



The Firelands Express



Volume 12, Issue 101

February 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.

Kindergarten Registration Starts March 2nd

Parents living in the Firelands school district with children who will be five years old by August 1, 2022 are eligible to register their child for 2022-2023 kindergarten starting on March 2, 2022. Online registration can even be completed on your phone, without downloading an app. (Follow the link at the end of this article.) Accepted open enrollment students for kindergarten can also be registered at this time.

Kindergarten registration involves completing all of the online forms in the Final Forms portal and providing all required documents. Documents required for registration are as follows:

- your child's birth certificate
- 2 proofs of residency
- parent/guardian photo ID
- shot records
- custody papers (if they apply)

Residency documents must be recent and must show current address. Examples include: recent utility bill (gas, electric or water), lease, mortgage statement, recent pay stub, home or rental insurance statement.

Kindergarten screening is a separate event that will take place on May 18, 2022, but your time slot must be set up during the registration process in March. Students cannot be screened until registration is complete.

Safety Town is scheduled for July 11, 12 or 13. A sign up form is on the Student Registration page. Students cannot participate until registration is complete.

The Board of Education office will be open on March 2nd and March 3rd to assist anyone who needs help with forms and documents. If you need access to a computer, we always have Chromebooks available. Staff from Firelands Elementary School will also be on hand to answer questions. The times are as follows:

- Wednesday, March 2nd from 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, March 3rd from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Please share this with any district families who have age eligible children and encourage them to register in March. Contact (440) 965-5821 x. 1010 with any questions.

https://www.firelandsschools.org/studentregistration_home.aspx

FFA Builds Beds for Kids with Good Knights

Good Knights, a local non-profit organization dedicated to serving low-income families in Lorain County, builds beds for children in need. They partner with other groups, clubs and businesses to build even more beds. The Firelands FFA students recently built 25 beds and are planning to build 50 more.

In addition to building beds, FFA held a drive for bedding and collected many donations of new twin bed sheets, blankets and pillows from Firelands staff and students.

Shanna Finnegan, the Firelands FFA Advisor, said that around 100 kids in our school district alone were in need of an appropriate bed. "It has been an honor to work with Good Knights to build beds for children that need them in and around our community. There is a great deal of evidence that a good night's sleep has direct correlation to success in school and life. I would encourage anyone that has

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

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Good Knights, continued from p. 1

time to build, resources or time to donate, to follow Good Knights on Facebook and get involved!"

Superintendent Michael Von Gunten added that "Through this partnership, our students are applying skills learned in the

classroom as well as the value of community service."

For more information on how you can help Good Knights give good nights to children, check out their website at <https://goodknightsoflc.org/> or call 440-420-5430.



Enrollment Timeline

March 2nd

- Registration through Final Forms opens for kindergarten. Process can be completed online. This includes both district residents and ACCEPTED open enrollment students.

March 2nd & 3rd

- The Board of Education Office is open and staffed to assist kindergarten parents if needed. Location is 112 N. Lake St., South Amherst.

April 1st

- Status notifications for waitlisted kindergarten open enrollment applications are sent from the Superintendent's Office.

May 18th

- Required Kindergarten Screening at FES. Screening time slot will be scheduled during March registration.

May 1-31

- Final push to have all students registered for Fall.

June 1st

- Open enrollment ends.
- All registration documents are due.

Resources

Website with additional links:

https://www.firelandsschools.org/studentregistration_home.aspx

Kindergarten Questions?

Call Valerie Schuster
School Counselor
Firelands Elementary School
440-965-5381 x. 2503

Registration Questions?

Call Lisa Maver
Board of Education
EMIS Coordinator/Registration
440-965-5821 x. 1025

Mental Math Tournament FES Champions Take 1st & 2nd Place

The 24 Game is a mental math fluency game that combines speed and accuracy. The fourth and fifth grade gifted math classes have been practicing this game in order to prepare for their upcoming tournament. Preliminary rounds were held within each of the participating local districts. These initial rounds determined the three fourth graders and three fifth graders who would move on to the semi-finals and finals competition at the Educational Service Center on February 9th. This competition included several local districts who also brought their top mental math competitors.

