching Biology I, Biology II, and Physical Science. Diana Pierson is our Student Services clerk. We also have a new psychologist, Catherine Kiewel, through our partnership with the Educational Service Center of Lorain County.

Our custodial staff has been working tirelessly all summer to prepare our buildings for this year. They have painted all of the hallways in the high school, including the trim work so that it will match the colors in the new building.

They are also hard at work on our Heritage Hall, hanging the class composites back up. These were removed and photographed for preservation

last year. Prior to being put back up, they were cleaned and repaired. We now have the complete collection going back up on the walls, ready to display the pictures up through the last class to graduate from this building in 2022. The new building will have the first graduating class and the most recent graduating class of Firelands High School on display.

Counselors were back in the building the second week of August and will be working to finalize schedules and get everything ready for our students to come back to school.

Open House is scheduled for August 30th and we are excited to invite parents back into the buildings to meet the teachers.

We are also excited to welcome our new freshmen on August 31st for their first day of school. They will be able to find their classes, meet their teachers, and get oriented to the building with no other students present. Counselors and administration are working on plans to make this a fun and informative day for our students.

New freshmen will be joined by the rest of the student body, grades 10-12, on September 1st.

Picture Day is scheduled for September 9th. All students will get their picture taken by Ripcho to appear in the yearbook. This service is provided free to students and they are only charged if they order pictures.

Athletics are underway and our student athletes are

excited to be getting back into the swing of things in a mostly maskless environment. The first home football game will be against Vermilion on September 3rd. Look for more information in the coming weeks about Homecoming, against Clearview on October 1st.

*submitted by Cathy Keener
FHS Principal*

FALCON SPORTS INFO

<https://firelandsathletics.org/>



Follow
Athletic Dir.
Ty Stillman
on Twitter

@FirelandsFalcon

THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

Behind the Scenes



Ever wonder what it takes to prepare roughly 2000 Chromebooks and 39 Chromebook carts/charging stations for a new school year?

Amy Matotek, Director of Technology, shared the above photo of Jared Drury and William Hasley doing Chrome updates. This is one of the many tasks involved with getting the Chromebooks ready for the new school year.

Several weeks are spent during the summer months getting all of the equipment updated, fixed, refurbished, cleaned, inventoried, labeled, charged and ready to go.

Here are some helpful tips about maintaining the Chromebooks throughout the year:

Students at SAMS and FHS will be one to one and keeping their Chromebooks with them. We are encouraging students to properly care for their technology by basic care, cleaning and general best practices. More information will be shared on the website and through your school communication on care for your Chromebook, including how to clean them, how to get a spare

chromebook, and contacting support. Please remember to bring your charger to school with you daily.

FES Chromebooks will be assigned to students but kept in the classrooms. Instruction will be given to teachers and students on Chromebook care in the classroom.

*submitted by Amy Matotek
Director of Technology*



**Firelands
Band
Boosters**

Firelands Band Boosters meet on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Our mission is to provide support for the Firelands Instrumental Music Program. We meet on the third Tuesday of every month in the high school band room at 7:00 p.m. The meeting dates for the 2021-2022 school year are as follows: August 17, 2021; September 21, 2021; October 19, 2021; November 16, 2021; January 18, 2022; February 15, 2022; March 15, 2022; April 19, 2022; May 17, 2022; June 21, 2022.

firelandsbandboosters@gmail.com

Falcons on the Fly Track

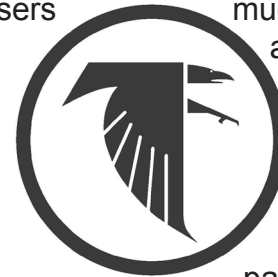
When the new school year begins, FES students will have quite the surprise-a new track! Through the efforts of Firelands Elementary School Parent Teacher Group fundraisers over the last few years, the \$35,000 project was recently completed by J.L. Reichert, Inc.

The nearly quarter-mile long track next to the playground is used for the Falcons on the Fly program to encourage physical fitness. Each year, the students run laps and earn prizes at various marks, starting with 5K and with enough

laps earn the distinction of Marathon Club.

