



# The Firelands Express



Volume 10, Issue 86

June 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.

## Firelands Class of 2020 Goes the Distance



The 66th Annual Commencement at Firelands High School is complete! FHS held four consecutive nights of graduation, June 8th through June 11th, with over 100 seniors receiving their diplomas in the gymnasium.

When seniors arrived they entered FHS and had an opportunity to take pictures in multiple areas. While teachers could not be present, their pictures were on display with messages that welcomed the students.

The students and their guests entered the gymnasium and the graduates received their diplomas from whomever they designated. There were wonderful moments as students chose FLSD Board of Education members, Superintendent Von Gunten, Principal Maver, Assistant Principal Keener, Counselor Cozza and their own parents, grandparents, siblings and friends to present diplomas.

The ceremonies were professionally recorded and pictures were taken. All pictures taken at commencement are available for free (see end of article). Items are also available to order with normal photography options from Infocus Studios as well. In addition, many free pictures can be found on our Facebook account, The Firelands Falcons.

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## FHS Construction Update Inside: Architectural Drawing & Site Plan

While many aspects of our daily lives were and continue to be impacted by COVID-19, I am happy to share that work on our new high school was able to continue. Our construction team, led by BSHM Architects, Greenspace Construction, our construction manager at risk, Osborn Engineering, our commissioning agent, owners representatives from Ennis Britton Consulting and the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission have worked diligently these past months to ensure our building project remains on schedule.

In December, January and February meetings were held for students, staff and community to gather their input regarding the construction plans for the new high school. These educational visioning meetings formed the basis of the criteria used to define the characteristics of the new building. Through the input of various

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## District Places No New Tax Levy on November Ballot

On June 22, the Firelands Board of Education voted unanimously to consolidate our two existing emergency levies that expire in 2021 into one substitute levy. The 5.98 mil, 10 year substitute levy will be on the November 3rd ballot. Consolidating our two existing emergency levies into one substitute levy **will not increase YOUR taxes**, but it will allow Firelands Local School District to benefit from the growth of new construction in our community. **Approval of this levy is critical to ensuring our district provides high quality programs in our academic offerings, the arts and athletics.**

The first year of the Substitute Levy will generate the exact amount of revenue as the two Emergency Levies that it is replacing. After that, the only increase in revenue the district will see will be from new construction that will also be taxed at the same rate.

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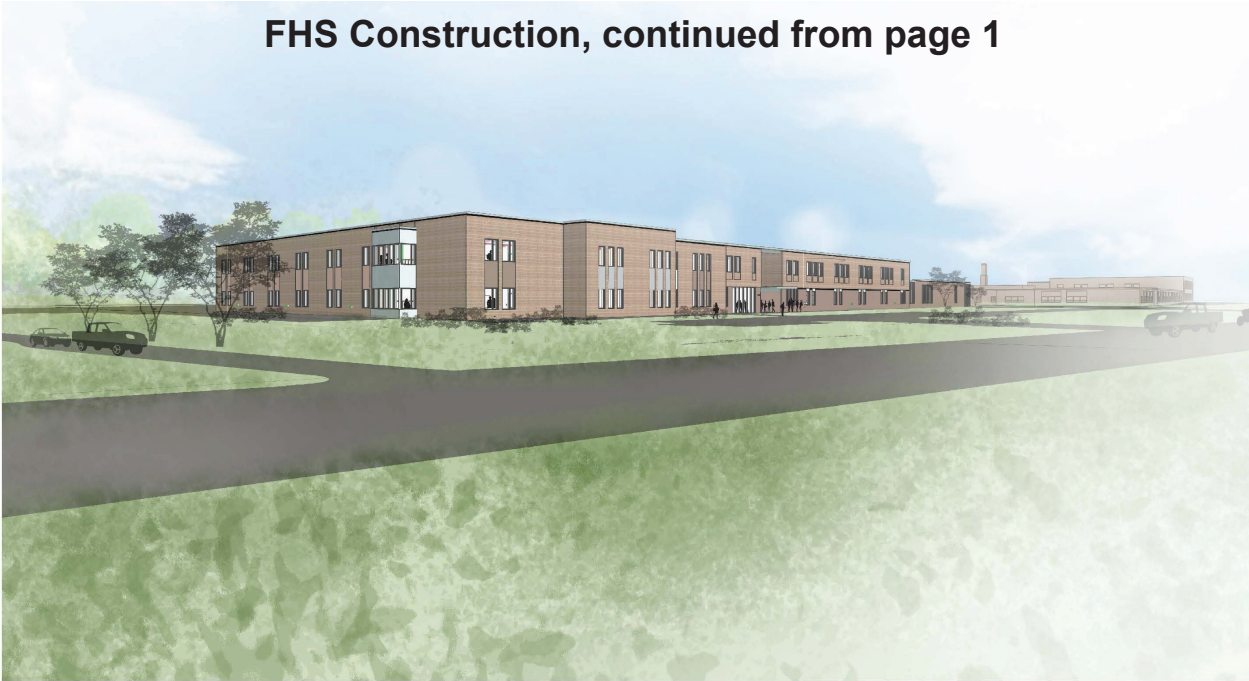
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**[www.firelandsschools.org](http://www.firelandsschools.org)**

