



# The Firelands Express



Volume 11, Issue 87

August 2020

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.

## **NO NEW TAX SUBSTITUTE LEVY ON THE NOVEMBER BALLOT**

The Firelands Board of Education voted unanimously in June to consolidate and replace our two existing emergency levies – both set to expire in 2021 – into a single substitute levy. This unified levy will be listed as a 5.98 mil, 10-year substitute levy on the November ballot.

Here are some important details about this levy:

- This substitute levy will **not increase your taxes**. It keeps taxes as they are for current property owners, and allows Firelands Local School District to benefit from the new construction and growth in our community.
- This substitute levy is critical to ensuring our district can continue to provide high quality programs in our academic offerings, athletics, and the arts.

- The first year of the substitute levy will generate the same \$2.32 million of revenue as the two emergency levies that it is replacing (\$820,000 and \$1,500,000 respectively).
- After the first year, the district would only see an increase in revenue from new construction – which would then be taxed at the same rate as current property owners.

Voting by Mail will begin on October 6. Election Day is on November 3. The Boards of Elections are already accepting Vote-by-Mail/Absentee ballot requests. To check your voter registration, please visit or call your local county Board of Elections:

**Lorain County Board of Elections**  
www.voteloraincountyohio.gov  
(440) 326-5900

**Erie County Board of Elections**  
www.boe.ohio.gov/erie  
(419) 627-7601

## **Firelands Local School District: We Are In This Together! Welcome to the 2020-2021 School Year!**

I hope this edition of the Firelands Express finds you and your family in good health. Final preparations are almost complete as we welcome around 63% of our students back to our buildings for in person learning while 37% of our students will be learning from our teachers remotely for the coming year. Thank you to our parents and guardians for your timely assistance in submitting your intentions for the coming year!

The safety of your children and our staff members are and have always been at the forefront of all decisions. Since March, all school districts in Lorain County have been meeting weekly with the Lorain County Board of Health and they have been instrumental in helping us develop our return to school plans which focuses on the following safety measures:

- Completion of a daily at home health symptom check by parents of all students attending school in our buildings
- Frequent hand washing
- Additional cleaning and sanitizing of our buildings and buses
- Social distancing
- Facial coverings for students and staff

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**FIRST DAY FOR STUDENTS:**

**September 8th:**

- Grades 1-5
- Orientation & 1st day of school for 6 & 9
- Online (1-12)

**September 9th:**

- All in person students report (1-12)

**September 11th:**

- Kindergarten (online & in person)

**2020-2021**

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

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## Cornwell Credentialed by Ohio AgriBusiness Association



Congratulations to 2020 graduate, Keith Cornwell, for earning Ohio AgriBusiness Association Credentials. He is the first student at Firelands to earn industry credentials. The Ohio AgriBusiness Association provides an industry-recognized, agribusiness credential that verifies high school student expertise in the areas of agriculture, agribusiness and production systems.

To be eligible for the program, a student must be enrolled in a career-technical agricultural program and complete four of the approved courses, where they are engaged in learning and applying technical skills in foundational agricultural concepts. As one of the four required courses, students must

complete Business Management for Agricultural & Environmental. These upper-level courses test students' knowledge of business principles applied in agribusiness. Students must also have a well developed program of Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAE) – a student project that involves real world agricultural activities done by students outside of the planned classroom and laboratory time are also integral in attaining the OABA credential.

To be considered, a student's SAE must be an entrepreneurial, placement, or research-driven project pertaining to the agriculture industry. The student must document at least 500 hours of work on their project(s) and identify the Ohio Agricultural & Environmental Systems Career Field Technical Content Standards achieved through their SAE.

Keith has raised market hogs as entrepreneurial projects. He has maintained job placements at Abraham Farms, Lorain County Metroparks, and Josh Born Farm. Keith is enrolled in the Army National Guard.

*Submitted by Shanna Finnegan*

## High School Welcomes Rob Clarico, Assistant Principal



Rob Clarico was hired in June as the new Assistant Principal at Firelands High School. He brings with him 20 years of teaching, coaching and curriculum development experience.

During the past 15 years he was a math teacher in the Keystone Local School District, where he also coached football and participated in numerous leadership roles within the district.

He replaces Cathy Keener, who was promoted to Principal after Bob Maver resigned.

Mr. Clarico shared the following message:

"It is with great excitement that I return to the Firelands

school district. I taught math at South Amherst Middle School from 2002-2004. I loved my time in the district and I have enjoyed catching up with some old friends and colleagues. Currently, I live in Lagrange with my wife Tracy and our daughters Mia (12) and Sophia (10). They keep me busy running them to cheer, basketball, music, and golf.