The new pavement replaces the previous wood chip track that was often too wet or muddy to be used and allows for greater access for students who use mobility devices.

FES-PTG is thankful to all the parents and volunteers who participated in fundraisers to make this project happen! We are in need of new members and volunteers to continue our successful group! Contact Nikki Beal, President of PTG, at nikkirn1980@yahoo.com.



Friends of Firelands

Tailgate



- Facepainting
- Popcorn
- Snow cones
- Games & prizes
- Raffle baskets
- 50/50

September 24th from 5 -7 p.m.

Join the Friends of Firelands tailgate prior to our Firelands Falcons taking on the Keystone Wildcats!

Jones Bones Food Truck will be onsite from 4-7 selling his delicious BBQ for you to enjoy before the game. Come hungry!

Admission to the game sold separately.

THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

2021 - 2022

Board Approved 12/14/2020 Re-approved 7/12/2021

AUGUST 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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OCTOBER 2021						
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NOVEMBER 2021						
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DECEMBER 2021						
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FEBRUARY 2022						
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MARCH 2022						
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APRIL 2022						
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MAY 2022						
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JUNE 2022						
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JULY 2022						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

AUGUST

Certified - 2 Flex Days
9 BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm**
17-19 Professional Development*
30 Staff In-Service Day
31 First Day for Grades 1-6, 9

SEPTEMBER

1 First Day for Grades 7-8, 10-12
3 First Day for Kindergarten
6 Labor Day*
13 BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm**

OCTOBER

6-7 Evening P/T Conference (K-12)
8 No School for Staff & Students*
11 BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm**
29 End of 1st Grading Period (42 days)

NOVEMBER

1 Professional Development*
15 BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm**
24 Non-Instructional Day*
25-26 Fall Break*

DECEMBER

13 BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm**
22 to 31 Winter Break*

JANUARY

3 School Resumes
6 Evening P/T Conferences (Grade 3)
10 BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm**
14 End of 2nd Grading Period (43 days)
17 Martin Luther King Day*

FEBRUARY

14 BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm**
17 Evening P/T Conference (K-2, 4-12)
18 Professional Development*
21 Presidents' Day *

MARCH

14 BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm**
18 End of 3rd Grading Period (43 days)

APRIL

11 BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm **
15-22 Spring Break*
25 School Resumes

MAY

9 BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm**
27 Graduation, 7:00 pm
30 Memorial Day

JUNE

1 Last Day for Students
1 End of 4th Grading Period (46 days)
2 Teacher In-Service*
13 BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm**

JULY 11

BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm**

*NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
 **Tentative, subject to Board Approval

GRADING PERIODS TOTAL: 173 DAYS

1st August 31 - October 29 42 Days
2nd November 2 - January 14 43 Days
3rd January 18 - March 18 42 Days
4th March 21 - June 1 46 Days

FIRST STUDENT DAY August 31
LAST STUDENT DAY June 1
COMMENCEMENT MAY 27, 7:00 pm
 Emergency make-up days will be scheduled beginning June 2

KEY

	Students First & Last day
	Prof. Dev. - No school for students
	Holidays - No school for staff & students
	No school for students
	No school for staff & students
	Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences

Re-approved 7-12-2021

Firelands Local Schools App!

Firelands Local Schools has launched an app that is now available for iOS™, Android™, and Windows™ devices. The app enables parents, students, faculty and staff the ability to stay connected and informed about what is happening within our schools.

The app is free and provides quick access to everything school related including calendars, directions to events, contact information for teachers and administrators, important documents and much more.

To install the app simply scan the QR code or visit your app store under Firelands Local Schools. Once you have installed the app, you can choose which buildings and the amount of push notifications that you want to receive. We recommend that you stay connected with your child's building and the district for important updates! Once installed, simply place the app on your home screen and you will begin to receive notifications!



THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

Firelands welcomes new staff - continued from page 5

Diana Pierson, FHS Clerk.

