



The Firelands Express



Volume 14, Issue 114

August 2023

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.

Back to School Greetings & Gratitude

Dear Parents and Community Members,

I hope this message finds you well and enjoying your summer. As the new school year is on the horizon, I am excited to welcome you to the 2023-2024 school year.

First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude to all of our staff that have worked so diligently this summer preparing our buildings, outdoor facilities and school busses for the coming year. Thank you!

The mission of Firelands Local School District remains steadfast—to create a community of lifelong learners that will function as responsible, self-sufficient citizens of a global society. Our district is committed to academic excellence and the personal and social development of our students. We have planned an engaging and enriching curriculum that combines rigorous academics with opportunities for creativity, critical thinking, and exploration. Our goal is to foster a love for learning and empower each student to reach their full potential.

Our district recognizes that education is a collaborative effort that extends beyond the walls of our classrooms. We value the partnership between our schools, parents, and the wider community and are grateful for your involvement, whether it be volunteering, attending school events, or supporting your child's education at

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New Student Orientation

New student orientation is for students that are new to the district. For 6th and 9th graders, orientation occurs on their first day of school, September 5th, when they have the buildings to themselves. This staggered start approach has worked well to ease their transition to the new buildings.

FES	Monday, August 28th	11:00 am
FMS	Thursday, August 24th	10:00 am
FHS	Monday, August 28th	1:00 pm

Open Houses

FMS/FHS	Tuesday, August 29th	6:00-7:00 pm
FES Gr. K-2	Wednesday, August 30th	5:00-6:00 pm
FES Gr. 3-5	Wednesday, August 30th	6:00-7:00 pm

First Day of School

For our incoming kindergarten students, please refer to the letter you received from the elementary school regarding your child's first day of school.

Grades 1-6, 9	Tuesday, September 5th
Grades 7-8, 10-12	Wednesday, September 6th
Kindergarten	Friday, September 8th



Camp Invention had a record turnout this summer! Please enjoy more photos from summer school and Camp Invention throughout this issue.

You may view this issue online at:
www.firelandsschools.org

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THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

School Bus Schedules and Transportation News

Welcome to the start of the 2023-2024 school year. As we get ready to start the year, we anticipate some road construction. We expect construction/closure North Ridge Road between North and South Claus Rd (till 9/30/2023). 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 some 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 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 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.

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.

Starting Dates

8-28-23	St. Joe's
8-28-23	LCJVS
8-28-23	Early Learning Ctr.
8-30-23	Open Door
9-5-23	Firelands Gr.1-6, 9
9-6-23	Firelands 7-8,10-12
9-8-23	Firelands Kindergarten

If your child's school begins before September 5, 2023 and you will need transportation, you will need to call Mr. Sayler 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: 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.

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 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.

It has been awhile 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 Mr. Milt Sayler
Transportation Director*

Friends of Firelands

September 15
5:00 - 7:00 pm

TAILGATE

outside of the Falcon Stadium!



Included with \$5 admission:



Hotdog ~ Kona Ice ~ Cotton Candy
Face Painting ~ Games



Raffles & 50/50 available!



Food Service Start-up Information & News

The Food Service Staff welcomes you back to another exciting school year! Be sure to check out the daily menus on www.myschoolmenus.org or download the Firelands Local Schools app to find the menus and other important district wide information.

GOOD NEWS: Students that qualify for reduced meals will now be free for this year and possibly next. The State of Ohio biennial budget includes funding to cover the cost of meals for students qualifying for reduced-price meals. The .30 cost for breakfast and .40 cost for lunch will be covered by the State of Ohio. This starts on the first day of the 2023-2024 school year and includes those students that qualified last year for reduced price meals.

New application needed every year: An updated meal application must be submitted every year. The online portal is now open to accept new applications www.payschoolscentral.com. Paper applications will be available in each school office.

Carryover meal status: If your child qualified for meal assistance last year, that status will continue until October 17th

or until a new application is received or Direct Cert approval prior to October 17. This does not include students that attended another school district. Each district is a separate entity. If an updated application or approval has not been received, your child's meal status will change to denied after October 17th.