I am so blessed to make the transition from the classroom to administration in a district as welcoming as Firelands. The administrative team has worked very hard this summer to make plans for the unique challenges of the 2020-2021 school year. Safety for our students is clearly a district priority.

In addition, I am optimistic that we will be able to provide the students of the district the quality education they have come to expect from Firelands. I look forward to building great relationships with the students and community.

Go Falcons!"

**Please join us in welcoming Mr. Rob Clarico back to the Falcon Family!**

### Continued from page 1: Our two Emergency Levies will be combined into one Substitute Levy.

For questions or more information, please contact Keri Angney, Treasurer or Mike Von Gunten, Superintendent at 965-5821.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Emergency Levy

- ✓ Passed in 2006, renewed in 2010
- ✓ Currently renewed every 10 years
- ✓ Generates \$820,000 annually

#### 2nd Emergency Levy

- ✓ Passed in 2011, renewed in 2015
- ✓ Currently renewed every 5 years
- ✓ Generates \$1,500,000 annually

#### Substitute Levy

- ✓ Not a tax increase
- ✓ On the November 3rd Ballot
- ✓ Generates \$2,320,000 annually, plus growth from new construction
- ✓ Renewed every 10 years

## School Opening, continued from page 1

Like many routines, our opening day schedules that we have all been accustomed to have been adjusted to accommodate the need for extra planning and safety. Most notably, as we were not able to provide orientation last year for incoming 6th and 9th graders, we have made an adjustment to the school calendar. Incoming 6th and 9th graders will now have a whole day at SAMS/FHS to become familiar with their new building. Here is the schedule:

### September 8th:

- First Day of School for Grades 1-5
- First Day of School and Orientation for grades 6 and 9
- First Day of School for Online Students Grades 1-12

### September 9th:

- All in person students report in grades 1-12

**September 11th:** First day of Kindergarten, online and in person

### New Student Orientation

Families that are new to the district (grades 1-12) will be receiving emails, from their building principals, inviting them to a virtual New Student Orientation. Orientation will take place on August 26th and 28th.

### Open Houses

For the safety of everyone, we will not be admitting volunteers or parents into the learning environment this year. In keeping with that safety protocol, we will be holding virtual "Meet the Teacher" nights (for online and in person students) September 2nd, 3rd and 4th. These sessions will be offered at scheduled times during the day and again in the early evening.

### Online Option

Families that are enrolled in our remote option will receive online information, via email, including the timeline for classroom material pickup. The online material distribution and Chromebook check will begin the week of September 5th.

In closing, while school will look different this year, we are in this together! We are a unified community focused on doing OUR best for OUR students. I know that we will do great things this year together! Thank you for your continued support and I wish you each the best of health.

### GO FALCONS!

Mike Von Gunten  
Superintendent



## Back to School Forms for 2020-2021

It's time to complete Back to School Forms! Forms can be found online at Final Forms: <https://firelands-oh.finalforms.com>.

The forms can be completed from any mobile device, including your phone. This program also allows you to create your own username and password.

For assistance, you can click on the "Use Support" button in

the bottom right hand corner of any screen. It will provide you with a "Parent Playbook" which is very helpful.

Please do not use the student's Firelands email address. A private email address must be used such as @yahoo or @gmail.

Forms should be completed (for students enrolled online or in person) by September 2, 2020.

## Firelands Reopening Plan

Are you looking for information on our Reopening Plan? Please visit our website at: <https://firelandsschools.org> and click the Parents Tab: <https://www.firelandsschools.org/Parents.aspx>.

Our Reopening Plan, Online explanation and FAQ's are listed here. In addition, you can find District Updates, technology support, meal assistance information, volunteer opportunities, military family help, and many more resources for parents.

Please follow our official Facebook account: The Firelands Falcons at: @TheFirelandsFalcons and our Twitter account @Falconupdate for important updates.



# THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

## Firelands Welcomes New Staff Members for 2020-2021



**Amy Matotek**  
Director of Technology  
District



**Josh Kelley**  
Computer Technician  
District



**Mary Kate Dusek**  
Intervention Specialist  
FES



**Dana Fejedelem**  
1st Grade Teacher  
FES



**Amanda Griffin**  
Psychologist  
FES & SAMS



**Kellsey Horton**  
School Counselor  
FHS



**Kellie Rennie**  
7th Grade Math Teacher  
SAMS



**Emily Rich**  
Intervention Specialist  
FES



**Lara Shiplett**  
2nd Grade Teacher  
FES



**Tasia Socha**  
5th Grade Teacher  
FES



**Theresa Williams**  
Intervention Specialist  
FES

Firelands is welcoming 12 new staff members this year, including **Rob Clarico on page 2**, and the eleven Falcons featured here. Two of these, Amy Matotek and Josh Kelley, are technically not “new” but have been made official employees of the district. **Amy Matotek** had been working with us for two and a half years, but was employed through a third party contract with MCPc Solutions. **Josh Kelley**, a 2019 Firelands grad, has been employed on an as needed basis to assist with technology since 2019. We are pleased to bring Amy on permanently and have her supported by Josh in his new full-time position.

