



# The Firelands Express



Volume 13, Issue 105

August 2022

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.

## Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to be Held on August 31st

### New Firelands High School Open to the Public

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year!

On behalf of The Firelands Board of Education, staff and our students, thank you for supporting the bond issue passed in 2018 that built our new high school that today is ready to welcome our students in just a few short weeks. To mark the occasion, please join us for a ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, August 31<sup>st</sup> from 5:00 pm-6:30 pm. Following a brief ceremony, the building will be open to the community for tours.

To ease the transition of our students entering middle school and high school for the first time, we will once again utilize a staggered start for the 2022-2023 school year. The first day of school for students in grades 1-6 and 9 is September 6th. Students in grades 7-8 and 10-12 return to class on September 7th. For our



incoming kindergarten students, please refer to the letter you received from the elementary school regarding your child's first day of school. In addition, please join us for Open House during the week of August 29th. The buildings will be open according to the schedule at left.

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 2022-2023 school year for each of our students.

**GO FALCONS!**

Mike Von Gunten  
Superintendent

## Open House Schedule

### Firelands Elementary School

Tuesday, August 30  
5:00-6:00 pm, Grades K-2  
6:00-7:00 pm, Grades 3-5

### Firelands Middle School

Thursday, September 1  
6:00-7:00 pm

### Firelands High School

Wednesday, August 31  
7:30-8:30 pm

### New Student Orientation

FES, August 18, 1:00-2:00 pm  
FMS, August 23, 1:00-2:30 pm  
FHS, August 23, 1:00-2:30 pm



You may view this issue online at:

**[www.firelandsschools.org](http://www.firelandsschools.org)**

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# THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

## Camp Invention at FES

On the cover and below are some photos from this year's Camp Invention. The STEM camp is held each summer at the elementary school. Offered through the National Inventors

Hall of Fame, the camp helps students build creative inventions and lasting friendships. Games encourage teamwork and spark creativity. As you can see, FES students had lots of fun!



## Roping Her Way to Nationals FHS Student Addison Webb Represents Ohio



Last spring Addison Webb, then an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at SAMS, qualified in the top 4 in the State of Ohio at the Ohio Junior High School Rodeo in Breakaway Roping and Team Roping. In June, she traveled to Perry, Georgia to compete at the National Junior High Finals Rodeo against the top 4 from each state and also 3 countries.

In the second round of Breakaway Roping, Addison ended up 24<sup>th</sup> out of 144 kids. She caught her calf with a 3.84 second time! She made it to the final round in team roping Jackpot with a 7.3 second run.

Addison had a great experience being on the big stage with the top 4 kids from

all 50 states and the top kids from Mexico and Canada. She competed with the best of the best and finished off her week strong.

This fall, Addison will start her high school rodeo series with the hopes of making it to nationals again. She competes year-round in Breakaway Roping, Team Roping, Goat Tying, Barrel Racing and Pole Bending with her two horses, Toto and Breeze. She will be in Fort Worth, Texas in March for the Junior Patriot Rodeo.

Addison plans to attend college after high school where she can compete on their college rodeo team.

## Are Your Final Forms Final?

All students need to have updated forms prior to starting the 2022-2023 school year. To complete the required forms please visit the Final Forms website [firelands-oh.finalforms.com](https://firelands-oh.finalforms.com) located on the district website or scan the QR code at right.

If you have any questions regarding registration, please contact Lisa Maver at 440-

965-5821 x.1025 or [lmaver@firelandsschools.org](mailto:lmaver@firelandsschools.org).





## Bus Safety & News: Consistency is Key!

Welcome to the start of the 2022-2023 school year. As we get ready to start the year, we anticipate some road construction to continue on Vermilion Road between Middle and North Ridge roads. Updates will be on the website as they become available.

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 FMS and FHS. Please do not assume that they ride the same bus home as last year as bus numbers may 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 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 be courteous to others at bus stops.

There will continue to be an emphasis on designated stops for 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.

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.

If your child's school begins before September 6, 2022 and you will need transportation, you will need to call Mr. Sayler at 965-4105 to make arrangements.