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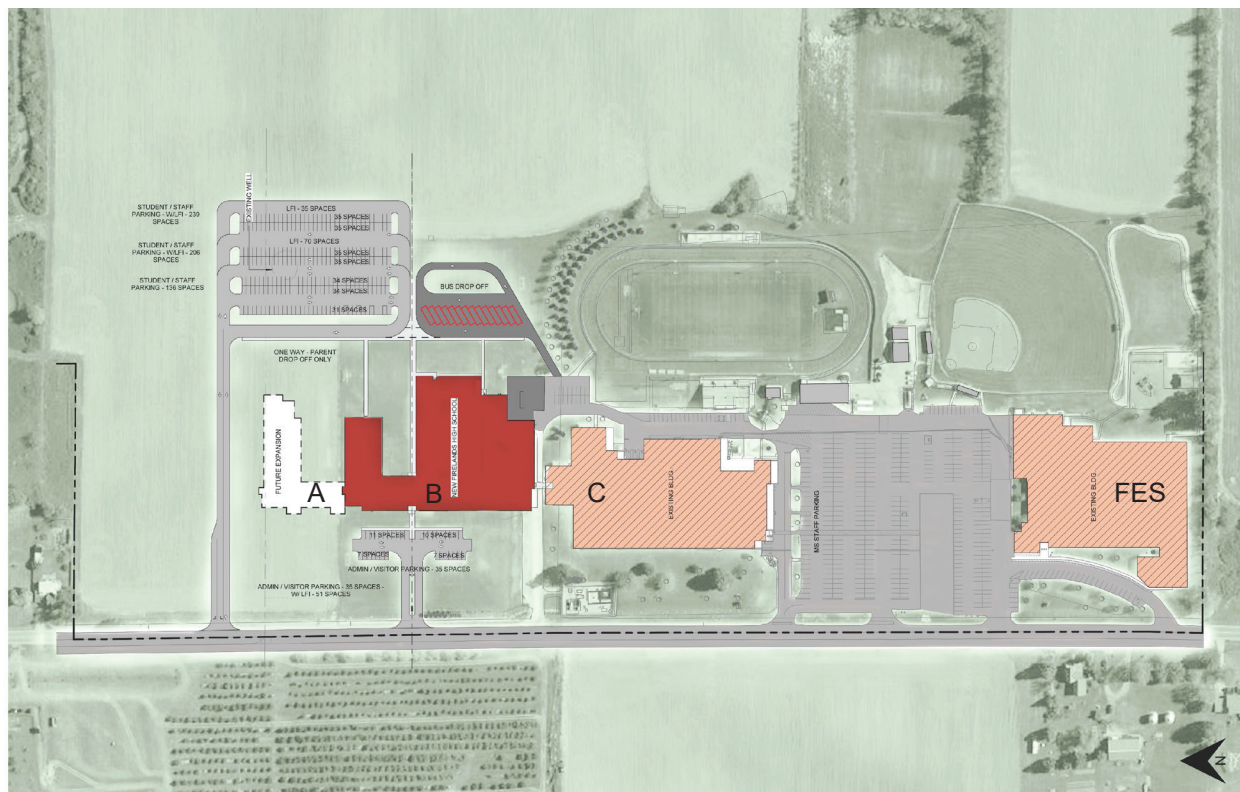
# THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

## FHS Construction, continued from page 1



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

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



**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

stakeholders, these meetings assured that the communities and District's goals were aligned.

The renderings to the left 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

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## Class of 2020, continued from page 1

Sam Formholtz, Class President, recorded his welcome speech post-graduation. Steven Iwanek, Jr. and Jordan Janosek recorded their senior speeches as well. Each speech will be included in the virtual graduation. A video compilation

of the virtual graduate ceremony can be found on our website. A special thank you to The FHS Alumni Association, The Friends of Firelands and the Pignitella family for gifting each senior with graduation gifts. Mrs. Jackie Flaczynski took wonderful

pictures each night that can be found on her Facebook page.

We congratulate the new FHS Alumni and wish them a bright and happy future!

Link to photographs: <https://infocusstudiosllc.zenfolio.com/f581146874>)



# THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

Substitute Levy - 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

## Elementary Staff Zoom by Students on Bus Routes



On Friday, May 29th FES staff was escorted on five different routes throughout the district by school buses. The purpose of this event was to say good-bye to students and families on the last day of the 2019-2020 school year.

Staff members decorated their vehicles and were excited to participate in the fun event. Mr. Sayler and the transportation staff were a huge help to

plan the routes for this event. Students and families received waves, yells and honking from the vehicles as they “zoomed” by.