**Mary Kate Dusek**, FES Intervention Specialist, relocated to our area from the Marysville Exempted Village School District with her husband and two sons. Her third child will arrive in October. This will be

her 13th school year, which includes time in Texas and at Midview Local Schools. She enjoys family time, reading and running and hopes to complete a marathon someday! Mary Kate is excited for the 2020-2021 school year, despite all of the roadblocks and challenges that may lie ahead. She feels that this year will be a “first year” for all teachers nationwide, whether a veteran or a brand new teacher. She is confident that educators will provide the best services, whether in person, or remote. Her favorite part about teaching is making connections with her students and seeing their confidence grow as they work to achieve their goals.

**Emily Rich**, FES Intervention Specialist, is a 2016 Firelands alum, and a 2020 graduate from the University of Mount Union. She says that although this school year will be different, her love for school is the same and

she is looking forward to meeting new Falcons! In her spare time she enjoys her dog of three years, Scout, and time at the beach. She enjoys many sports, but especially hockey.

**Theresa Williams**, FES Intervention Specialist, brings several years of experience with her from Metro Catholic Schools in Cleveland and the Elyria City School District. Originally from the Buffalo area, Theresa has lived and taught in northeast Ohio since 2013. She loves hiking and camping with her family, as well as sewing and crafting in her free time. She and her husband live with their two kids, Oliver (4) and Ramona (1). Theresa looks forward to finding creative ways to make school welcoming and joyful during this unusual school year.

**Dana Fejedelem**, FES 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher, comes to us from the Midview Local School District where she taught 3<sup>rd</sup>

grade for six years. She is a proud Firelands graduate, from the class of 2008, and she says it feels good to be coming home! Elementary teaching runs in the family, as her mom, Terri Thoms, currently teaches 4<sup>th</sup> grade at FES. Dana earned her degree from Heidelberg University and lives in Vermilion with her husband Stephen, daughter Annie, and dog Molly. She says she enjoys making learning interactive and engaging and can't wait for a wonderful school year!

**Lara Shiplett**, FES 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher, has prior teaching experience includes teaching at Midview Local Schools and Nordon Hills. She received her Bachelor's Degree from Mount Union. Lara received her Master's Degree in elementary education from the University of Akron. Lara resides in North

**continued on page 6**

## Transportation Information - Mr. Milt Saylor

Welcome to the start of the 2020-2021 school year. With the arrival of COVID19, we will be doing all we can to make sure your children are transported to and from School as safely as possible. We will be doing regular disinfecting and cleaning of the buses, as well as installing hand sanitizer on all of our buses, and 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 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, so make sure they have them on PROPERLY before getting on the bus.

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. 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.

All Firelands students in grades 6-12 will be transported on the High School/Middle School Routes and grades K-5 will be transported on the elementary routes. St. Joe's students will be transported on our High School/Middle School routes A.M. and P.M., Open Door will be transported on the A.M. High School routes and P.M. Elementary Routes.

Post cards 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 AM 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.

### STARTING DATES

8-31-20: St. Joe's  
8-31-20: LCJVS (Blended learning schedule applies)  
8-31-20: Early Learning Center  
9-8-20: Open Door  
9-8-20: St. Mary's  
9-8-20: Firelands (Staggered start)  
Gr.1-5; 6th and 9th  
9-9-20: Firelands 7-8, 10-12  
9-11-20: Firelands Kindergarten

If your child's School begins before September 8, 2020 and will need transportation, you will need to call Mr. Saylor at 965-4105 to make arrangements. If you have any questions, feel free to call Mr. Saylor.

### VARIANCE FORMS

As we get closer to the school year, many of you will be making day care arrangements for your children. Please keep the following procedure in mind to help insure 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:

**PLEASE HAVE ALL FORMS TURNED IN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF YOU NEED THEM TO BE EFFECTIVE BY THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.**

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.

[http://www.firelandsschools.org/Downloads/Variance%20Form%20K-12%20\(2009\)2-2.pdf](http://www.firelandsschools.org/Downloads/Variance%20Form%20K-12%20(2009)2-2.pdf)

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 in to the school or bus garage **5 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 within an existing route! **You must fill out a new form each school year.**

### EMERGENCIES

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 such an emergency, parents will need to call Mr. Saylor @ 965-4105 to see if a possible alternate bus route is available 24 hours in advance.**

If this one time change is approved, parents also need to send a note with the child to be given to the bus driver upon boarding. If Mr. Saylor 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.