After the semi-finals round, all three of our fifth graders, Luka Zagar, Kendal Ramirez, and Sebastian Citak, and fourth grader Gavin Dziubek advanced to the finals round! A consolation round was held with the remaining students. Our own fourth grader, Charlee

Stillman, secured a 2nd place medal in this round. The results of the finals competition were Sebastian Citak for 5th grade and Gavin Dziubek for fourth!

FES students shared this field trip with 14 Firelands High School students from the Teen Leadership Corps, who volunteered to serve as proctors at the tournament. All students enjoyed lunch and camaraderie after the competition. Congratulations to all students who worked hard for this achievement!

*submitted by Teresa Dempsey
Gifted Teacher*



Open Enrollment Update

When our open enrollment process began on February 1st, available slots quickly filled up. Due to current student numbers, we did not offer any slots in several of the grade levels.

We are keeping a waitlist for approximately 20 kindergarten applicants, but we will not know until April 1st if there will be any more room. Therefore, any **waitlisted kindergarten applicants will need to wait to register until they are accepted.**

The online open enrollment application will remain active until the few remaining 1st-12th grade slots are taken. The application is a Google form that is linked at the bottom of the "Student Registration" page of the www.FirelandsSchools.org website.

More information about open enrollment is posted on the website. If you have questions, please contact the board office at 440-965-5821 x. 1010.

THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

Welcome Home Senior Master Sergeant Howells!



The Firelands community had the opportunity to witness a surprise military homecoming at the FHS Boys Varsity Basketball game on February 1st.

FLSD Staff member, Air Force SMSGT Brooke Howells, had been stationed in the Middle

East for the past 6 months. As her return date neared, she worked with the district to plan a homecoming to surprise her children. Our Purple Star families (families with military connections) were invited to the game as our guests on the same



evening as the reunion was planned.

Mr. Howells brought their 4 children, Cecelia, Violet, Olivia and Ruth to the basketball game with the girls believing that they were there to raise awareness for the Purple Star program. At half time, the family was taken to midcourt where a statement was read about their mom being

deployed. During this time, SMSGT Howells was hiding in the girls' locker room, anxiously waiting to see her family. As the announcer was finishing the closing paragraph he read, "Ladies and gentlemen, we are honored to let Cecelia, Violet, Olivia and Ruth know that your mom loves you very much... and she would like to give you a hug.... Falcons, Get On Your Feet and help us welcome home Sergeant Brooke Howells!"

This would not have been possible without the assistance of the Howells family and many FLSD staff members. It was an absolute honor to participate in this homecoming. Welcome home SMSGT Howells and thank you for allowing us to be part of your evening.

submitted by Jennifer Butchko

South Amherst Middle School Prepares for Big Move

At SAMS we are really excited about Spring! Our choir classes have been preparing for our annual musical. This year they are performing "Cinderella's Glass Slipper" on March 29th and 30th. If you are interested in attending, ticket information will be coming out soon.

Spring also means scheduling! This year we are working with the high school to ensure that our schedules are cohesive as we will be sharing many facets of a joint building. We are very excited about the opportunities that the move will provide us with both the new middle school and having some overlapping use of the brand new high school.

SAMS has several teachers that have been working on our transition team for the last year. This team meets every couple weeks to iron out details as

we prepare to move. We are finalizing room placements within the next month.

Class Trips in May

We are planning on all three grade levels taking a trip this May. Our 8th graders are planning on a May 11-13 trip to Philadelphia.

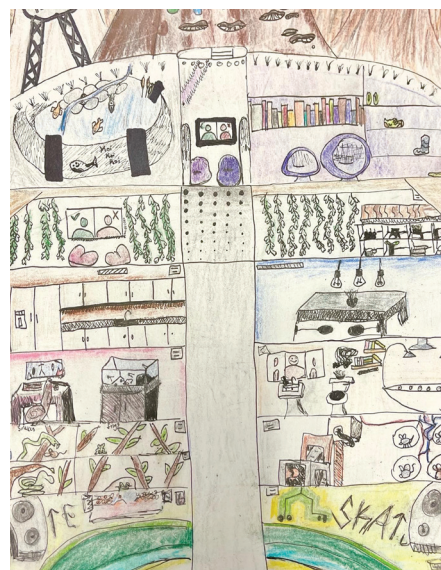
6th graders are planning on going to Beulah Beach May 23-25. Information will come out in the future for parents regarding this trip.