We saw so many smiling faces and encouraging signs. We hope that all of our students and families have a wonderful summer and we look forward to seeing you all again soon!

*submitted by FES Staff*

### FHS Construction, continued from page 2

serve the building and the district's needs.

Understanding that traffic is already a concern on Vermilion Road, our design team worked diligently to develop a solution. Ample visitor parking is included in the front of the building for easy access, while staff, student and parent drop areas are behind the building, including a separate area for our busses.

Parking and staging areas behind the building will be sized to accommodate the needs of the district during the day as well as various athletic events and community activities that will

occur in the evenings.

Looking ahead, site preparation is slated to 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.

In the near-term, there will be some adjustments that will be needed for traffic flow as the driveway north of the existing building will no longer be able to accommodate bus or car traffic. Details on these changes will be shared in August, prior to the start of the new school year.

## Planning for the 2020-2021 School Year

Thank you to the 600 parents that completed our surveys in May for the 2019-2020 school year and our 2020-2021 planning survey.

At the time of completion, 65% of those who responded were comfortable in returning to school, while 35% indicated they were not yet ready to have their children return to school and would prefer an online option. With this information and guidelines from the Ohio

Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Education regarding the opening of school for the 2020-2021 school year, district staff are meeting to finalize plans for Firelands.

Parents will be receiving an email, including an electronic survey asking for their commitment for the upcoming school year in July. In addition, information will be posted to our website regarding our plans for the upcoming school year.



## Maver Moves On, Keener Named FHS Principal

After six years as Principal at Firelands High School, Mr. Bob Maver is leaving to be the Director of Human Resources with Westlake City Schools. Mr. Maver joined Firelands in 2014 after being the Assistant Principal at Midview High School. During his time at FHS, Mr. Maver was instrumental in expanding the number of courses offered at FHS through LCCC via the State's College Credit Plus Program. Mr. Maver will always be remembered for how much he cared for our students and staff.

When asked about this transition, Maver said "I never thought of leaving Firelands, as it is truly a great place for students, staff, and families, but the opportunity came about to move into Central Office at Westlake, which will hopefully lead to me becoming a school treasurer toward the end of my educational career. Firelands is a fantastic place that I will truly miss."

Assistant Principal Mrs. Cathy Keener will be moving into the Principal position effective August 1st. She has served FHS in the assistant role since the 2016-2017 school year. After many years as a Math teacher, Mrs. Keener began the process of an administrative career with Brunswick City Schools before coming to Firelands. Over her time here, Mrs. Keener has developed strong relationships with our students and staff, has taken an active role in curriculum

development and technology integration.

Finally, Firelands is looking forward to introducing the newest member to the leadership team, Mr. Rob Clarico, in August. Mr. Clarico was on the teaching staff at South Amherst Middle School from 2002-2004, and prior to that worked for Oberlin City Schools from 2000-2002. Since leaving SAMS in 2004, Clarico has served for 15 years in the Keystone Local School District. Like Mrs. Keener, his background is also in Math. Additionally he has coached football and provided leadership in curriculum development. We will hear more from Mr. Clarico in August.

### Note from Mrs. Keener to Parents & Students

Wow! What a year we have had! I am excited to be taking on the role of principal and can't wait to see everyone in the fall. I am feeling positive about our return to school and will send important information through email and on Twitter @MrsKeenerFHS. I will be checking my email periodically throughout the summer. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

**Incoming freshmen:** Please watch for information regarding orientation in August. It will be sent to parent and student emails and also posted on Twitter.

**Locker cleanouts:** If you did not clean out your lockers, items are bagged and will be available in August for pick up. If you still have textbooks that need to be returned, please bring them in September. Watch for more information regarding Chromebooks closer to the start of school. See you in the Fall!



Mrs. Cathy Keener



Mr. Robert Maver

## Virtual Field Day for Elementary Students

Firelands Elementary Students were invited to participate in a virtual field day by our Parent Teacher Group. Students were asked to complete a variety of activities at home and submit photos or videos of their fun on May 26. The pictures were then shared with students and families so that

all could enjoy the candid moments of the events.

We appreciate Mrs. Bednar and the Parent Teacher Group for organizing this fun event for our students. It was a way for them to still have a field day as FES students at the end of the school year. Photos courtesy of Mrs. Bednar.





# THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

## FFA Holds 66th Parent-Member Banquet Virtually

This year represents the 66th year for the Firelands FFA Parent-Member Banquet. Due to restrictions on large gatherings because of Covid-19, the banquet speakers were pre-recorded and a YouTube video was created from the recordings.

The banquet premiered on May 26th at 6:30 p.m. Viewers were encouraged to tune in to the premier and have dinner with their family during the banquet. The banquet can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/fnUTyNXdEHg>. The annual banquet shows

the progress and achievements of members in the chapter. Banquet also focuses on members' premier leadership, personal growth, career planning and success.