*submitted by Milt Saylor*  
*msaylor@firelandsschools.org*  
*440-965-4105*

**Back to school: Masks**  
Have kids pick out their own.



## FES Implements Safety Measures

The FES office has been equipped with plexiglass on the main counter. This will be helpful as students and staff come to the office. They will be prompted to stay behind the counter and a staff member will assist them. When parents need to enter the building, the plexiglass will also be there as another layer of

protection for them and staff.

FES is busy rearranging classrooms to ensure proper social distancing for our students. The picture shows a classroom that has been adequately spaced with 20 student desks. We will continue to follow guidance and arrange rooms to meet the given parameters.



## New Staff, continued from page 4

Royalton with her husband Mike and their three children, twins Lizzy and Sam (17) and daughter Sarah (12). She enjoys walking, biking, and hiking in the Metroparks with her family. Lara is very excited to be teaching 2nd grade at FES! She has been impressed with the district's staff and Fireland's positive reputation. She is looking forward to getting involved in the local community.

**Tasia Socha**, FES 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, is also a 2013 Firelands alum. She graduated from The Ohio State University with a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. After graduation, Tasia taught second grade for two years and fifth grade for one year in Columbus, Ohio. Tasia got married in 2019 and has two pets: a cat (Mo) and a bearded dragon (Benny). When she's not teaching, Tasia enjoys crocheting, traveling, and reading. Her favorite color is purple and she loves pizza. Tasia is thrilled to return to the Firelands Local School District and can't wait for the new school year to begin!

**Kellie Rennie**, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Teacher, is a 2014 graduate of FHS and is no stranger to SAMS. She did her student teaching here while she finished her degree from Ashland University, and later worked at SAMS as a substitute. In her free time, Kellie enjoys reading, camping, and being with friends and family. She also enjoys cooking and baking, especially around the holidays. Now that she has secured a permanent position as the 7<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher, she looks forward to a great school year with an awesome staff and amazing students! She is proud to be able to call herself a Falcon again and give back to the community!

While **Dr. Amanda Griffin**, School Psychologist, will be working with students at both FES and SAMS, her office will be at FES. She earned her bachelor's degree from DePaul University, and both her master's and doctorate from Duquesne University. She teaches Educational Psychology and Lifespan Development at Cuyahoga Community College. Amanda says that in her free time, she enjoys being with her fiancé, family, and friends. One of the reasons she loves being a school psychologist is because she gets to know and work with so many different students. She looks forward to the 2020-2021 school year and becoming a part of the Firelands community!

Finally, FHS is welcoming **Kellsey Horton** as the new School Counselor. Originally from Pennsylvania, she attended Shippensburg University and then Heidelberg University where she earned her MA in Counseling. She joins us from the Wellington Village School District, but she did her counseling internship at Firelands in 2018. She says she enjoys being a school counselor because she believes they help students navigate their lives and support them emotionally, socially, and academically. Kellsey is also a new mom! She has a ten month old son, along with her chocolate lab named Perch. During our time in quarantine, I enjoyed taking walks along nature trails in the Erie and Lorain County Metroparks. She enjoys reading and cooking/baking as well. Fun fact: Kellsey was born in New Jersey but mostly raised in the Poconos. What brought her to Ohio was meeting her husband while they studied abroad in Germany together!

## From Principal Keener: Welcome Back FHS!

Welcome back to what promises to be an exciting and challenging school year! I am very excited to be the new principal at Firelands High School. I promise to do my best to provide you with a professional, reliable, and accessible administrator. I look forward to working with all of the staff, students, and parents over the coming year.

Firelands School District is a supportive, caring, and strong community and I have

never been more proud to be a Falcon! It is important, now more than ever, to recognize our strength as a community and to use that strength to advance the education of our youth. We have a unique opportunity to demonstrate our resolve and unity in the midst of this pandemic. I look forward to finding new ways to support our community so that our students have the foundation to achieve greatness after graduation.

The safety of our students

and staff is, as always, our first priority. With our reduced number of students attending school in person, we will be able to maintain appropriate measures of social distance in classrooms, the cafeteria, and hallways.

Additionally, we will have new arrival and dismissal procedures in place to ensure safety. Detailed information about our opening plans, including Freshman Orientation, Meet the

continued on page 9



Cathy Keener, FHS Principal

## Food Service News - Mrs. Judy Baumann

### Serving procedures

**High school and Middle school students** will come to the kitchen as done previously to get their food. Students will no longer be able to grab their own items. The food service staff will get requested items for them. Students will be distanced using the cafeteria and gym space to eat their meals.