7th grade is also planning on taking a trip. They will be going to the Henry Ford Museum in Michigan on May 6th.

*Submitted by Cara M. Hutchinson
SAMS Principal*

Artwork credit, counterclockwise from top left: *Radial Symmetry*, Brenda Baird, Gr. 7; *Creative Color Wheel*, Gianna Camera, Gr. 8; *Analogous Animals*, Cara Thomas, Gr. 8; and *Secret Hideout*, Claire Hasley, Gr. 6.

SAMS Art Gallery



Firelands Elementary School

Fifth Graders Study the Solar System

The 5th grade students have been learning about the structure of the solar system. The children learned our solar system is made up of a star and all the objects that orbit it. Other facts included: we live on a spiral arm of the Milky Way galaxy; our solar system has 8 planets and one natural satellite named the moon; and the differences between the inner and outer planets. The students learned many other interesting facts as well.

Mrs. Watson's class had fun creating a 3-D project showing the sun, the correct order of the planets, and the asteroid belt. Students made the planets using paper and a solution made with glue and water. Everyone enjoyed painting the planets and putting their own final touches on the Solar Systems. Some students even included a dwarf planet. Check with one of Mrs. Watson's students if you want to hear more about what they learned.



National Pizza Day

Wednesday, February 9 was National Pizza Day. The FES staff would like to thank Jim Cahlik, State Farm and Ziggy's Pub and Restaurant for providing

them with lunch on this day. It was truly appreciated.



Falcon Leaders

FES has a group of 4th and 5th grade students that were nominated by teachers to be Falcon Leaders. This group helps with events and other tasks around the building. They recently assisted with helping to advertise and collect food items at FES for the food drive that took place throughout the district. They were also recently recognized through the NewsDepth A+ program. They were featured in a recent episode of NewsDepth that airs on PBS. We are so proud of them and appreciate all they do! (More on page 8.)

School Counseling Week

Did you know that the week of February 7 was National School Counseling Week? FES is beyond lucky to have two school counselors in our building. Mrs. Valerie Schuster and Ms. Christian Conner are key staff members at FES. They work diligently to do all that they can to support students and staff in a variety of ways. Each day of National School Counseling Week, Mrs. Schuster and Ms. Conner came up with a theme and shared information with students and staff. This included:

meet your school counselors; learn about the role of a school counselor; why not "guidance counselor"; better together; and take a positive message.

This year they are piloting Second Step Elementary in kindergarten and fifth grade classes. Each grade level receives 20 lessons, taught by our counselors, from this research-based social-emotional learning program. Second Step skills and concepts are designed to help children both in and out of school. This program helps students acquire the skills, knowledge, and mindset needed to persevere through challenges, set and achieve goals, handle strong emotions, better understand and connect with others, and resolve interpersonal conflicts. In addition, the program helps develop students' executive-function skills and promotes a growth mindset (the belief that intelligence and abilities can be developed). Together these skills and mindsets contribute to positive classroom and school climates that serve as the foundation for academic and social success. If you see Mrs. Schuster or Ms. Conner, take the time to learn more about all that they do for our Falcons, their families and our community!

Fabulous Falcon Award

One of the awards that FES students have the opportunity to earn is the Fabulous Falcon



Award. This award is given three times a school year and is focused on recognizing students who exhibit characteristics that align with our PBIS expectations. Those characteristics have been defined as SOAR – reminding our students that they are ready to "soar." S stands for safety, O stands for organization, A stands for achieving goals, and R stands for respectful. These students are selected by their teachers, who then are able to write the nomination and reasoning for earning the award. Mrs. Choe, Mrs. Groboske, Ms. Conner and Mrs. Schuster then recognize these students at a small ceremony with family members in attendance. Students are given a certificate and a yard sign to display to show that they are a "Fabulous Falcon." It is truly a highlight of the school year.

FES Parent Teacher Group

We are very lucky to have an active PTG. Parents of FES students are encouraged to become involved. PTG meets monthly and finds ways to enrich the environment for all of our students. The next meeting will be March 2nd at 6:00 pm. Feel free to reach out and hear more about how you can be involved! Look on Facebook (Firelands Elementary School PTG) or on Twitter (@FESPTG).

Upcoming Important Dates

February 23rd
5th Grade Band Concert

March 2nd
PTG Meets at 6 PM via Zoom

March 2nd & 3rd
2022-2023 Kindergarten
Registration at BOE

March 14th
Board of Education Mtg at 7 p.m.