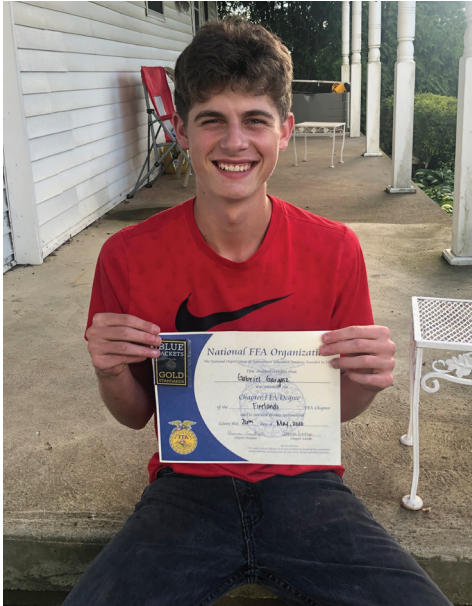
The retiring 2019-2020 officers were President Chance

Coultrip, Vice President Donald Crawford, Secretary Kelsey Hardwick, Treasurer Katelyn Konicek, Reporter Taylor Kenska, Sentinel Keith Conwell, Student Advisor Jacob Schmitz, Assistants Noah Galloway, Steven Jessel, and Tad Miller.

Newly inducted 2020-2021 officers are President Donald Crawford, Vice President Steven Jessel, Secretary Kelsey Hardwick, Treasurer Katelyn Konicek, Reporter Morgan DiCesare, Sentinel Logan

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*Pictured from left to right: Gabe Gargas shows off his Chapter Degree; Katelyn Konicek poses with her banquet awards; Kaleb Carver with his banquet awards. Awards were delivered by Mrs. Finnegan to students' porches.*



## A Notice from Mrs. Judy Baumann, Food Service Director

The last few months have led us to provide meals in a very different way for our students. We all miss seeing your children on a daily basis, but we are so happy we can help you through these unprecedented times. I have personally had the opportunity to meet many parents, grandparents and others during the Tuesday meal pick-ups. We have been together through the cold, wind, rain and heat. I have enjoyed getting to know each and every one of you and am always available for anything you may need.

I want to take this time to thank all those involved, which have helped provide school meals during the closure. With serving over 18,000 meals since the middle of March, it has taken a village to make this happen. Many sincere thanks to all of you. There may be some that I forget, but Thank You!!!!

**Staff:** Shaila Teter, Debbie Buckosh, Carolyn Sayler, Cindy Raynor, Jennifer Sroka, Deanna Watts, Kristian Novak, Mike Von Gunten, Dan Jackson and more.

**Second Harvest:** Donated over 45,000 pounds of food including non-perishable food, dairy and fresh produce. We will continue to provide boxes through the summer's remaining 3 pick-ups.

**Dollar General:** Collected items for our families that customers purchased from the store. Thank you to Tonya Knoble for setting this up and Cindy Raynor for delivering items to the school.

**Food collection:** Mr. Von Gunten orchestrated a food drive for our first meal pick up in March. Our Firelands community came together and donated many items for our families. Thank you to the staff members that organized the items and

filled boxes.

**Grab and Go meals:** We will continue to disperse on June 23, July 14 and July 28 from 2:30 to 5:30. If new to the meal pick-up, you must complete the google survey online. I ask that you please pick up the meals if you have signed up. This helps so I know how much food and milk to order.

**Online meal application:** The updated meal application will be available after August 1. You can go to [www.payschoolscentral.com](http://www.payschoolscentral.com). The meal status will go through the end of the 20-21 school year. The meal status each school year will roll over for the first month of the next school year.

**Account balances/senior balances:** If I have not heard from you, the balance on any senior's account will first go to a sibling if there is one, or it will be added to our emergency

donation account to help other students when short on funds. All other account balances will remain on accounts and move with your child.

**Negative meal accounts:** Thank you so much to our anonymous donor that paid off student accounts that ended in March with a negative balance. All negative accounts have been taken care of.

**The First United Church in South Amherst,** 201 W. Main St, is providing nonperishable items for Firelands families. This is available Monday through Friday from 9:00 to 10:30. Please call 440-986-2461 to make sure someone is there prior to picking up.

**Stay Strong Firelands Family.  
Proud to be part  
of this community.**

Judy Baumann can be reached at 440-965-5821 ext. 1011 or [jbaumann@firelandsschools.org](mailto:jbaumann@firelandsschools.org).



## Finnegan Finishes First

This year the state 4-H public speaking contest had to be held virtually because of the social distancing order. Three Lorain County 4-H members competed in the contest this year. The members submitted videos of their speeches and presentations.

Callie Finnegan, a 6th grader and South Amherst Middle School, competed in individual public speaking and earned 1st in the state. Her topic was "Shipping Fever." Callie is a member of Four Leaf Clovers 4-H Club from Brownhelm Township. She is pictured below with her horse, Preston.