**Elementary students** will eat breakfast and lunch in their classrooms. The Food service staff will deliver breakfast to the classrooms for those students choosing to purchase a meal. Lunches will be delivered to each classroom. We will be using reusable, washable carryout containers. This will allow food to be contained, not touching anything else and easily transported to classrooms.

In the morning teachers will get a lunch count from students asking if they choose the main lunch or our peanut butter and jelly option. This information will be documented for our kitchen staff. All meals will be entered into our point of sale system under your child's account.

**Menus:** We are starting the school year with a 2 week cycle menu. This will include student's favorites. Menus are

not available yet, but when they are, you can find them at Myschoolmenus.com. The menu program allows you to click on each item to view nutritional information for each menu item

**Online payment system** - [www.payschoolscentral.com](http://www.payschoolscentral.com). This system is used for online payments as well as the portal for the meal assistance applications. You must create an account before you can begin using this portal → click on *register*. Enter the appropriate information, you will then be sent an email allowing you to set up the password. Once you add your children and payment method you can set up your account to auto replenish if you wish. This site is used for online payments, meal application and location of digital student ID.

**IT IS BEST PRACTICE IF WE CAN GO TOUCHLESS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. THE ONLINE PORTAL IS OUR PREFERRED METHOD OF ADDING MONEY TO STUDENT ACCOUNTS AND APPLYING FOR MEAL ASSISTANCE.**

**IF YOU MUST SEND CASH OR A CHECK IN, CONSIDER SENDING FOR MULTIPLE DAYS TO AVOID TOUCHING MONEY.**

**ELEMENTARY STUDENTS:** IF SENDING MONEY WITH YOUR ELEMENTARY STUDENT, PLEASE PUT IN AN ENVELOPE OR ZIPLOCK WITH THE STUDENTS NAME ON IT. THEY WILL THEN GIVE THE MONEY TO THEIR HOMEROOM TEACHER.

**Meal applications** must be filled out every school year if assistance is needed. Go to [www.payschoolscentral.com](http://www.payschoolscentral.com) to complete the online meal application. Paper applications will be available in each school main office. If you received a Direct Certification notice, you do not need to complete an application. Your child is automatically approved. Please be sure to sign and return the letter you received so your child's instructional fees can be waived.

Once approved that status is good for the entire year. If you applied and are unsure of the status or did not receive a letter, contact Judy Baumann at the number below.

**Touchless system**  
We are eliminating the use of pin pads for this school year. The high school and middle school will use an orbital scanner. **For those students**

**that have a cell phone** parents, please log into your PaySchools Central account. Go to the dashboard → Account → Digital ID. Take a screen shot and send this to your child so they can save to their phone to use for all purchases which will come off of their account. (Coming soon from PaySchools is the ability for the students to add their digital ID to the wallet on their phone) Students will also receive a student ID with a barcode on it that can be scanned as well. It is the student's responsibility to keep track and take care of their ID.

**Cleaning and sanitizing**  
School Food Service departments have always had to follow strict operational guidelines. This includes wearing gloves, hair coverings and anything else recommended by our local health department. We will now be wearing masks at all times. We will be sanitizing often to keep services clean.

**Questions:** Contact Judy Baumann, Food Service Director 440-965-5821 ext. 1011 or email at [jbaumann@firelandsschools.org](mailto:jbaumann@firelandsschools.org).

# THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

## New FHS Building Begins This Fall With Site Preparation

The renderings below show both a preliminary exterior view of the new high school and site plan. The new masonry brick building includes changes in brick coloring that will provide both depth and balance and

our design team is studying the possible integration of sandstone into the design. Large windows allowing for natural light in classrooms, entry points and the cafeteria, which will connect to the existing high school, are

included throughout the building.

At over 106,000 sq feet, our new high school remains the same size as was approved by our community in November of 2018.

Our new building includes:

- ✘ Teaching spaces for all core academic disciplines, special education, the arts, vocational-agriculture, technology and physical education including two gyms, of which one will include a stage with appropriate lighting and sound for performances

- ✘ Collaboration areas for students and staff to utilize as additional spaces for teaching and learning

- ✘ As the new building will serve as the main entrance for the new high school and existing high school (future middle school), offices for both the high school and middle school are included

- ✘ Kitchen/cafeteria that will be utilized by all students in grades 6-12

- ✘ Mechanical equipment rooms that include efficient air handlers, boilers, and air conditioning units. Our commissioning agent continues to review the mechanical electrical, and plumbing systems for energy efficiency, functionality and cost to best serve the building and the district's needs.

Looking ahead, site preparation will begin this fall with construction continuing through the spring of 2022 and we are optimistic that the building will be ready for the 2022-2023 school year.