*submitted by Laura Groboske
FES Assistant Principal*

FES Art Gallery



FHS FEATURED ARTWORK

Clockwise from top left:
Madelynn Lyren, Grade 3; Avelynn Sparks, Grade 4; and Brooklyn Krupp, Grade 5. THANK YOU and best wishes to Mrs. Cara Proehl as she leaves Firelands. We appreciate your hard work and dedication to our talented Firelands artists!

Meet the Counselors at FES

Mrs. Valerie Schuster

Hello! I'm Mrs. Schuster. This is my 16th year as a school counselor at FES. I am originally from Indianapolis, IN. I taught third grade in Cincinnati, fourth grade in Perrysburg, and was a school counselor in Noblesville, IN prior to coming to Firelands.

I received my B.S. in elementary education from Miami University and my M.Ed. in School Counseling from the University of Toledo.

I enjoy spending time with my family, including our dog, Chase.

I also enjoy traveling, running, gardening, playing pickleball, attending sporting events, and visiting friends.

My favorite part about being a school counselor is supporting students through consulting with parents, teachers, and working directly with children to help them better regulate their thoughts and feelings.

Miss Christian Conner

Hi, I'm Ms. Conner. As many of you know, this is my first year as a professional school counselor. I moved to Lakewood, Ohio this year from Buffalo, New York and I am thrilled that I had the opportunity to join the Firelands family.

I received my B.A. in psychology and sociology from Canisius College in 2019, and my M.S. in School Counseling from Canisius College in 2021.

I enjoy spending time with my friends and family, including my new dog, Rue. I also love: running, reading, hiking, bullet journaling, trying new restaurants, and being a school counselor!

My favorite part about being a school counselor is building relationships with students and staff, and helping students build upon social-emotional skills.

Girls LC8 Youth Basketball

The LC8 Conference started 4th, 5th, & 6th grade girls divisions this year. Girls on Firelands teams practiced during the week and played games on Sundays. Individuals worked on skills and teamwork and showed tremendous growth throughout the season. The youth girls were recognized at halftime at the

varsity girls game January 26th.

The coaches of the fourth grade team were Shanna Finnegan and Alyssa Jordan. Fifth grade coaches were varsity basketball players, Lauren Valerius and Abbey Schmitz. Sixth grade coaches were Miranda Sellers and Tereasa Stanhke.



Firelands High School

Congratulations to the FHS Lady Falcon basketball team for winning the LC8 Conference Championship three years in a row! This year they share the title with Keystone.

Good Samaritan

On her way to school on an extremely cold morning, Senior Mary Dempsey saw an elderly gentleman working in his yard. The gentleman, a resident of Claus Road, had his mail box hit and his garbage container knocked over. He was struggling to pick up all of the mess in the bitter cold, by himself. Realizing the potential health issues this gentleman could face, Mary pulled into the driveway and promised him that if he went back into his home, she would return after her classes were over and do the work herself. True to her word, after her classes were over, Mary returned and made sure all of the garbage was cleaned up. The couple was so grateful for her concern that they called the school to let us know. Mary, you represent what it means to be a Falcon. Thank you for your act of kindness! Among her multiple achievements, Dempsey was crowned FHS Homecoming Queen in 2021.

Thank you from Mrs. Finnegan

Thank you so much for all the twin sheet sets, comforters, & pillows you have donated to the Good Knights project so far! We have quite a pile of donations forming.

It is still unbelievable to me that around 100 kids in our school district are in need of an appropriate bed. My students have built 25 beds so far and are working on our next batch of 50 with a goal of building 100 by the end of the school year. The Good Knights of Lorain County



posted on Facebook that "A good night's sleep is fundamental to good health, good academic performance, and a positive way of living. Too many children in our community have to sleep on cold, hard floors or in other uncomfortable conditions. Our volunteers do their best to help them, with one bed at a time."

Choir Performs in Cleveland

The Firelands Choirs had the great opportunity to perform the National Anthem at CSU on Friday, January 21 before the CSU Men's Basketball Team played the YSU Penguins at 7:00 PM at the Wolstein Center.