Direct Certification: If you receive a Direct Certification letter, you must sign and return it to get the instructional school fees waived. Fees are only waived for students that qualify for free meals.

Account information: Money that was remaining in student accounts has rolled over with the student to their next grade level. This includes negative balances as well. Meal accounts left with a negative balance will eventually be added to the school fees owed. Money can be added to accounts through the online portal at www.payschoolscentral.com, cash or check. Please make sure you add the students name to the memo line. **Elementary Students:** If sending cash or a check, please put it in a Ziplock baggie or an envelope clearly marked with the students' name.

This is given to the homeroom teacher who then gives it to the cashier.

Elementary students 6-digit student ID: Each student at Firelands receives a 6-digit student ID#. This number is used for different logins, including the log in for purchasing meals. **PLEASE** teach your children this number. The lines get very backed up when students do not know their student number. Below left is a picture of what the pin pad looks like, you can use this as a practice template.

School fees: Students that qualify for free meals **DO NOT** automatically qualify for waived instructional fees. It is the parent or guardian's responsibility to sign and return the Direct Certification letter or the meal application so this information can be shared with the school secretaries so fees can be waived.

New 6th graders (5th grade moving to 6th grade): You will have many meal options to choose from. A meal can be bundled at your choice of station, and this is for all students regardless of meal status. Look at "My School Menus" and it will show what is offered at each station. A complete breakfast requires a serving of fruit, and a complete lunch requires a serving of fruit or a vegetable or you may get two of each. Breakfast is offered daily at each school.

Menus: All menus can be found on My School Menus www.myschoolmenus.com. You can use the drop down to select which school and menu. Click on the menu item and it will show you the nutrition information for each item.

FHS / FMS cafeteria monitors and offerings: Check out the 3 monitors hanging

above the serving line inside the High School kitchen. The daily menu will be on display so students can see which of the 5 stations they would like to select from. From left to right when walking into the kitchen is the Main line, Grille line, Deli line, Garden Fresh line and the Pizzeria. At the deli line you can also get a yogurt parfait meal bundle or a peanut butter and jelly bundle meal. A meal can be bundled at each station. This is for **ALL students** regardless of meal status. We make fresh salads daily along with homemade pizza on Wednesday and Thursday.

Meal requirement: A meal must contain a serving of fruit or vegetables. If a fruit or vegetable is not taken the items will be charged at the ala cart pricing.

BUNDLE A MEAL-\$SAVE MONEY.

Please contact Mrs. Baumann if you have any questions at 440-965-4255 ext. 3097 or jbaumann@firelandsschools.org.

Greetings, from page 1 home. Your active participation strengthens the educational experience for all our students, and we encourage you to continue to be actively engaged throughout the year.

In closing, I want to express my deep appreciation for your continued trust and confidence in our school district. Together, we will create an environment where every child feels valued, supported, and inspired to achieve greatness.

Here's to a successful and rewarding academic year for our students.

With Much Appreciation,
Mike Von Gunten



Please have your child practice entering their PIN on the PIN pad.

If the wrong number is pressed or you need to start over, press the red CLEAR button.

Once the PIN is entered, press the green ENTER button.

This will help speed up our lunch lines! Thank you!

THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

Safety Town Photo Gallery



Safety town was held in July. Thank you to all the wonderful students and adults that helped. Thank you to the Ohio Kentucky Bricklayers, Deputy Trifiletti, Deputy Kovach, 9-1-1 Agency, Nord Center, Florence Twp. Fire Department, Milton Saylor with Buster, and the Marine water safety. (submitted by Mrs. Natalie Saylor, Bus Driver & Safety Town Volunteer)



BEST
WISHES
TO ALL
FOR A SAFE
SCHOOL
YEAR!



THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

Connect to a Cause

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 Thursday, September 21st, 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 below; 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 (<https://www.firelandsschools.org/FirelandsEndowment.aspx>).