### Firelands Starting Dates

9-6-22 Grades 1-6 and 9  
9-7-22 Grades 7-8, 10-12  
9-9-22 Kindergarten

### Other Starting Dates:

8-24-22 Open Door  
8-29-22 St. Joe's  
8-29-22 LCJVS  
8-29-22 Early Learning Ctr.

**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:** There is a link on Final Forms for the variance form. 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.

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 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 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

*continued on p. 4*



## FRIENDS OF FIRELANDS TAILGATE

Join the Friends of Firelands as they kick off the football season Friday, September 9th from 5 - 7p.m. prior to the Falcons vs Dukes game. Hotdogs, popcorn, snowcones, games and face painting will be available for all. FoF will also be raffling off baskets for a nominal fee.

\$5 admission - children under 3 are free



# THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

## Endowment ~ Connect to a Cause 2022

The Firelands Schools Endowment Fund is again 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 15, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., donors are asked to donate through the Community Foundations website: PeopleWhoCare.org or scan the QR Code at right to help the Firelands Endowment Fund leverage potential additional donations and dollars. Donations can also be made by check as well. A donation form can be found on the Firelands Schools Endowment website.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed last year when over \$4,000 was contributed to the Endowment Fund. These tax-deductible contributions will never be spent. Only the interest earned will be available for distribution. 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 15th. 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.

More information will be

available closer to the campaign date. Please consider making a donation in support of the Firelands Schools Endowment through the Community Foundation on Thursday, September 15th.

*submitted by Ann Buchs*



## National School Lunch Program Changes

The U.S Department of Agriculture extended the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Seamless Summer Option to allow all students access to free breakfast and lunch through the 2021-22 school year.

This option officially came to a close on June 30, 2022. The 2022-23 school year will follow the procedures of previous non-pandemic years, and households will need to apply for free and reduced lunches.

Notably, it takes approximately 30 days to process these applications. For families who applied during the 2021-22 school year, the first 30 days of lunches will be covered while the application for the new school year is processed.

**For more on Firelands Food Service, see page 6.**



## Another Successful Safety Town!



Safety Town was held in July. The program is coordinated by Natalie Saylor, but she wanted to extend appreciation to all the wonderful student volunteers. She says she could not have done it without all of their help. Appreciation also goes out to Nakita Doane and Meghan Pycraft for their help with Safety Town and Stuff the Bus.

A big thank you goes out to the following people

and organizations for their generosity and support: Lorain County Sheriff's Department, Tony Kovach, Auxiliary Sheriff for providing Child ID cards. AAA/Lori Cook who provided information on Bicycle Safety; Nord Center and their Safe Touch program; 9-1-1 Agency/ Kurt Scholl; and the Fire Departments from Florence Township, South Amherst, and Camden Township.

Gratitude also goes to Ken Kudela and the Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Ohio/ Kentucky ADC for providing t-shirts; EMS Ambulance; Milt Sayler and Buster; and finally, Mrs. Dewitt, Mrs. Sayler and Mrs. Watts who taught Bus Safety. This program would not have been possible without all of you!

*submitted by Natalie Saylor*

**Bus Safety, from p. 3** 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.

*submitted by Milt Sayler  
Transportation Director*

440-965-4105

[msaylor@firelandsschools.org](mailto:msaylor@firelandsschools.org)



# THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

## Firelands High School

### News & Updates from Principal Keener



We are excited to welcome students back to school in our brand new building. We are grateful to the community for their support and to our custodial staff that has worked tirelessly all summer.

The community is invited to our ribbon cutting on August 31st from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. as we open our building to the public. The high school open house will follow from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. This is a great opportunity for students and families to tour the building and explore the new spaces.

As we prepare for the start of the 2022-2023 school year, there are a few other items that I would like to share with you. I am starting a student advisory committee this year. Any interested student in grade 9-12 is invited to attend our first meeting on August 26th at 11 am. Please come in through the east entrance from the student parking lot. We will meet in the main lobby.

Our athletic teams and the marching band have begun practices as they prepare for the fall athletic season. Take a look at the Mighty Falcon Marching Band practicing in the new band room (above photo).