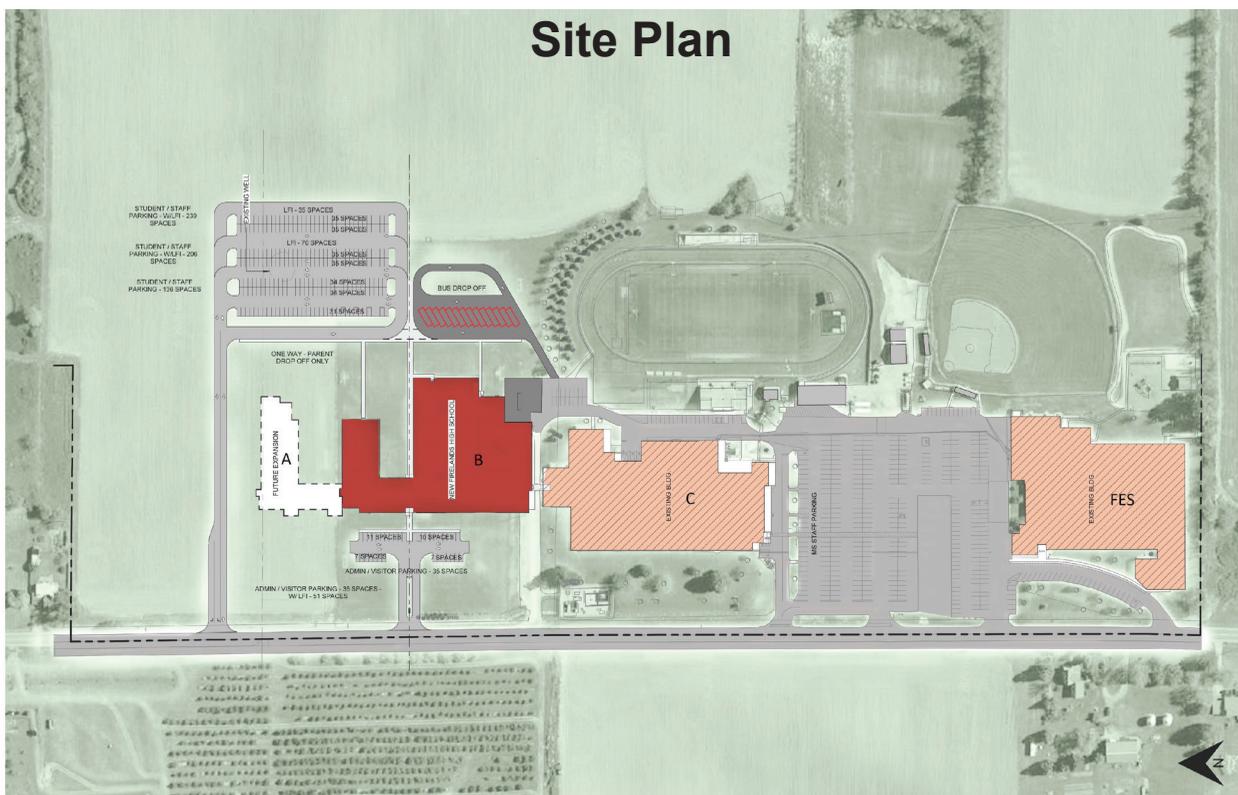
### Architectural Drawing



**FIRELANDS HIGH SCHOOL / NORTHWEST BUILDING PERSPECTIVE**  
FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
OBERLIN, OHIO

**b s h m**  
architects, inc.  
06.22.2020

### Site Plan



**FIRELANDS HIGH SCHOOL / SITE PLAN**  
FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
OBERLIN, OHIO

C - existing FHS  
B - new FHS  
A - reserved for future planning

**b s h m**  
architects, inc.  
06.22.2020

You know  
it's official when...

The new high school  
has an address!

10521 Vermilion Road  
Oberlin, OH 44074

## Four Leaf Clovers 4-H Club Members Stay Active Virtually

The Four Leaf Clovers 4-H Club continues to meet by Zoom meeting. Members have had excellent project demonstrations. It has been really interesting to see all the projects at everyone's homes. President Jocelyn Bednar gave a demonstration on winding bobbins in a sewing machine, Colton Ross demonstrated about his meat chickens, Sophia Abraham and Kayla Aslaskan showed us their rabbit operations, and there were many more that were really interesting because they were at the members' homes.