Rocket Mortgage Field House

The FHS Basketball team played Vermilion at Rocket Mortgage Field House on

February 9th at 3 pm. This was followed by the Honors Choir, who performed the National Anthem at the Cleveland Cavaliers Game against the San Antonio Spurs that evening.

Scholastic Art Award Results

The Lorain County Regional Scholastic Art Exhibition is a REALLY BIG DEAL. With 1264 entries from 3 counties, placing among the 544 pieces in this show is like placing in "districts" in sports. The exhibition is held at the Stocker Center Gallery at LCCC through March 10. Students earn "Honorable Mention", "Silver Key" and "Gold Key" awards. Works earning a regional "Gold Key" here advance directly to national jurying in New York City this spring.

From among the 68 Gold Keys, 5 are selected for "American Vision" best-in-show awards. Honorable Mentions go to Violet Daley, Reagan Evans, Alex Krebs, Kalley Leimbach, Saige Loyd and Gabby Smith. Silver Keys go to Olivia Bonomolo and Lesia Leskovska. With multiple awards, Jocelyn Bednar with both Silver and Gold Keys, Lydia Dougan with an Honorable Mention and a Gold Key, Cohen Overstreet with 2 Honorable Mentions, Amanda Mitchell with an Honorable Mention and 2 Silver Keys and Aiden Bokulich with an Honorable Mention, 2 Silver Keys and 2 Gold Keys. Additionally, Aiden breaks the 19-year drought of "American Vision" awards for Firelands with his best-in-show sculpture. This is a school record! Congratulations to these accomplished artists!

Art Students Included in Regional Exhibition

This annual Northeast Ohio Youth Art Month Exhibition invites works from the K-12 members of the Ohio Art Education Association. This year the exhibition is being held in the art building on the campus of Case Western Reserve University. Works competed by grade clusters for awards. March is national Youth Art Month with the exhibition kicking off March 1. On March 13 artists will be honored at a closing reception at 1 pm with awards presented.

FHS freshmen Andrea Eberhardt, Isabella Meier and Mia Streby are representing Firelands in the exhibition with very strong work. Andrea is exhibiting a watercolor forest painting, Bella is exhibiting a 2-color reduction print of Oreos and Mia is exhibiting a illusionistic cubescape painting.



THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

FHS Continued

Student of the Month

Congratulations to our Students of the Month for this year so far.

September: Noah Galloway

October: Rachael Rennie

November: Larren Rounds

December: Gemma Hager

January: Korena Waddell

Firelands Band Boosters

Congratulations to the Firelands Band Boosters for

being recognized at the Ohio Music Educators Association for being named the Outstanding Music Support Group for 2022! Another congratulations to Mrs. Johnson for recognition of 25 years in music education. It is the hard work of our teachers and tremendous support from our parent groups that has made the Firelands Music Program so strong. Thank you Mr. Wiley, Mrs. Johnson, and all the parents of our music students for all that you do to support our students!

Winter Music Concerts

Please join us on February 24th for the Winter Band Concert and February 28th for the High School Choir Concert. Both events begin at 7 pm. Our music students are very talented- you won't be disappointed! Additionally, Firelands High School is hosting Lorain County Solo and Ensemble Contest on the 26th. Good luck to our students as they compete to earn superior ratings!

*submitted by Cathy Keener
FHS Principal*

Winter Sports Updates

So many great things were happening as we were going to press. Congratulations to all of our winter athletes on a great season! To get the most up-to-date sports information, follow @MrsKeenerFHS and @FirelandsFalcon on Twitter. You can also find individual team accounts on Twitter and Facebook. The official Firelands Athletics webpage is at <https://firelandsathletics.org/>.