**The first football game is on August 19th vs Edison High**

**School.** The 2022 Homecoming football game is September 16th against Oberlin High School. Come out and show your support!

The first day of school for freshman will be September 6th. On this day, freshman will have the opportunity to meet their teachers, learn the building, find and open their lockers, walk through their schedule, and learn how to navigate the cafeteria.

The first day of school for students in grades 10 through 12 is September 7th. Parents, please remember to complete Final Forms for your students prior to school starting. Free meals are no longer available for all students. Families must complete and be approved through an online meal application. Please visit [www.payschoolscentral.com](http://www.payschoolscentral.com) to complete the online application. For the 2022-2023 school year, lunches are \$3.20, breakfast is \$1.75, and milk is \$0.50.

Thank you again to the Firelands community for being a part of making the dream of a new high school a reality. I look forward to seeing the community celebrate this momentous accomplishment at the ribbon cutting ceremony on the 31st.

*submitted by Cathy Keener  
FHS Principal*

## Firelands Band Boosters General Membership Meetings

The Firelands Band Boosters' mission is to provide support for the Firelands Instrumental Music Programs in grades 5-12. We meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the high school band room. We also have a Facebook page under "Firelands Band Fans."

This fall we are organizing a sale of band apparel. Families can purchase buttons, jackets, sweatshirts and band t-shirts. We are also having our 2nd ATV raffle (see below).

Business meetings are not scheduled during the months of December and July. We look

forward to seeing you in the 2022-2023 school year!

August 16th	February 14th
September 20th	March 14th
October 18th	April 18th
November 15th	May 16th
January 17th	June 20th

*submitted by Shannon Smith  
firelandsbandboosters@gmail.com*



### Firelands Band Boosters 2nd 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 2022  
Suzuki  
KingQuad 400  
ASi SE  
and a  
trailer  
valued at  
\$8000**  
Taxes and title fees not included.

raffle ticket price  
**\$50**



Sponsored by:





# THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

## Firelands Food Service Celebrates New Cafeteria & Kitchen

The universal free meal program has ended. This program has helped many families the last two years and we are so grateful for it. Please be prepared to load money on your student's account so they can receive a meal.

### Meal prices

Breakfast: \$1.75

Breakfast (reduced) .30

Lunch, FES: \$2.90

Lunch, FES (reduced): .40

Lunch, FHS & FMS: \$3.20

Lunch, FHS & FMS (reduced): .40

**Lunch:** Must take 3 of 5 components offered, must take a ½ c. fruit or vegetable. (Components: meat, grain, fruit, vegetable & milk.)

**Breakfast:** Must take 3 of 4 items offered, one must be ½ c. fruit or juice. (Items: grain and or meat, fruit or juice & milk.)

### New Cafeteria

Our 6-12 graders will transition to our new cafeteria. This is very exciting! The cafeteria and kitchen are absolutely amazing. The new facility will have 5 stations, including Main, Grille, Deli, Everything Fresh (salads & yogurt parfaits), and a Pizzeria. **Any student** can choose from their station of choice, allowing them to build a reimbursable meal at any station. All students -- free, reduced and full pay -- can utilize the stations and build a meal. The same meals will be offered to both middle and high school students. The stations will be open gradually to ease the transition.

### Ala cart items

Students must have money on their account to purchase smart snack ala cart items. The

allowable beverage items vary for middle school students. These items will be placed in an open air cooler specifically for middle school and another for high school students.

### Elementary Students

FES Students will continue to eat in their classrooms. Grades 1-5 will come to the kitchen to pick up their lunch tray to take back to the classroom.

### Meal assistance application

**PLEASE** fill out a meal application even if you are unsure if your child/children will qualify. We want to make sure all our students are able to get a free or reduced price meal if eligible. You can complete an application online at [www.payschoolscentral.com](http://www.payschoolscentral.com). Paper applications will be available in each school office or at the board office. Online applications are preferred.