## Firelands Elementary News & Updates

### Effective Leadership Academy

This May, many of our fifth graders participated (via Zoom) in eight virtual classes in partnership with the Effective Leadership Academy. Students engaged in interactive lessons to develop their leadership and social-emotional skills. The goal of the classes was to empower students and heighten their ability to embrace change through positive thinking. (submitted by Valerie Schuster)

### Perfect Attendance for the 2019-2020 School Year

Firelands Elementary School had a total of eight students that earned perfect attendance for the 2019-2020 school year. These students and families were committed to ensure that they were present for school daily. Students earning this recognition, included Leonardo Dohnenko (1st grade), Lucas Rigby (3rd grade), Gabriel DiFilippo (4th grade), Cecelia Howells (4th grade), Chase Vaughn (4th grade), Xavier Carey (5th grade), Parker Craycraft (5th grade), and Josephine Kirby (5th grade). We appreciate your commitment and efforts to be present at school.

### Falcon Leaders

Falcon Leaders are selected 4th and 5th grade students to assist with tasks and complete service projects while at school. These students were able to assist with a variety of events throughout the school year. Mrs. Choe, Mrs. Groboske and Mrs. Schuster are so grateful for their assistance and willingness to help out when needed. They are respected and looked upon as leaders within the building. Falcon Leaders for the 2019-2020 school year were: Brean Adkins, Owen Bernaciak, Helen Bolyard, Landon Born, Hunter Busick, Kelsey Carroll, Claire Hasley, Kyrie Holliday, Ethan Hozalski, Anthony Hyer, Preston Kirschner, Emersyn Lehman, Jaxten Leimbach, Kendall Novak, Andrew Pawlak, Liam Roth, Gavin Saylor, Aiden Simms, Natalie Smith, Jeremy Stepp, Niko Zagar, and Emerson Zidar.

### FES Jump Start to 2020-2021 Program Information

FES is devoted to ensure that our students are better prepared for the 2020-2021 school year. In order to do that, selected students have been invited to

attend a four week program that will focus on reading and math skills. The dates of the program are July 6-July 31. We look forward to working with these students to help them be prepared for school in the fall.

### Kindergarten Screening Information

Kindergarten Screening is Monday, August 10 at Firelands Elementary School. Careful consideration will be taken of all guidelines in place by our government and health care agencies in order to keep all children, families, and school staff safe.

Parents should please sign up their children for kindergarten screening at <https://tinyurl.com/uxfqf8g> by July 10.

If any documents remain to finalize your child's registration (2 proofs of residency, immunization records, birth certificate, and copy of the guardian's driver's license), please do so at your earliest convenience. This can be done in the following ways:

1. You may upload them to your Final Forms account
2. You may place copies of them in the secure lock box





# THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

## Firelands Elementary News & Updates

outside the Firelands Board of Education (112 N. Lake Street, South Amherst). The lock box is to the left of the entrance doors.

3. Documents may also be scanned and emailed to [jswiers@firelandsschools.org](mailto:jswiers@firelandsschools.org).

Within a week of the new Kindergarten Screening date, parents will receive information about who their child's kindergarten teacher is and will then be contacted to sign up for a one hour appointment with the child's teacher, which will take place during schools hours on either September 1, 2, or 3. Children will come to school that day for just a one hour appointment. All kindergarten students' first full day of school with their class and bus transportation available is Friday, September 4th.

### Safety Town - Cancelled

Safety Town, which had been scheduled for July 6 – 8, is cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Parent Teacher Group

The FES PTG group continues to be a huge asset to our building. They have been meeting and collaborating with the building principals to ensure that activities are still being planned for staff and students. Feel free to reach out to them to see how you can assist and hear more about how you can be involved during the 2020-2021 school year! You can find them on Facebook (Firelands Elementary School PTG) or on Twitter (@FESPTG).

*Pictured at left are three more photos from the Virtual Field Day (see article on page X). Above right, photos of 2nd grade biography projects.*

### Second Grade Biography Projects

2nd graders learned about biographies in reading during quarter 4. Each 2nd grader interviewed a member of their family as part of their biography projects. Students had specific questions to interview a family member, write a paragraph about the family member they interviewed, and chose a project from their choice board that represented who they interviewed. Students presented their projects via Zoom with their peers and teachers. Great Job 2nd graders. (submitted by Mrs. Dolnosich and Mrs. Hignett)



## SAMS: A Note From Mrs. Gomez

We will hold onto all lost and found items until August. There will be one final opportunity to come to school and retrieve any items. The school will not be open the remainder of June and July. Notice will go out when the next opportunity will be for entrance to the school.

Please make sure you have an updated email and had been receiving Sunday emails. There will not be a Sunday email until August.

Have a wonderful summer!!!  
Cara M. Gomez, Principal



## Purple Star Resources for Military Families

The Firelands Local School District holds Purple Star Status at all three of its schools, thus being one of only two districts in the state of Ohio with that distinction.