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed in the past. With the continued support of the community the Endowment has been able to award 430 grants totaling over \$500,000 to enhance the educational

**CONNECT TO
A CAUSE**
September 21st



8:00am-8:00pm

process of the Firelands School District. Past grants have helped students attend class sponsored trips, supplies for the Ag department, the Young Authors Stories program, visiting artists, musicals, S.T.E.M. programing, School Bus Safety programs, to name a few and the Outdoor Classroom at the new high school. Scholarships to 353 deserving students in the amount of \$405,000 have also been awarded. All of these made possible by tax-deductible contributions from our community members, alumni and staff which are never spent. Only the interest earned will be available for distribution.

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Firelands Hall of Fame

The Firelands Hall of Fame is back!

A brief history lesson: Firelands is a community, not a city. At the time of the Revolutionary War, nine towns in Connecticut were burned down by the British soldiers, and the residents of those areas sought restitution from the Connecticut legislature. In 1792, 500,000 of their most western acres were set aside for these citizens who had been affected by the fires. This area was referred to as the Fire Suffers' Lands, which was shortened to the "Fire-Lands" and later to the "Firelands." In 1803 this area became part of a new state called Ohio. Permanent settlement of the area began about 1808, but most of the settlement did not occur until after the War of 1812.

The Firelands Local School District was founded in 1952 by combining schools which were already established in Birmingham (which had previously merged with Florence Township), Brownhelm, Camden, Henrietta, and in 1988 merged with South Amherst.

The Firelands Local School District covers approximately 90+ square miles of this historic area. Communities served by this district are in Amherst, Amherst Township, Birmingham, Brownhelm Township, Camden



Township, Florence Township, Henrietta Township, Kipton Village, New Russia Township, South Amherst Village, Vermilion, and Vermilion Township. Firelands Local School District will be serving more than 1750 students in the 2023-2024 school year.

Twenty years ago the Firelands Athletic Hall of Fame inducted their last class. The newly formed Firelands Hall of Fame is to honor Firelands High School alumni, or founding

continued on p.7

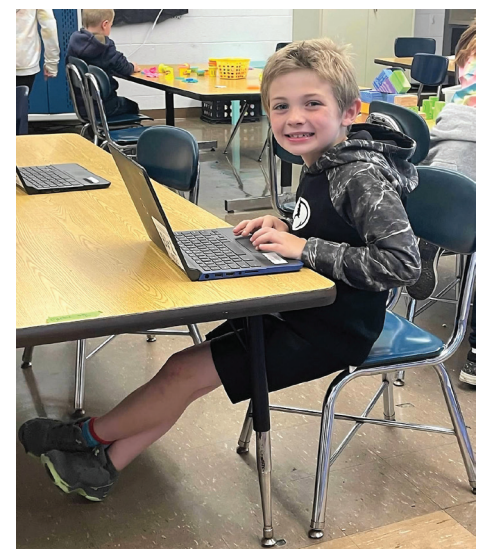
School Supply Give Away!

At the BOE in South Amherst

August 22nd
9-3pm & 5-7pm



Friends of Firelands



Future Hall of Famers at Camp Invention, Summer 2023

Firelands' Principals Share Excitement for New School Year

Firelands Elementary School

As we embark on a new school year, we wanted to take a moment to extend a warm welcome to each and every one of you. Whether you are returning to our school community or joining us for the first time, we are excited to begin the 2023-2024 school year!

The start of the school year is always a time filled with anticipation and excitement. It's a time for new beginnings, renewed goals, and fresh opportunities for growth. Our dedicated faculty and staff

have been working diligently over the summer to ensure that everything is in place for a successful and enriching academic year.

At Firelands Elementary School, we are committed to fostering an environment where every student feels valued, supported, and empowered to reach their full potential. We believe that education is a partnership between the school, parents, and students, and we greatly appreciate your active involvement in your child's

education. Together, we can create a strong foundation for learning, personal development, and future success.