### Direct Certification/Free Meals

Direct Certification was completed in July and will be run every month to find new students that may qualify. This process will automatically approve students for free meals if they qualify. ***IF*** you receive a letter stating your child/children were approved, ***YOU MUST sign and return the letter which will allow instructional school fees to be waived. I run the Direct Certification several times throughout the school year to catch any students that may qualify after the initial run.***

### Self-supporting

Our Food Service department does not use any tax dollars/general funds to run our department. We are funded by federal dollars which we get from each meal that is sold. Your



Our new kitchen has the look of a college campus. It features 5 different stations and includes an assortment of tables including high tops, round tables and rectangular tables.

We also now have a great space for Concessions. This will be a great space for our students!



children can get a breakfast and lunch each day for free, reduced or the cost of the meal for those that are full pay.

### Menus

Menus can be found on [www.myschoolmenus.com](http://www.myschoolmenus.com)

[myschoolmenus.com](http://myschoolmenus.com), download the free My School Menu app or download the free Firelands app.

submitted by Mrs. Judy Baumann  
Food Service Director  
440-965-4255 x.3097

[jbaumann@firelandsschools.org](mailto:jbaumann@firelandsschools.org)



## Firelands Middle School

### News & Updates from Principal Hutchinson

#### Welcome Back Falcons!

This summer has been filled with excitement as we move into a new building. We are so excited to show the students their new spaces, and are incredibly grateful to the community for allowing them this opportunity!

Our cleaning staff has worked tirelessly to ensure that everything is perfect for our staff and students to arrive back for the 2022-2023 school year.

Athletic teams have started practicing for their upcoming seasons. We wish them the best this fall!! Go Falcons!!

#### Important Dates:

- August 31st, Ribbon Cutting, 5:00-6:30 PM (Open to the public)
- September 1st, FMS Open House, 6:30-7:30 PM
- September 6th, First Day of School for 6th Grade Only. This will also serve as the orientation for the incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders. We will spend the day making sure they feel comfortable when the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders arrive the following day. The HS is doing the same with their 9<sup>th</sup> graders.
- September 7th, First Day of School for 7th & 8th Grades

#### Student Transition Team

We are looking for middle school students to be part of our student transition team. If

this is something your child is interested in participating in (or participated in last year), we are meeting August 26, 2022 at 10:00 AM in the lobby of the High School. Please drop them off in the student parking lot located in the east entrance. The entrance to the student parking lot is the northern most drive of the campus. Please pick them up at 11:00 AM in the same place.

#### Please take this time to complete Final Forms.



It is important that we have updated and accurate phone numbers, custody information and who we can release students with when school begins. You can access Final Forms right now by scanning this QR code.

**Free meals are no longer available for all students.** Families must complete and be approved through an online meal application. Please visit [Payschoolscentral](https://payschoolscentral.com) to complete the online application.

#### 2022-2023 Meal Prices

FHS / FMS - \$3.20  
FES - \$2.90  
Breakfast - \$1.75  
Milk - .50

With excitement and gratitude,  
*Cara M. Hutchinson, Principal  
Firelands Middle School*

## Firelands Elementary School

### Letter From Principals Choe & Groboske

*Dear Parents and Guardians,*

On behalf of the staff at Firelands Elementary School, we are happy to welcome you to the 2022-2023 school year! Our wonderful and amazing staff are working very hard to get everything ready for the return of our Falcons. Our hard working custodial staff have spent the entire summer thoroughly cleaning the facility. Our enthusiastic office team is organizing materials, updating student files, and responding to many new school year questions. Our teachers are decorating the classrooms, planning for the introductory lessons, and memorizing student names. Our PTG is getting ready to offer planned events and programs for our families.

As the administration of FES for the past 6 years, the heart of our mission has been to build a strong partnership with staff, students, and families we serve. Together as a school community, we will build on the traditions of the past and meet the challenges of the future in innovative and exciting ways. Together, we continue to be a caring community with a common goal of nurturing responsible, respectful, and kind students while promoting high level learning.

We are looking forward to continuing the productive partnership with you to ensure our children can achieve their

highest potential. We recognize that in order to be successful in school, our children need support from both home and school. We know a strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child's education. As partners, we share the responsibility for our children's success and want you to know that we will do our very best to carry out our responsibilities. We ask that you guide and support your child's learning by ensuring daily and on-time attendance, followed by daily reading at home.