Noah Galloway

September Student of the Month



Rachael Rennie

October Student of the Month



Larren Rounds

November Student of the Month



Gemma Hager

December Student of the Month

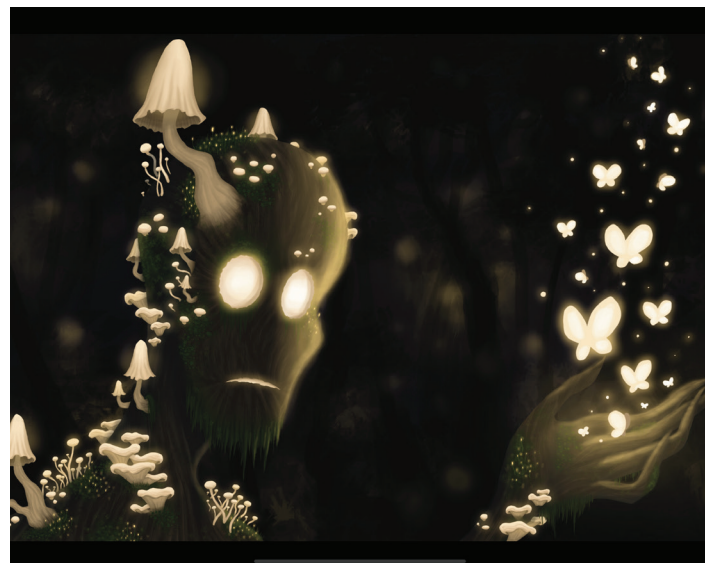


Korena Waddell

January Student of the Month

FHS FEATURED ARTWORK

Left to right by row: Alex Krebs and "Small World with Huge Problems"; Aiden Bokulich with "Franklin the Moss Ogre" which won best-in-show sculpture; Andrea Eberhardt's watercolor forest; Aiden Bokulich's "Being of the Deep Forest"; Isabella Meier's 2-color reduction print of Oreos; and Mia Streby, an illusionistic cubescape painting.



Falcon Leaders Featured on Ideastream

At Firelands Elementary School, in Oberlin, there is a group of 15 fourth and fifth grade students who are working hard to make their school community as good as it can be. The Falcon Leaders are this week's A+ Award winners for their leadership, service, and dedication to the community at Firelands Elementary School.

The Falcon Leaders are chosen by the staff because they demonstrate leadership, responsibility, and kindness. "We get nominated by our teachers because they believe in us to help the school," Carson told us. Evelyn added that the students chosen are responsible and organized.

The teachers at Firelands Elementary School have high expectations for the Falcon Leaders. Principal Choe told us that the Falcon Leaders have a long list of responsibilities throughout the year. During

the second quarter alone, they organized and advertised a food drive and a toy drive for the local communities. They will also take part in helping with upcoming Fabulous Falcon events. In the third quarter they will deliver snacks to teachers during parent-teacher conferences. I'm sure the teachers will appreciate a snack to keep them going on those long days!

Molly shared with us that the Falcon Leaders also make all kinds of posters to help other students know what events are happening like Red Ribbon Week and Spirit Week. "It's really an honor to be able to help the school," Lyla shared.

Justin and Rhys shared with us that one of their favorite things about being a Falcon Leader is to help students who are new to the school. "We get to show them around and make sure everything is going ok," Rhys explained.

The Falcon Leaders even help with the morning announcements. We look forward to when we see them working here at NewsDepth!

Before we left, Ayden and Ben reminded us that it is very important to always be responsible and to help out when you can. They told us that when you help people, you can really make a positive difference. I'm going to remember that and do MY best to help out when I can.

This week's A+ Award goes to the Falcon Leaders for doing what they can do to make a difference at Firelands Elementary School.

Article used by permission. NewsDepth is show featured on Ideastream Public Media. © The video can be viewed on YouTube. Search on "NewsDepth A+: Falcon Leaders". Congratulations FES for this recognition!



Band Booster Pancake Breakfast



The Firelands Band Boosters invites you to our annual pancake breakfast on **April 3rd**.

Come out and let the band kids do the cooking while you enjoy all you can eat:

*Pancakes
Eggs
Sausage
Juice
Milk
Coffee*

It will be at the South Amherst Fire Department, 105 W Main St, South Amherst, OH 44001 from 8:00 a.m to 1:00 p.m.

Donations are accepted and appreciated. A variety of raffles will also be available. We appreciate your support!