Diana Pierson, FHS Clerk, moved to Vermilion with her husband, Mark in 2018 after living 26+ years in Sheffield Lake. They have 2 adult sons, Kenny and Casey. Diana has worked many years for several churches and schools as an Administrative Assistant and as a Paraprofessional. She focuses her spare time on faith, family and friends by volunteering and enjoys traveling, watching sports (especially baseball), and reading. Diana is looking forward to once again working with school staff and students and is excited about becoming a part of the Firelands community.

Michelle Saunders, SAMS Cleaner. Michelle relocated to Amherst Township in 2019 with her significant other and three children. She is originally from North Carolina. Until now she has been a caregiver and Department store manager. Michelle has two daughters, one at JVS and one in the high school, as well as a son in fifth grade. Outside of work and school she enjoys all outdoor activities and having fun with her family and friends.

Clifford Sewald, SAMS Science and Math Teacher.

Clifford Sewald will be starting his 14th year in education. He was born and raised in Marion, Ohio and graduated from The Ohio State University in 2005 with a Master's in Middle Childhood Education. After graduation he worked at Honda of America Manufacturing, and then taught math and science in South Carolina for 5 years. Clifford met his wife and moved to the Cleveland area in 2013. They have been blessed with 4 children. He taught math and science in Cleveland for 8 years, and is excited to make the move to the Firelands School District! The great outdoors (his happy place) is where he prefers to be. He loves to explore the Metroparks, hike, bike, swim, camp, and eat food cooked over a fire. He is looking forward to making new friends and co-workers, and helping students become lifelong learners. His goal is to make learning fun and exciting for every student!

Rebecca Skiles, FES 4th Grade Teacher. Rebecca Skiles, FES 4th grade teacher, is joining us from the state of Indiana. She attended Huntington University

and completed her first 5 years of teaching there. She and her husband, Scott, moved to Ohio due to him becoming the Program Director at a camp called Beulah Beach. They enjoy all things outside which is how they spend most of their time due to having a one-year old Golden Retriever and living at camp. When they are not going for walks or playing games, Becca enjoys reading a good book, traveling, and trying new coffee shops. Fun fact, Becca grew up in Ukraine and still remembers some Russian.

Christine Starck, District Nurse, joins us to float between all three school buildings. Her position is made possible through our partnership with Lorain County Public Health.

Rachel Szczodrowski, FES Title One Tutor. Rachel is a recent graduate from Bowling Green State University where she earned her bachelors in education K-3. She grew up in Amherst and is looking forward to starting her professional career in a school close to her hometown. During her spare time she enjoys watching movies, reading, and is a huge Disney fan. Rachel is eager to

begin working with the students at Firelands Elementary.

Martina Wagner, FES Aide. Martina, her husband and three children moved to Ohio from Pennsylvania in 2015. All three of her children go to FES. Her twin boys are in fifth grade and her daughter is in third. She loves spending time with her family, fishing and camping. Martina has been a homemaker for 10 years. Before she had children, she was an assistant manager at a restaurant for 7 years. She is very excited to start this new adventure at FES with its wonderful staff and students.

Please join us in welcoming these new staff members to the Firelands Community!



40 Years

Firelands High School
Class of 1981
Class Reunion
3 day weekend



SAVE THE DATE!!

October 15th: Firelands Football Game and High School Tour
Matus Winery after the game
October 16th: Wakeman Eagles (time and price TBA at later date)
Catered by Sterks Catering (Ray Sterk)
October 17th: Wakeman Elevator
Flyer will be sent out in June with more information.
Class Committee:
Scott Cameron, Melvin Saylor, Jane Park-Plas, Patty Goebel-Kopcho,
Brenda Vetter-Whitacre, Lisa Cable-Able,
MaryAnn Scheckel-Steffani, Jen McDonald-Vasu
FACEBOOK: Firelands High School-Class of 1981
Any questions please contact a committee member

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GO FALCONS!

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**NEXT BOARD
OF EDUCATION
MEETINGS:**
SEPTEMBER 13
OCTOBER 11
NOVEMBER 15
DECEMBER 13
JANUARY 10

Ad space available on page 11! Email sschaefer@firelandsschools.org

FALCON STRONG