#### Meet New Staff at FES:

- Mrs. Carley Willoughby  
School Counselor
- Mrs. Michelle Ferraton  
Intervention Specialist
- Mr. Jon Popik  
Intervention Specialist
- Mrs. Angie Hile  
Grade 3 Teacher
- Ms. Kellie Rennie  
Grade 5 Teacher
- Ms. Casey Fleet  
Art Teacher
- Ms. Grace Giusti  
Paraprofessional

#### Upcoming Events at FES:

- Class Lists Posted  
Thursday, August 25
- Open House, Tues., August 30  
5:00-6:00 PM Grades K-2  
6:00-7:00 PM Grades 3-5
- First Day of School Gr. 1-5  
Tuesday, September 6
- First Day for Kindergarten  
Friday, September 9

We are looking forward to welcoming all of our Falcons for an amazing 2022-2023 school year.

*Sincerely,  
Mrs. Sun Choe & Mrs. Laura Groboske*

## Firelands Falcons Athletic Schedules and Information

[www.firelandsathletics.org](http://www.firelandsathletics.org)

SCHEDULES ~ DIRECTIONS ~ SCORES ~ RECAPS ~ PHOTOS ~ PURCHASE TICKETS  
COACHES DIRECTORY ~ BOOSTERS INFORMATION ~ STORE ~ AND MORE!!

AND BE SURE TO FOLLOW ATHLETIC DIRECTOR TY STILLMAN [@FIRELANDSFALCON](https://twitter.com/FIRELANDSFALCON) ON TWITTER



## New Staff Get Oriented to Firelands

### **Michelle Ferraton, FES Intervention Specialist.**

Michelle has a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Elementary and a master's degree in Special Education. This will be her seventeenth year of teaching and she considers herself as having come full circle. She began her career as an intervention specialist in a small country school near Cleveland and then moved to Virginia. From Virginia she embarked on her dream of living and teaching overseas. She spent seven years teaching both general and special education in Turkmenistan, Mongolia and Kuwait. Wanting to be near family and friends, she transitioned back to the states in 2020 and was an intervention specialist near Canton. She is excited to be joining another small country school and to be even closer to her family and friends. Michelle married her high school sweetheart and they recently celebrated their eighteenth wedding anniversary. They enjoy traveling, hiking, cooking, baking and discussing educational topics...he is also a teacher!

**Casey Fleet, FES Art Teacher.** Casey is joining FES as the new art teacher. She has been teaching elementary art in Sandusky for the past 5 years, and is excited to begin year 6 with Firelands! Along with teaching, Casey is a freelance artist. She has worked as a printmaker at Zygoté Printing Press, has participated in art shows at 78th St. Studio, and created many works in the BAYarts ceramic studio. When she is not painting in her home studio, Casey can be found cooking new recipes, running 5Ks, 10Ks, half marathons, and boxing after school. She is excited to share her passion for



*Pictured above from left to right: Katlynn Vanzant, Shawn Guthrie, Shelby McCarty, Michelle Ferraton, Angie Hile, Nate Hartsel, Casey Fleet, Max Hertensteiner, Adam Zegarac, and Carley Willoughby. Not pictured: Jon Popik.*

art with her new students!

**Grace Giusti, FES Special Needs Paraprofessional.** Grace graduated from Brookside High School in 2020. She started as an aide for Sheffield-Sheffield Lake City Schools in 2021. In 2022 she began subbing at Firelands and then was hired as a permanent special needs paraprofessional starting this school year. She is very excited for this year and for being a Falcon! Grace loves baking and going to Hobby Lobby!

**Shawn Guthrie, FHS Intervention Specialist.** Shawn says she is so excited to work at Firelands High School this year as an intervention specialist. She moved back to the area this summer. Her hometown is Marblehead and she is a graduate of BGSU. For 18 years, Shawn worked at the Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities as a high school intervention specialist. For the last seven years, she worked at the Allen County Educational Service Center as a middle school intervention specialist.

Shawn is excited to live near her family and Lake Erie again. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, baking, reading, going to the beach, and kayaking.