Throughout the school year, you can expect open lines of communication between our school and your family. We encourage you to attend parent-teacher conferences, join our PTG, attend our school events, and engage in conversations about your child's progress. Our teachers are here to collaborate with you and provide the best possible learning experience for

your child.

In closing, let's embrace the upcoming school year with enthusiasm and positivity. Together, we can make this a year of growth, learning, and memorable experiences for our students. Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education, and please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

*Warmest Regards,
Mrs. Sun Choe and
Mrs. Laura Groboske*

Firelands Middle School

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year at Firelands Middle School!

We are very excited to begin year two at our new school. The summer staff has done an outstanding job (as usual) making our building nearly brand new. We are again happy to share space with the high school which continues to expand opportunities and experiences for our students.

FMS has so many great things going on! I truly believe that we have the very best students and staff around. We are very proud of our students; they achieve amazing things in

the classroom as well as in their extracurricular adventures.

We are very proud of our students, families and staff for their perseverance and determination they have shown during the pandemic and then a move to a new campus. Our students have demonstrated over and over that nothing will prevent them from pursuing excellence.

At Firelands Middle School, we believe that middle school is truly the gatekeeper to success in high school. We want students to leave middle school with the full experience. We believe in achieving great things in the classroom but balancing that

with plenty of opportunities for students to experience various activities to spark an interest for the future. There are children here nearly every day after school for activities. We offer Academic Challenge, Ag Club, Spelling Bee, Gaming Club, Basketball, Wrestling, Football, Cheerleading, Volleyball, Yearbook, Robotics, Volunteer Activities, National Honor Society, Chess Club, Class Trips, Pep Rallies and so much more.

We believe in investing in your children. Our students and staff go above and beyond to ensure the success of the whole child.

This is my ninth year as the principal of Firelands Middle School (formerly South Amherst Middle School). I have 25 years of experience working with middle school aged children. I am very proud of what we have accomplished and continue to accomplish each day.

Do not hesitate to call me, email me, or stop by with questions or concerns. I look forward to serving your family.

*Educationally yours,
Mrs. Cara M. Hutchinson
FMS Principal
chutchinson@firelandsschools.org
440-965-4255*

continued on next page

Firelands High School

We are so excited to welcome students back to school. We are grateful to the community for their support and to our custodial staff that has worked tirelessly all summer to prepare the buildings for our students. As we begin the 2023-2024 school year, there are a few items that I would like to share with you.

We are excited to announce the addition of Wellness stations on our cross-country trail. These items were provided to us free of

charge from Canvus, a company that recycles old wind turbine blades into furniture. Each item is equipped with a QR code that contains more information about each stop on the trail. We are holding a ribbon cutting on August 29th at 5:30 in the courtyard to officially open the trail to the public.

The high school open house is on August 29th from 6:00 to 7:00 pm, following the ribbon cutting for the Wellness Trail. Parents and students are

encouraged to attend Open House to meet their teachers, find their lockers, and walk through their schedule as they tour the school.

Our athletic teams and the marching band have begun practices as they prepare for the fall athletic season. **The first football game is on August 18th vs Edison High School at the Edison High School Stadium.** The 2022 Homecoming football game is September 29th against

Clearview High School. Come out and show your support!

We are holding a new student orientation on August 28th from 1:00 to 2:30. This orientation is for any student that is new to the Firelands Local School District. All freshmen will have a separate orientation on the first day of school.

The first day of school for freshmen will be September 5th. On this day, freshmen will have the opportunity to meet their

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THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

FMS, from p. 6

New Student Orientation

(New students to the district):
August 24th from 10:00- 11:00AM.
Enter through the main doors of the high school near the office.

Open House (all welcome):

August 29th from 6:00-7:00 PM.
Enter through the main doors of the high school near the office.

No School - Labor Day:

September 4th.

First Day for 6th graders

ONLY: September 5th. 6th grade students will have orientation during this entire day

All students return on

September 6th.

Picture Day:

September 8.
Information will be provided the first week of school.

FHS, from p. 6

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 6th.