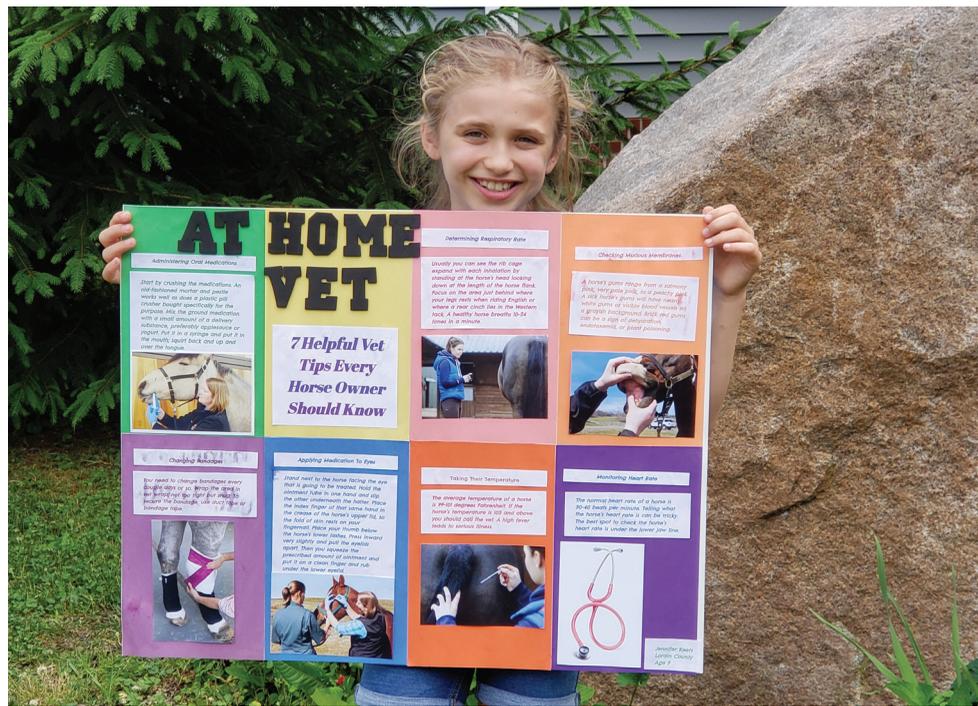
In June Callie Finnegan and Macy Paller competed at the virtual state contest on the Lorain County Horse Judging Team. They also competed in the Ohio Hippology Contest. They were on a team with 2 other girls. The team earned 2nd in Halter Horse Judging, 1st in performance horse judging, and 3rd in Oral Reasons. They were the overall state champion team! In halter horse judging, Callie earned 2nd place individually and Macy was

### FHS Principal, continued from p. 7

Teacher, and pick up dates for curricular materials needed for our online students, will be sent home to parents.

Our fall athletics and band camp started up at the beginning of August following all recommendations from the Lorain County Public Health Department. Practices have been going well and the students seem very excited to be back at school and participating in the activities that they are passionate about.

At the high school, we will be running an eight period block schedule. We are excited about our ability to offer all core classes online as well as several elective courses. Although



Jennifer Keets with her State Communications Poster

9th in the state. Callie was 5th place overall performance judge. Callie earned 4th overall for oral reasons. Callie was 2nd place overall judge in Ohio and Macy was 10th overall judge in Ohio!

In the Ohio Hippology Contest, Callie & Macy's team earned 5th in the test, 5th in stations, 1st in judging, 1st in team problem, and was

we will not be able to see our families in person as often as we used to, we are looking forward to the future when we are able to celebrate our students and their achievements with all of our community together again.

I have two children, one starting college this fall and one going into 8th grade, so I understand the frustrations of being a parent during this pandemic. I am here to support you, and provide you with a positive environment for teaching and learning. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns at any time.

submitted by Mrs. Cathy Keener  
FHS Principal



Macy Paller and her horse, RT

- Poultry: Jennifer-10th in age group
- Poultry: Callie-4th in age group, 4th place junior, 11th overall
- Swine: Jennifer-6th in age group, 11th place junior, 22nd overall
- Swine: Callie-2nd in age group, 5th place junior, 12th place overall
- Beef: Jennifer-1st place in age group, 1st place junior, 2nd overall
- Beef: Callie-3rd place in age group, 7th place junior, 15th overall

Several of the club members have been completing their Zoom interviews for their still life projects. Members have been getting good feedback and have completed some really successful projects. Some members are still taking animal projects to the fair.

The fair is junior-fair-only and is closed to the public. The only projects at fair this year will be animal projects. All projects will be on shortened schedules with most shows being single day shows. Good job to all members that have been competing and completing projects. Good luck at fair to all planning to show!

Submitted by Callie Finnegan

3rd place overall team. Callie earned 1st in state for exam and stations, 5th in judging, and 3rd overall in Hippology.

In July several members competed in Ohio State 4-H virtual and socially distanced events. Three members participated in the Ohio 4-H Horse Communications Posters Contest. Callie Finnegan earned 3rd in state with her poster on "Worldwide Rations," Jennifer Keets earned 11th with a poster called "At Home Veterinarian," and Macy Paller got 16th in the state with a poster titled "Colic."