**Nate Hartsel, FHS Social Studies Teacher.** Nate is our new high school Social Studies teacher. Nate comes to Firelands with 8 years of teaching experience. He is a graduate of Kent State as well as Ashland University. Along with teaching at FHS, Nate will serve as an assistant middle school football coach. Nate, along with his family, are excited to join the Firelands Falcons community.

**Max Hertensteiner, FHS Math Teacher.** Maxwell Hertensteiner will be starting his teaching career in Mathematics at Firelands High School. He recently graduated from Kent State University with his bachelor's degree in Education and associate's degree in Science. He has been a lifelong resident in the Firelands school system and graduated from FHS. While teaching at Firelands,

Maxwell plans to continue his own education by working for his master's degree in Education. As a Firelands alum, he looks forward to giving back to his community through teaching and sports.

### **Angie Hile, FES 3rd Grade Teacher**

Angie is very excited to be joining our school district. She brings 23 years of experience teaching both third and fourth grades. She just recently moved to Vermilion from Newark because her husband of 24 years is the new superintendent for Vermilion Local Schools. Angie graduated from The Ohio State University in 1998 with a master's degree in Education. She has 2 boys, Ethan and Hayden, and they are currently attending Ohio State University, so she is a huge Buckeye fan!

### **Shelby McCarty, FMS/FHS Vo Ag Teacher**

Shelby McCarty brings five years of teaching experience as an Agricultural Science teacher from Madison Plains High School. She was a 2011



# THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

## New Staff Get Oriented to Firelands



Pictured above from left to right: Ashley McNeeley, Rochelle Truskolaski, Anastazja Golab, Mason Rogozinski, Austin Bennett, Summer Michalski, Sarah Moore and Grace Giusti.

graduate from Firelands High School and received her bachelor's degree in Science in Agriculture from The Ohio State University in 2017. Shelby loves to spend her free time with her two dogs and husband Alex. Together they enjoy spending lots of time with family and friends. They also enjoy spending time outdoors and traveling to new places! Shelby is excited to join the Firelands School District and be a Falcon again! She is looking forward to starting this school year and creating a positive and engaging learning experience for her students!

**Ashley McNeeley, FMS/FHS Assistant Cook.** Ashley joins our food service staff as an assistant cook. She will be working in the new kitchen at FMS & FHS. Ashley has a background in healthcare and pharmacy but most recently she has been enjoying being a stay at home mom. Ashley has 3 boys, two of which are enrolled at Firelands. She says this is a new adventure for here, but she

is very excited to join the FLSD family and make a difference!

**Sarah Moore, FES Special Needs Paraprofessional.**

Sarah is originally from the Ashland area. She now lives in Amherst with her husband and 2 children. She enjoys cooking, baking, and canning food. She likes to hike, swim, and read in her spare time. She looks forward to using her position as a paraprofessional to help students achieve their goals and reach their potential this school year.

**Jonathan Popik, FES Intervention Specialist.** Jon comes to Firelands after 22 years working at the Positive Education Program and 2 years at North Ridgeville Schools. Jon is married to Melody, who is a piano teacher, potter, and registered nurse. They have 6 children between them, ages 14 to 22. During his spare time he enjoys being a youth leader at his church and going on mission trips. He also enjoys visiting national parks, and playing any sport he can find time to do,

especially soccer, triathlons, volleyball, whitewater rafting, skydiving, and kayaking. He looks forward to his first year at Firelands, where he hopes to help all students become the best versions of themselves. He also looks forward to becoming part of such a wonderful family here at Firelands.

**Mason Rogozinski, FMS Special Needs Paraprofessional.** Mason joins the FMS staff as a special needs paraprofessional while working on his bachelor's degree in Education (grades 4-9) from Ashland University. Mason will also be coaching our middle school wrestling team for his 5th year. He graduated from Firelands High School in 2018, has five younger brothers and loves to golf!

**Rick Skoczen, FHS/FMS Assistant Principal.** Rick was born and raised in Berea. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Akron and master's degree from Baldwin Wallace University. Rick spent the last 7 years teaching and

coaching baseball and cross country at Brunswick High School. He spends much of his spare time boating, playing baseball and sand volleyball. He also enjoys traveling with friends and family. Rick is very excited to be a part of the Firelands Local School District!