2022 - Firelands Schools Endowment Scholarships

SCHOLARSHIP	TYPE	NUMBER/VALUE
Milad & Fanny Abraham	General	5 @ \$2,000
Susan Beecheler for Future Teachers	Teaching Career	1 @ \$1,000
Debbie Cook Fine Arts	Fine Arts	1 @ \$750
Firelands Community -South Amherst Rotary - Falcon Heroes Video	General	1 @ \$1,000 1 @ \$1,000 1 @ \$1,000
Cameron Greene Memorial	General	1 @ \$750
John Hostettler	Medical or Agriculture	1 @ \$1,000
Jim Solomon Memorial	Sports/ Science	1 @ \$1,000
John & Ethel Lupe Memorial	General	1 @ \$1,000
Bechtel Family Scholarship (2 ND Year college students only)		1 @ \$2,000
The Steve and Courtney Ortnier Family FFA Scholarship	Agriculture	1 @ \$1,000
H.A. Born Scholarship	Agriculture	1 @ \$1,000
Marilyn Immler Memorial Scholarship (Old South Amherst School District)	Athletics	1 @ \$1,000
Total		\$23,500

Applications are available at the Student Services Office or online.

Deadline for applications: February 28, 2022

FBB Meeting Schedule

The Firelands Band Boosters meet on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Our mission is to provide support for the Firelands Instrumental Music Program. We meet in the high school band room at 7:00 p.m.

The remaining meeting dates for the 2021-2022 school year are as follows:

March 15, 2022

April 19, 2022

May 17, 2022

June 21, 2022.

For more information contact
firelandsbandboosters@gmail.com



JVS Falcons Compete at State

In January, JVS students competed in the regional Business Professionals of America (BPA) competition. BPA is a career technical student organization at LCJVS.

30 students did so well that they are headed to the state competition, including two from Firelands. Logan Bober, Web and Graphic Design junior, placed

first in the Video Production Team event. She also placed second in the Fundamentals of Web Design event.

Grace Gilles, Web and Graphic Design junior, placed second in the Fundamental Desktop Publishing event.

Best of luck to you both at the state competition!

Falcon Wrestling Champs

Congratulations to SAMS wrestlers for their championship win in the LC8 conference!

FHS wrestlers placed second in the conference after maintaining a perfect season winning streak going into the championships. At the conference, they did a great job individually and as a team. Collin Eckman and Ruben Pina-

Lorenzana took 1st in their weight class.

The team also kept the Stillman Cup in Falcon hands with their February 8th defeat over Vermilion.

Congratulations to both wrestling teams for your hard work this year!

Another STEM Grant Awarded to Firelands

The team of Latto/Roemer has received another STEM grant on behalf of Firelands Local Schools!

Firelands Local Schools will be awarded \$5,000 to expand STEM learning projects through Ohio STEM Learning Network Classroom Grant Program, funded by Battelle. The grants will create sustainable, STEM learning projects to benefit students for years to come.

Students at Firelands High School will use the engineering design process to design, build and program autonomous and driver controlled robots for their proposed client. According to FLSD Director of Educational Services, Mrs. Lori Roemer, "the district is always looking for opportunities to expand

educational opportunities for our students. Expanding our STEM offerings will provide another pathway to promote knowledge and skills that are in high demand." Using VEX V5 robotics kits and the VEX Stem Lab Curriculum, students will work in teams applying science concepts to build various robotic mechanisms. For example, speed and torque will be calculated based on gear and sprocket ratios. Teams will apply their understanding of block, python, and text coding to create algorithms that will program their robots to perform their required tasks. The kits are durable and will be reused from one semester class to the next. Students will collaborate, communicate, and think critically to invent new robot

designs to increase the efficiency of their robot performance on a variety of challenges. As a result of this course, students will acquire real-world teamwork, design, programming, and problem-solving skills that can be transferred to future careers.

According to STEM teacher Mr. Chuck Latto, "This grant will provide an additional opportunity for students at Firelands to experience robot design and programming at the next level. The VEX V5 equipment is state of the art robotics technology that will challenge students to think creatively while using logic and reason to solve complex problems."

The *Automation & Robotics* grant was submitted in late 2021 thanks to the joint effort of

Latto and Roemer. The District received notification that The Ohio STEM Learning Network STEM Classroom Grant Program was approved for full funding for Firelands Local Schools! The robotic equipment will be part of the new course, Advanced Automation & Robotics at Firelands High School.

The Ohio STEM Learning Network Classroom Grant Program was funded by Battelle to help foster the growth of the Ohio STEM Learning Network as a public-private partnership between the non-profit research institute and the State of Ohio. FLSD is a recipient of the very first year for this grant program!

submitted by Jennifer Butchko

Firelands Food Service News You Can Use

March 2nd: Wednesday, March 2nd is SAT testing at FHS for juniors only. A free breakfast will be offered on their way into the building and free lunch in a foam container will be offered on their way out after testing. We will announce what the menu will be prior to the 2nd.