Parents, please remember to **complete Final Forms** for your students prior to the start of school. It is essential that we have updated contact and medical information for all students. Free meals are no longer available for all students. Families must complete and be approved through an online meal application. Please visit payschoolscentral.com to complete the online application. For the 2023-2024 school year, lunches are \$3.20, breakfast is \$1.75, and milk is \$0.50.

Thank you again to everyone in the Firelands community for being a part of making the dream of a new high school a reality. I look forward to this second year in the new high school and am excited to see all of our new and returning students!

*Submitted by Ms. Cathy Keener
FHS Principal*

Creative Kids at Camp Invention



We had a record number of Campers this year and had a fabulous time!! Special thanks to the custodial staff at FES for accommodating us and the FES PTG for their continued donations to help make our week great. (submitted by Mrs. Nancy Mitchell)



Firelands Hall of Fame, from p. 5

members of our district, who have gone on to significant success in life as well as other individuals who have made outstanding contributions to Firelands Local Schools or founding districts. By being inducted into the Firelands Hall of Fame, honorees will forever be recognized as representing our best.

The committee is excited to emphasize that this hall of fame is all encompassing. We are looking at honoring achievements in all aspects of life, but are not limited to areas such as the arts, business, education, entertainment, government, health, humanities, literature, medical, military service, politics, and science in which community members feel that someone has demonstrated excellence.

Applications will be accepted for the 2023-2024 induction class through November 1st, thereafter, applications will be accepted

through October 1st of each year, notification to the nominees will be made by December 1st, and the induction ceremony is tentatively planned for the weekend of March 15-17, 2024 in the FHS cafeteria.

More information regarding The Firelands Hall of Fame Charter and Application can be located on the [website](#) as well as on the Firelands Hall of Fame FaceBook Page. You can also scan the QR code below. The application is digital and all applications and any questions need to be submitted to firelandshalloffame@firelandsschools.org.

The Firelands Hall of Fame Committee is also looking at creating an endowment that would fund the recognition of the inductees and future scholarships to current graduating students who exhibit exceptional leadership skills. If you would be interested in donating to this effort, or donating the committee itself,

please contact the committee treasurer, Will Schlechter through the same hall of fame email.

Firelands Hall of Fame 2023-2024 Committee Members

- Chair: Lori Kneisel
- Board of Education Student Achievement Liaison/Secretary: Ellen Gundersen
- Firelands High School Principal: Cathy Keener
- Firelands High School Athletic Director: Ty Stillman
- Treasurer: Will Schlechter
- Community Members: Laurie Beran, Tony Caldwell, Joe Gentile, Lynn Schmitz, Bill Wasem, Marty Whitney

*Submitted by Mrs. Ellen Gundersen
FLSD Board of Education Member*



THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

Connect, from p. 5

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 21st. 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. Place a reminder in your calendar now and feel free to share with your Falcon friends.

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 21st.

*Submitted by Ann Buchs
Endowment Committee*

**CONNECT TO
A CAUSE**
September 21st



8:00am-8:00pm

New Morning & After School Program at FES

We are excited to announce that we are partnering with Open Doors Academy (ODA) to enhance our morning and after school program at Firelands Elementary School for the 2023-2024 school year. ODA is a Cleveland-based non-profit organization with more than 30 years of experience operating out-of-school time programs. ODA currently operates our afterschool program at the middle school.

The program is open to all students in grades kindergarten through 5, and it offers students opportunities for academic support as well as enrichment activities. It will operate five days a week, Monday-Friday, before school and after school.

Registration will open on Thursday, August 18th. You will register through Open Doors Academy's website: www.opendoorsacademy.org. Click on "enroll" to create an account. Select "Firelands Elementary School" from the drop-down menu. You will have the option to register for the AM program, the PM program, or both the AM and PM program.

Program Hours

Mornings: 6:30 am – 8:25 am
Afternoons: 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Start date

Tuesday, September 5

Costs

For qualifying families (see below), the first \$1,000 of this program per child is covered through ACE funding, a state program that requires families to submit a claim through the OH | ID + ACE application process. Information on how to complete this process will be available at the time of registration.