To support our military families, the following information has been updated and provided on our website. Visit <https://www.firelandsschools.org/MilitaryFamilyInformation.aspx>

**Resources from Teen Council Members of the Ohio Military Teen Council (OMTC)** have shared some of the activities and resources that have helped them, and others, navigate the changes and obstacles thrown their way.

From Cate – An educational resource I have been using a lot lately is a practice driving test website. This site is mostly for teens and those preparing to get their temps or actual license. The website is filled with all the laws and rules of driving in the state you are in. It keeps track of your progress and has many quizzes to take. It also makes a special

quiz with all the questions that you answered wrong. I have been on this site as much as possible these last few weeks, preparing to get my temps. It is a very helpful tool for learning the rules of the road, which everyone must learn eventually. <https://m.driving-tests.org/ohio/>

From Hailee – My resource is a YouTube channel. This man, Rob Kenney, posts all sorts of videos on how to do different things around the house. His father walked out on him as a child, so he created this channel as a way to show boys (whose fathers left them) how to do things a father normally would. In my opinion, kids with deployed parents, or kids who have parents who work during the day, could really benefit from his videos.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNepEAWZH0TBu7dkxIbluDw>

**3 Military Onesource**  
**<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/>**

Military OneSource is a

24/7 connection to information, answers, and support to help you reach your goals, overcome challenges, and thrive. Free resources and support are available to active-duty, National Guard, and Reserve service members as well as their families anywhere in the world. Some of these resources include tax services, spouse employment help, webinars, as well as online training, relocation, and deployment tools, and much more.

To help cope with changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Military OneSource will offer video non-medical counseling sessions for children and teenagers. Call Military OneSource at 800-342-9647 to learn whether non-medical counseling is right for your child

**Morale, Welfare and Recreation Digital Library (MWR)** **<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/>**

Military OneSource provides free online resources to service members and their families

via the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Digital Library. You'll find eBooks and audiobooks on virtually every topic, as well as databases and reference books that can help you learn a new skill, keep kids engaged, serve as a homework source, or prepare you to land your next job. The digital library offers online resources to help children learn to read or keep their grades up, research topics for writing assignments, or just find a great story for a long afternoon. Teens can take advantage of complete units of study, in a variety of media formats, to supplement what they have learned in school. Adults will find a large number of resources to assist them in advancing their education or career.



## School Immunization/Vaccine Requirements for 2020-2021

Attention: If your child will be entering 12<sup>th</sup> grade, 7<sup>th</sup> grade or any grade for the first time -- it is now time to update immunizations. If entering school for the first time, or after attending school elsewhere, please be sure to check that your child is in compliance with State of Ohio immunization requirements:

**Kindergarten:** Once your child has reached age 4, she or he can complete all required immunizations for diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus (DPT), polio (IPV), hepatitis B (HBV), measles mumps, rubella (MMR), and varicella (chickenpox).

If possible, have them done and bring a copy of the record to Kindergarten screening.

**Grades 1-6:** the requirements are the same as for Kindergarten

**Grades 7-11:** Grades K-6 requirements **plus** Tdap (DPT booster) and MCV4 (meningococcal conjugate vaccine)

**Grade 12:** Grade 7-11 requirements **plus** MCV4 (must be received at age 16 or older)

Remember to bring your child's immunization records with you when you go to your healthcare provider or clinic. Please send a copy of the immunization record to the

school nurse in your child's building, being sure your child's name is on it. Don't forget to keep a copy for yourself!

**Anyone can obtain immunizations at Lorain County Public Health**, 9880 S. Murray Ridge Road, Elyria, OH 44035. A full vaccine clinic schedule is available at <https://www.loraincountyhealth.com/vaccines>.

Appointments are always encouraged, although walk-ins are accepted. For more information or to make appointments for both children and adults, you can call **(440)284-3206**. Bring all

immunization records, insurance cards, and cash or check; some children may be eligible for discounts under the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. All children under age 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

**Note:** Ask your provider about additional vaccines that are recommended for children ages 11-19 such as 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of varicella (chickenpox), hepatitis A and human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines.



# THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS



JACKIE FLACZYNSKI

*Thank you so much!*

On behalf of the seniors and their families we thank you for volunteering your time to capture the pomp & circumstance of graduation.



## Firelands Band Boosters

### General Membership Meetings

Firelands Band Boosters meet on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the high school band room. Our mission is to provide support for the Firelands Instrumental Music Program. The dates for the 2020-2021 school year are as follows:

August 18, 2020  
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*

**Congratulations  
to the Class of  
2020 from the  
Friends of Firelands**

**The Firelands Alumni  
Association Extends  
Welcome to New  
Class of 2020 Alumni**



The Firelands Band Boosters would like to take the opportunity to congratulate the MFMB Class of 2020 on their graduation and wish them all the best as they begin the next chapter in their lives.