Jennifer Keets and Callie Finnegan both competed in several state online skillathons and placed as follows:

- Horse: Callie- 3rd in age group, 4th place junior division, 6th overall
- Goat: Callie-3rd in age group, 5th place junior, 10th overall
- Sheep: Callie-2nd in age group, 6th place junior, 13th place overall
- Dog: Jennifer-3rd in age group, 14th place junior
- Dog: Callie-1st in age group, 1st place junior, 1st overall



## Firelands Band Boosters

### General Membership Meetings

The Firelands Band Boosters' mission is provide support for the Firelands Instrumental Music Programs in grades 5-12. We meet on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Currently, our program is meeting virtually through Zoom to conduct our monthly business meetings. If you are interested in attending, please email the boosters at [firelandsbandboosters@gmail.com](mailto:firelandsbandboosters@gmail.com), and we will provide you with the appropriate link.

The dates for the 2020-2021 school year are as follows:

September 15, 2020  
October 20, 2020  
November 17, 2020  
December 15, 2020  
January 19, 2021

February 16, 2021  
March 16, 2021  
April 20, 2021  
May 18, 2021  
June 15, 2021

*submitted by Shannon Smith  
Firelands Band Boosters Secretary  
[firelandsbandboosters@gmail.com](mailto:firelandsbandboosters@gmail.com)*

## Class of 1977 Reunion

The Class of 1977 is holding their Unofficial Yearly Class Reunion on Saturday October 3rd, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at Matus Winery in Wakeman. Make your travel plans now and meet us for fun, laughs, and reconnecting!



The next Board of Education meeting will be held on September 14, 2020. Board agendas can always be found on our website at <https://www.firelandsschools.org/BoardofEducation.aspx>

The Firelands Express is published 9 times each school year by the Firelands Board of Education. The Board of Education can be reached at: 112 North Lake Street, South Amherst, OH 44001. Main Office: 440-965-5821; Treasurer's Office: 440-965-5701.



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# THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

## FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

### 2020 - 2021

Board Approved 4/20/2020, 8/10/2020

AUGUST 2020							SEPTEMBER 2020							OCTOBER 2020							NOVEMBER 2020								
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30							
30	31																												

DECEMBER 2020							JANUARY 2021							FEBRUARY 2021							MARCH 2021									
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27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28							28	29	30	31						
							31																							

APRIL 2021							MAY 2021							JUNE 2021							JULY 2021									
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			
					1	2	3							1							4	5						1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17			
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25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
							30	31																						

#### AUGUST

- Certified - 2 Flex Days
- 10 BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 18-20 Professional Development\*
- 31 Staff In-Service through Sept. 4

#### SEPTEMBER

- 1-4 Staff In-Service
- 7 Labor Day\*
- 8 First Day for Grades 1-5
- 8 First Day & Orientation for Grades 6 & 9
- 9 First Day for Grades 7-8 and 10-12
- 11 First Day for Kindergarten
- 14 BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm

#### OCTOBER

- 7-8 Evening P/T Conference (K-12)
- 9 No School for Staff & Students\*
- 12 BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm

#### NOVEMBER

- 6 End of 1<sup>st</sup> Grading Period (#43)
- 16 BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 25 Non-Instructional Day\*
- 26-27 Fall Break\*

#### DECEMBER

- 14 BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 21 to Jan 1 Winter Break\*

#### JANUARY

- 4 School Resumes
- 7 Evening P/T Conferences (Grade 3)
- 11 BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 18 Martin Luther King Day\*
- 22 End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Grading Period (#41)

#### FEBRUARY

- 8 BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm\*\*
- 15 Presidents' Day \*
- 18 Evening P/T Conference (K-2, 4-12)

#### MARCH

- 8 BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm\*\*

#### APRIL

- 1 End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Grading Period (#48)
- 2-9 Spring Break\*
- 12 BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm \*\*
- 12 School Resumes

#### MAY

- 10 BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm\*\*
- 28 Graduation, 7:00 pm
- 31 Memorial Day\*

#### JUNE

- 4 Last Day for Students (#39)
- 7 Teacher In-Service
- 14 BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm\*\*

#### JULY

- 12 BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm\*\*

#### GRADING PERIODS TOTAL: 171 DAYS

1st	September 8 - November 6	43 Days
2nd	November 9 - January 22	41 Days
3rd	January 25 - April 1	48 Days
4th	April 12 - June 4	39 Days

FIRST STUDENT DAY (1 - 12) September 8  
LAST STUDENT DAY June 4

COMMENCEMENT MAY 28, 7:00 pm  
Emergency make-up days will be scheduled beginning June

#### 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

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

Revised 8-11-2020

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