Families qualify with 1 of 2 criteria: 1. Social program participation (e.g. SNAP or Medicaid) or 2. Income (< 400% of poverty line). For example, if you are a family of four and making less than \$120,000/year, you will qualify.

In addition to applying for the ACE credit, all families are required to complete a TANF form, which will be provided at the time of registration.

Families who do not qualify for the ACE credit, will pay a set amount per day based on participation level (AM or PM, or both AM and PM.) Families who qualify for ACE, will start paying the set amount after the \$1,000 has been applied. The \$1,000 credit is per child. The set amount will be communicated on Thursday, 8/18.

*For questions, please contact
Firelands Elementary School
Assistant Principal, Laura Groboske,
lgroboske@firelandsschools.org,
Firelands Elementary School
Principal, Sun Choe, schoe@firelandsschools.org or Chad
Heileman at Open Doors Academy:
cheileman@odacle.org.*

Who has the best wings in town? You decide!



Amherst Rotary Club's Annual Wing Walk Challenge Wednesday September 13th

Purchase your ticket for \$20 through
Rick Judge at 440-897-6491 or
Christina Meier at 440-308-7088.

Proceeds benefit scholarships for students
in the Amherst Exempted Village Schools
and Firelands Schools districts.

Amherst, OH
Rotary
District 6600



Hey Kids, You're Invited to the After-School Bible Club at Firelands Elementary



Every Thursday from 3:30-4:45 at Firelands Elementary
School Music Room (Starts October 5th)

Come and Enjoy Bible Lessons, Games, Songs, and Snacks.

Parent permission slip needed to attend

For questions contact Jo Whitney @ 440-775-0001

THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

Summer Scenes: FES Reading Program & Camp Invention



Thank you to everyone who worked to make our summer programs fun and educational for our students. Our success reflects on the teamwork of our staff and volunteers! #FalconPride



THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS



FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 2023-2024



AUGUST 2023						
SU	M	TU	W	TH	F	SA
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SEPTEMBER 2023						
SU	M	TU	W	TH	F	SA
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

OCTOBER 2023						
SU	M	TU	W	TH	F	SA
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

NOVEMBER 2023						
SU	M	TU	W	TH	F	SA
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

DECEMBER 2023						
SU	M	TU	W	TH	F	SA
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JANUARY 2024						
SU	M	TU	W	TH	F	SA
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY 2024						
SU	M	TU	W	TH	F	SA
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

MARCH 2024						
SU	M	TU	W	TH	F	SA
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

APRIL 2024						
SU	M	TU	W	TH	F	SA
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

MAY 2024						
SU	M	TU	W	TH	F	SA
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

JUNE 2024						
SU	M	TU	W	TH	F	SA
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

JULY 2024						
SU	M	TU	W	TH	F	SA
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August

- Certified - 2 Flex Days**
- 14 BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 29-30 Professional Development

September

- 4 Labor Day*
- 5 First Day for Grades 1-6, 9
- 6 First Day for Grades 7-8, 10-12
- 8 First Day for Kindergarten
- 11 BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm

October

- 9 BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 13 No School for Staff & Students*
- 16 Professional Development*

November

- 3 End of 1st Grading Period (43 Days)
- 9 & 14 Evening P/T Conference (K-12)
- 20 BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 22-24 Fall Break*

December

- 11 BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 22 - Jan 1 Winter Break*

January

- 2 School Resumes
- 8 BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm**

January

- 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*
- 19 End of 2nd Grading Period (42 Days)

February

- 8 Evening P/T Conferences
- 12 BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm**
- 16 Professional Development*
- 19 President's Day*

March

- 11 BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm**
- 22 End of 3rd Grading Period (44 Days)
- 29 Spring Break through April 8*

April

- 1-8 Spring Break* (Mar. 29 - Apr. 8)
- 9 School Resumes
- 15 BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm**

May

- 13 BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm**
- 27 Memorial Day*
- 30 Commencement, 7:00 pm

