



The Firelands Express



Volume 14, Issue 120

March 2024

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.

New Career Technical Education: Coming to FLSD!

Laser cutters are expensive. A 3D state of the art laser cutter was out of the reach for FLSD Computer Science teacher Mr. Chuck Latto. He knew that students would benefit from learning about this type of technology, so he searched for grant funding. Through his research, he found that funding was a possibility through Ohio's Career Technical Education Equipment Grant. This grant addresses hands-on learning for some of the most in demand jobs in Ohio.

Large grants were also available, so Mr. Latto teamed up with Mrs. Lori Roemer, Director of Educational Services at FLSD, to create a grant proposal that would initially benefit all 420 students at Firelands Middle School. The two focused on providing access to specialized training, preparing students for the workforce, career exploration, promoting college readiness, and personalized learning. The course will also expand to freshmen through the Industry 4.0 Fundamentals program. High school students will have opportunities to earn The Industry-Recognized Credential Seal and SACA certification. The total ask for their proposed grant was \$487,829.44.

Their grant proposal, combined with support from the community and local employers, would provide advanced skills and possible SACA certification options for students upon graduation. The skills would support graduates entering the workforce or higher education by preparing them for some of the highest projected growth industries in Ohio.

Firelands is one of 56 schools selected from a pool of 174 for this ground breaking initiative! The grant funding, announced by Governor Mike DeWine, "will give young people the abilities and tools to meet the needs of incoming Ohio businesses. Students across the state of Ohio will be better equipped to secure well paying jobs, possibly even before they leave high school." **During the announcement, it was shared that the FLSD CTE Grant Proposal was fully funded in the amount of \$487,829.44!**

Mr. Latto, FLSD 6-12 Computer Science Teacher stated, "Bringing Industry 4.0 and Advanced Manufacturing training to Firelands School District is a thrilling opportunity to help prepare our students for the future. Manufacturing technology is evolving at an exponential pace, and it is important to provide our students with experiences that will prepare them for high-demand careers that involve key areas such as Cyber-Physical Systems, Internet of Things, Cloud Computing, and AI. It is exciting to be able to introduce these topics in middle school,

while providing additional opportunities for high school students to earn industry recognized micro-credentials through SACA."

Firelands will be supported by Amatrol and Buckeye Educational Systems. Amatrol is the global leader in CTE courses with their training solutions being used in all 50 states and over 50 countries. Their work-based curriculum (a combination of classroom, online and hands-on learning) will provide technical depth to learn and understand the industry needs and requirements. Over \$450,000 worth of machinery, software, classroom supplies, curriculum and instructional materials will soon arrive at the FLSD campus to support learning in the areas of construction technology, health and biomedical, Information technology, manufacturing, logistics and supply chain, transportation technology and agriculture. In addition, all curriculum, materials and licensing is

continued on page 2



Mr. Chuck Latto, Lt. Gov. Jon Husted, Gov. Mike DeWine and Mrs. Lori Roemer

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION BEGAN MARCH 1ST - SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

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THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

Six FHS Students to Exhibit Art at UH Elyria

Career Tech, from page 1 included with the grant funding. Buckeye Educational Systems will support the curriculum and work in partnership with Amatrol and Firelands Local Schools in order to maximize the potential of growth within our students.

Lori Roemer said, “expanding courses for our students in the field of industry and advanced manufacturing will empower them. This new course is not just an opportunity, but a promise of their limitless potential. With this grant we pave the way for their academic journey for many possibilities while igniting passions that will shape their future.”