Thanks for all the memories!



FRIENDS OF FIRELANDS

## GOLF OUTING POSTPONED TO 2021

On behalf of the Friends of Firelands, we want to thank you for your continued support. Be safe & healthy.



## FFA Banquet, continued from page 5

Galloway, Student Advisor Noah Galloway, Assistants Holden Harker, Randi Johanssen, and Matthew Schnell.

Star Awards are for students who have gone above and beyond in the chapter by showing effort, leadership, and dedication. The Star Greenhand is Holden Harker. Star Chapter is Madison Chenoweth. Star Junior is Donald Crawford. The Star Senior (sponsored by Buckeye State Mini Goat Farm) is Taylor Kenska. AgCredit also awards one member the 110% Award for consistently going above and beyond. The student who earned this award is Chance Coultrip.

The Greenhand Degree is earned by members in their first year as a member. Greenhands are - Brandon Bowyer, Adrianna Buchanan, Madeline Byrd, Mark Cumberledge, Owen Davis, Evin Denney, Maria DiCesare, Parker Frey, Gracyn Gifford, Zoe Gifford, Gracie Groot, Holden Harker, Madisyn Jessel, Lexi Mack, MJ McCann, Gavin Nance, Mark Papp, Joel Polen, Caleb Ross, Nina Sauer, Joshua Scheeres, Matthew Schnell, Grace Stanley, Tristin Stipe, Weston Strader, Lauren Valerius, Rylan Votruba, Taylor Wood, and Garrett Yakunovich.

To earn your Chapter Degree you must be a member for 2 years and have your Greenhand Degree along with other requirements in community service and SAE projects. These recipients earned pins and certificates: Christopher Berthold, Collin Berthold, Hannah Brandt, Madison Chenoweth, Morgan DiCesare, Jadeyn Dickel, Caden Domin, Noah Galloway, Gabriel Gargas, Gavin Gede, Gavin Gifford, Liberty Gonia, Aiden Harker, Teah Hildebrandt, Matthew Huston, Randi Johanssen,

Shauna Kalassay, Peyton Linn, Abraham Mastellone, Michael Ranney, Mason Stanley, Mitchell Sweinhagen, and Gabrielle Zadorozny.

The next degree you can earn as a member is the State Degree. Only about 2.5% of all FFA members will earn this degree. The members from Firelands that earned the degree are Donald Crawford, Steven Jessel, Kelsey Hardwick, Katelyn Konicek, Chance Coultrip, and Kaleb Carver.

The highest degree a member can earn is the American Degree. To earn this you must be a high school graduate, no more than 21 years old. Members must have earned \$10,000 in SAE projects and have invested \$7,500 productively. Members must have at least 50 hours of community service along with other requirements. Only about 0.5% of FFA members will earn this degree. Sean Miller, Zach Born, and Morgan Nance have submitted applications which are being evaluated at the national level. Degrees will be awarded at the National Convention in October in Indianapolis.

The Scholarship Award is for students who have gotten A's for the last 3 quarters. The members that have maintained straight A's in class are Seniors Kaleb Carver, Chance Coultrip, Luke Dempsey, Taylor Kenska, and Nate Kraus; Juniors Kelsey Hardwick; Sophomores Madison Chenoweth, Morgan DiCesare, Teah Hildebrandt, Noah Galloway, Randi Johansson, and Michael Ranney; and Freshmen Adrianna Buchanan, Madeline Byrd, Maria DiCesare, Holden Harker, MJ McCann, Nina Sauer, and Lauren Valerius.

Proficiency Awards are given to the members with

strongest Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) Programs. To be considered, a member must fill out the National Proficiency Award Application and meet national minimum standards for applying. The winners at the banquet were as follows.

Ag Mechanics Placement- Zach Born. He placed 2nd in the district. Beef Production Placement- Zach Born. He placed 1st in the district. Fiber & Oil Crop Placement- Zach Born. He placed 2nd in state. Diversified Crop Production Placement: Zach Born. He placed 2nd in the district.

Equine Management Placement: Katelyn Konicek. She placed 3rd in the state. Landscape Management Placement: Keith Cornwell. He placed 1st in the district. Outdoor Recreation Placement: 1st Kaleb Carver and 2nd Steven Jessel. Kaleb places 2nd and Steven placed 3rd in the district.

Grain Crop Production Placement: Zach Born. He placed 3rd in state. Diversified Ag Production Placement: Zach Born. He was 3rd in state. Forage Crop Placement: Zach Born. He placed 1st in the district. Community Service: Keith Cornwell.

The chapter has had great success in CDEs (Career Development Events) which helps ready the young adults in certain areas of agriculture and career planning. The top competitors in each CDE received pins and recognition at the banquet. The chapter did not get to compete at district or state animal CDEs so those that did well on state online tests and invitationals were recognized instead.