**Rochelle Truskolaski, FMS/FHS Assistant Cook.** Rochelle Truskolaski joins the Food Service staff as assistant cook for the new combined middle school and high school kitchen. She began subbing at Firelands last spring. Rochelle, her husband Dean and their son Eric moved to the area last year. Eric will be in 2nd grade at FES. They love being in the country with their two dogs, two cats, and future chicken and goats. They love camping, working outside together, and their family and friends. Rochelle has been working as an aide since she was 18 and is excited to join the kitchen staff.

**Katlynn Vanzant, FMS Intervention Specialist.** Katlynn is our 7th grade intervention specialist who has just recently graduated from the University of Akron. She graduated with dual bachelor's degree in Inclusive Early Childhood Education and Special Education. A fun fact about Katlynn is that she has two dogs named Paisley and Penny. She also loves Dunkin Donuts and traveling! She is originally from Sheffield Lake and is excited to be coming back home and starting her career at Firelands!

**Carley Willoughby, FES School Counselor.** Carley is so excited to be joining the team at FES this year! Originally from Brockport, New York, she obtained her bachelor's degree

continued on page 10



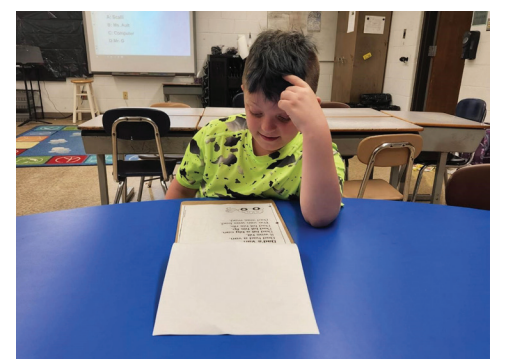
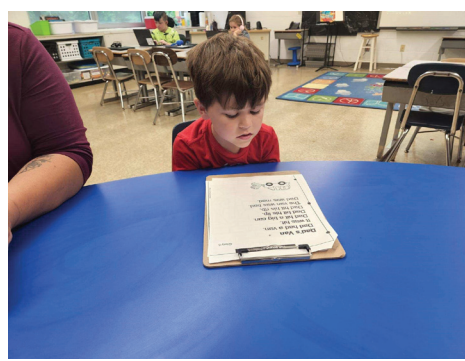
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## New Staff, continued from p. 9

in Psychology and Health and Human Services from the University at Buffalo. She then went on to get her master's degree in School Counseling from Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester before relocating to the Cleveland area. Carley worked for three years as a school counselor for Westpark Community Elementary and Middle School in the Constellation School District before coming to FES. She loves working with children and feels so lucky to be part of the Firelands staff this year. She says the best part about being a school counselor is getting to form meaningful relationships and bonds with all of the students in the building while modeling and teaching skills to help them become the best version of themselves. Outside of work, Carley enjoys reading, going on long walks with her husband and dog, Lofton and traveling back to New York to visit her family. She can't wait to get back to school,

meet all of the students and staff and have a fantastic school year!

**Adam Zegarac, FMS/FHS School Psychologist.** Adam is ecstatic to join Firelands as a school psychologist. He is assigned to support the middle and high schools. He completed his undergraduate degree in Psychology at Case Western University and graduated with a post-masters specialist degree in School Psychology (Psy.S.) from Cleveland State University in 2021. School Psychology provides Adam the ability to help improve the lives of children and their families. The most rewarding part of his job is getting to know students while encouraging understanding, curiosity, and self-sufficiency. Adam and his wife Stephanie are theme park enthusiasts and have three children: Edgar (4), Clive (2) and Freja (born on July 2nd). In his free time Adam enjoys playing guitar, hiking, listening to live music, and riding roller coasters.



## Scenes from Summer School

Firelands Elementary students had fun AND learned a lot this summer! Pictured below are students doing both!



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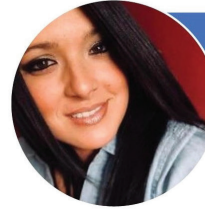


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Next Board of Education meetings:  
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Sept. 12  
October 10  
November 7  
Dec. 12

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