New kitchen / cafeteria: In the next couple months we will share some exciting information about our new cafeteria including what we will be offering and what the students can expect to see. Stay tuned.

Free meals for all students: USDA continues to offer free breakfast and free lunch to all students regardless of need. This extension helps our families/students as well as the Food Service department. Our department gets federal reimbursements for each meal that is sold, so please encourage your child/children to take advantage of this great opportunity.

Instructional fees: Instructional fees are only waived if you qualify for free

meals based off the information provided on a meal application or if your child was approved through Direct Certification. Another round of Direct Certification letters were mailed on January 31. Be sure to sign and return the letter if you received one so that instructional fees can be waived.

Meal assistance applications: At some point USDA may not offer the free meals to all. If you feel your child/children would qualify for meal assistance, please complete an

application so it is in place for the start of the school year if need be. www.payschoolscentral.com. **The approved meal status will roll over for the first month of the start of the school year. A NEW APPLICATION must be completed every school year (for fees to be waived as well). At this time USDA has not said if the free meals will be continued into the next school year.**

Questions: Contact Judy Baumann, Food Service Director 440-965-5821 ext. 1011

Bowling Team Wins 1st Conference Title

The boys' varsity bowling team won the North Shore Bowling Conference title for the first time in Firelands history as well as the Division II championship. They finished 452 pins above 2nd place Clearview. The girls' varsity team came in 3rd. Second year coach Chris Cordy said this is most likely the best team Firelands has ever had and is looking for more students to join. He recommends following the team page on Facebook.

The boys team averaged 233 in the six-game Baker on Sunday. Their 1,400 Baker score was the best out of all the divisions. Junior Thomas Ulrich led with a 624 three-game series, which was good for third overall in Division 2.

Way to go Falcons!

BOYS TEAM STANDINGS:

1. Firelands 4,190

BOYS HIGH SERIES:

3. Thomas Ulrich, 624
6. Alex Kyer, 581
11. Mike Smith, 545
14. Conner Cordy, 520

BOYS HIGH GAME:

7. Thomas Ulrich, 219
9. Alex Kyer, 213
14. Mike Smith, 194
18. Jacob Bolyard, 188

GIRLS TEAM STANDINGS

3. Firelands 2,963

GIRLS HIGH SERIES

2. Lesi Leskovska, 501
6. Mandy DeWitt, 476
18. Aubrey West, 398

GIRLS HIGH GAME:

3. Lesi Leskovska, 191
6. Mandy DeWitt, 182
18. Aubrey West, 151



Firelands Cheer Team Qualifies for State

The Firelands Competitive Cheer Team competed at the OASSA Northwest regional competition yesterday at Anthony Wayne High School. They have been working extremely hard these past few months and qualified for the State Championship in Columbus on February 27th! This will be the first time in Firelands history that our cheerleading program will be represented at a state level competition.

Coach Gasparini said, "I am so proud of these girls. They have put countless hours into their routine to be ready for this competition. Each cheerleader has come so far this season and has grown tremendously. As a former FHS cheerleader, I'm thrilled to see our cheer program thrive and push to the next level. I can't wait to see these athletes take the mat in Columbus in a few weeks!"

submitted by Jennifer Butchko



For up to the minute sports news and information, head over to <https://firelandsathletics.org/> or follow AD Stillman on Twitter @FirelandsFalcon!

THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

Class of 1977 ~ 45th Reunion

Saturday, August 20th at the Eagles Club

1161 Milan Avenue, Amherst, Ohio 44001

5:00 p.m. Meet & Greet, 6:15 p.m. Buffet Dinner

7:00 – 12:00 Class Photo & Dancing to DJ

**Cash Bar **\$35.00 per person: Classmate & Guest

**RSVP with payment by July 15 to
Marcia Kneisel Eichelberger at 440-213-5298**

3:00 p.m. Brownhelm School

Kindergarten Re-create Photo & Tour

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photos are very welcome.



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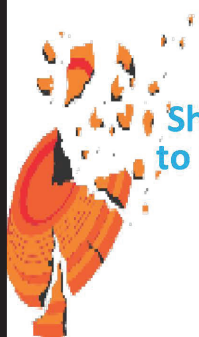


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