Forestry (3rd in district team): Luke Dempsey (4th overall in district), Aiden Harker, Kaleb Carver, Katelyn Konicek. Rural

Soils: Chance Coultrip, Noah Galloway Josh Scheeres, Owen Davis. Urban Soils (3rd in district team): Kaleb Carver (1st in the district), Maria DiCesare (7th in the district), Steven Jessel, Holden Harker.

Tractor Troubleshooting (5th in district): Aiden Harker and Chance Coultrip. Ag Mechanics Skills (1st place in district team): Aiden Harker (1st in district), Donald Crawford (2nd in District), Chance Coultrip (4th in the district).

General Livestock Judging: Noah Galloway, Keith Cornwell, Aiden Harker and Krystal Scheeres. Equine Management: Maddy Witter (1st overall at district 1 Invitational), Kelsey Hardwick, Katelyn Konicek, Maria DiCesare. Equine State test: Maddy Witter, Kelsey Hardwick, Maddy Chenoweth, Maria DiCesare.

Wildlife Management: Kaleb Carver (2nd in district), Luke Dempsey, Gavin Nance, Mark Papp. State Greenhand Test (2nd in district), Maddie Byrd, Holden Harker, Caleb Ross and Adrianna Buchanan. National Stay at Home Quiz (2nd in state as a team): Kaleb Carver, Maddie Byrd, Steven Jessel and Stella Baxter.

National State at Home Teacher Quiz (2nd in state teacher team): Mrs Finnegan (1st in state individual) and Ms Evans. Parliamentary Procedure CDE Novice Team A: President Grace Stanley, Vice President Madisyn Jessel, Secretary Gracyn Gifford, Treasurer Joel Polen, Reporter Garret Yakunovich, Sentinel Rylan Votruba, Student Advisor Grace Groot. Novice Team B: President Holden Harker, Vice President Maria DiCesare, Secretary Gavin Nance, Treasurer Zoe Gifford, Reporter Nina Sauer, Sentinel Matthew Schnell, Student



# THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

Advisor Owen Davis.

Senior Team - President Donald Crawford, Secretary Logan Galloway, Members Kaleb Carver, Steven Jessel, Mitchell Sweinhagen, Noah Galloway, Morgan DiCesare and Olivia Galloway. Beginning Prepared Public Speaking Michael Ranney (7th in state semi-finals, 1st in sub-district, 1st in district). Extemporaneous Speaking Kaleb Carver (3rd in sub-district).

Good job to all the students who have done well in CDE's this year!

The Firelands FFA holds three fundraisers a year. The one we get the most success on is our fruit sale fundraisers. These three students have gone over everyone else and sold the most fruit. In first place is Taylor Kenska with a total of \$1990 in sales. In second place is Michael Ranney with a total of \$1084. In third place is Keith Cornwell with the total of \$1076.

At the Lorain County Fair these members go above and above all others by bringing a shop, crop and animal projects to the fair. This Supreme FFA Exhibitor Award recognizes those with the most premiums earned among members exhibiting shop, crop, and animal projects. Second runner up is Aiden Harker, first runner up is Taylor Kenska, and Supreme Exhibitor is Teah Hildebrandt.

The Lorain County Junior Fair is governed, planned, and run by youth members. The Firelands FFA is glad to have several members that serve on the Lorain County Junior Fair Board. These members are Keith Cornwell (Exec Member), Steven Jessel (Exec Member), Katelyn Konicek (Exec Member), Madison Chenoweth, Bridget Rutkowski, Josh Scheeres, Krystal Scheeres, Gabby Zadorzny and Matthew Schnell

(assistant).

These seniors were recognized for their four years of membership and their future plans were announced. Good luck to - Kaleb Carver, Keith Cornwell, Chance Coultrip, Luke Dempsey, Jordyn Domin, Taylor Kenska, Nate Kraus, Tad Miller, Jacob Schmitz, Adalbert Tenorio.

Thank you to our FFA Adviser Shanna Finnegan for all the hard work you do to help us thrive as a chapter. Also a huge thanks to our Student Teacher Ms. Haley Evans (The Ohio State University). The school that hires Ms Evans will be lucky to have her! Congratulations to the Firelands FFA for another successful year. Let's do our best to stay positive through Covid-19. Please keep an eye out for the unique ideas the Firelands FFA members have to keep practicing leadership, personal growth, and career success even if it has to be done virtually!

*Respectfully Submitted by  
FFA Reporter Morgan DiCesare.*

## FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

September 1st

for Grades 1 through 12

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The next Board of Education meeting will be held on

July 13, 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.



# THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

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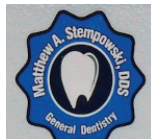
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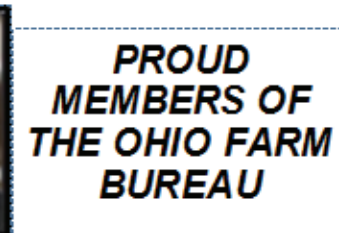
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