June

- 7 Last Day For Students
- 7 End of the 4th Grading Period (45 Days)
- 10 Teacher Last Day*
- 10 BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm**

GRADING PERIODS & KEY

TOTAL: 176 DAYS

1ST	September 5 to November 3	42 Days
2ND	November 6 to January 19	44 Days
3RD	January 22 to March 22	43 Days
4TH	March 25 to June 7	47 Days

First Student Day	September 5
Last Student Day	June 7
Commencement	May 30, 7 pm

Emergency make-up days will be
scheduled beginning June 10

	Student's 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

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

BOARD APPROVED 3/13/2023

THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

Public Release from the U.S. Food & Drug Administration Regarding Free & Reduced Lunch

Firelands Local School District today announced its 2023-2024 program year for students unable to pay the full price of meals or milk served under the National School Lunch and School Breakfast, After School Care Snack or Special Milk Programs. Each school office and the central office has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party.

The Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines will be used to determine eligibility. Children from families whose annual income is at or below the federal guidelines are eligible for free and reduced-price meals or free milk if the school participates in the Special Milk Program.

Application forms are distributed to all homes in a letter to parents or guardians. To apply for free and reduced-price benefits, households should complete an application and return it to the school. Additional copies are available at the principal's office in each school. A complete application is required.

Households which currently receive Special Nutrition Assistance Program Benefits (SNAP, formally known as food stamps) or Ohio Works First (OWF) funds for a child must provide the child's name, the SNAP or OWF case number and signature of an adult household member on the application. Households that do not receive SNAP or OWF funds must provide the names of all household members, the last four digits of the Social Security Number of the adult signing the application or state "none" if the adult does not have a Social Security Number, the amount and source of income received by each household member (state the monthly income) and the signature of an adult household member. If any of this information is missing, the school cannot process the application.

FREE HEALTH CARE: Families with children eligible for school meals may be eligible for free health care

coverage through Medicaid and/or Ohio's Healthy Start & Healthy Families programs. These programs include coverage for doctor visits, immunizations, physicals, prescriptions, dental, vision, mental health, substance abuse and more. Please call 1-800-324-8680 for more information or to request an application. Information can also be found on the web at <http://jfs.ohio.gov/ohp/consumers/familychild.stm>. Anyone who has an Ohio Medicaid card is already receiving these services.

The information provided on the application is confidential and will only be used for the purpose to determine eligibility and may be verified at any time during the school year by school or other program official. To discourage the possibility of misrepresentation, the application forms contain a statement above the space for signature certifying that all information furnished is true and correct. Applications are being made in connection with the receipt of federal funds. Schools or other officials may check the information on the application at any time during the school year. Deliberate misrepresentation of information may subject the applicant to prosecution under applicable state and federal laws.

Households will be notified of the approval or denial of benefits.

Foster children are categorically eligible for free meal benefits regardless of the household's income. If a family has foster children living with them and wishes to apply for such meals or milk for them, contact the school for more information.

Under the provision of the policy, Judy Baumann, Director of Food Service, will review applications and determine eligibility. If a parent or guardian disagrees with the decision on the application or the result of verification, the decision may be discussed with the determining official on an informal basis. If a formal appeal is desired, the household has the right

to a fair hearing. A fair hearing can be requested either orally or in writing from:

Mike Von Gunten
Superintendent
Firelands Local School District
112 North Lake Street
South Amherst OH 44001

The policy contains an outline of the hearing procedure.

Households may apply for benefits any time during the school year. If a household is not currently eligible and if the household size increases or income decreases because of unemployment or other reasons, the family should contact the school to file a new application. Such changes may make the children of the family eligible for free or reduced-price benefits if the family income falls at or below the levels shown above.

Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center

at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA.

The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. Mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

or 2. Fax:

(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442;

or 3. Email:

program.intake@usda.gov

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 Making Memories One Home At A Time

Next Board of Education meetings:
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 Oct. 9
 Nov. 20
 Dec. 11
 Jan. 8

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