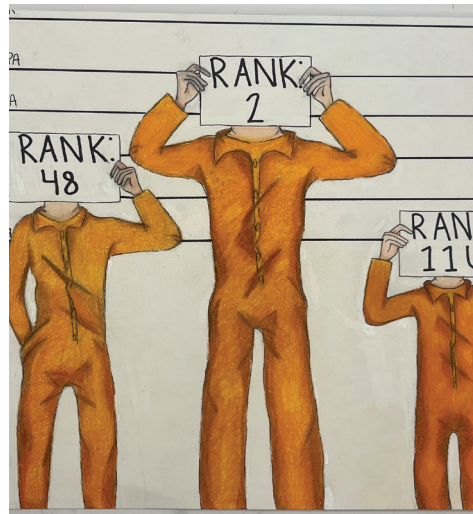
This turnkey grant supports the required professional development for Mr. Latto. It also funds the work-based curriculum (a combination of classroom, online and hands-on learning) to provide technical depth to learn and understand the industry needs and requirements. The new machinery, software, classroom supplies, and materials will soon arrive to support Industry 4.0 and Advanced Manufacturing training for Firelands students! The 3D laser cutter is on order!

*submitted by Mrs. Jennifer Butchko
Public Relations*

Firelands Hall of Fame Induction April 14th

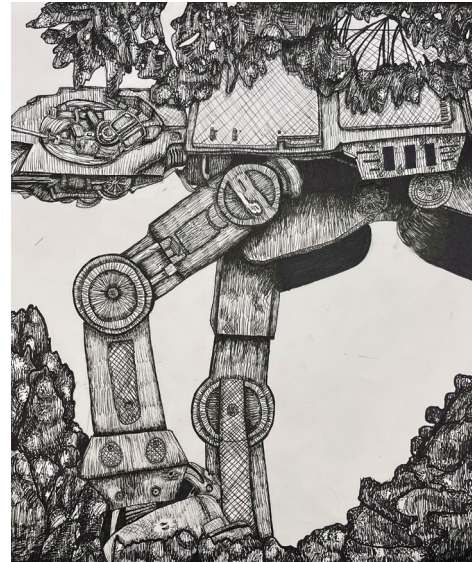
The Firelands Hall of Fame will hold it's induction ceremony on April 14th at 1pm. The public is invited to attend. Tickets are available from any FHOF member or you can purchase tickets from Mrs. Keener. They are \$25. Additional FHOF information can be found on their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/874851560729638>

Art can be healing and the UH Elyria Medical Center is once again providing space to continue the Lorain County Region Scholastic Art Exhibition. Fewer than 100 two-dimensional works were selected from the show of 500 to be displayed through April 1st. Among them are 7 works from 6 FHS. Senior Olivia Bonomolo



Lineup by Olivia Bonomolo

has 2 drawings “Reminders” and “Lineup” and Madilyn Weller has the drawing “eRrOr” selected. Junior Brielle Gunter is represented by her photo “Flowers” and Maddie Holland by a drawing “Galaxy’s Edge”. Sophomore Mya Lopez continues with her charcoal drawing of “Snickers” and Freshman Brigid



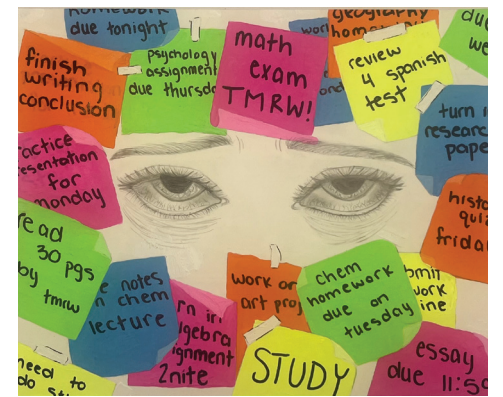
Galaxy's Edge by Maddie Holland

Zeise shares her drawing “The Goddess of the Sea”. The hospital has the works installed in the first floor corridor around the cafeteria and radiology.

*submitted by Mrs. Laura Tawil
FHS Art Teacher*



eRrOr by Madilyn Weller



Reminders by Olivia Bonomolo



The Goddess of the Sea by Brigid Zeise



Flowers by Brielle Gunter



Snickers by Mya Lopez



**Congratulations
to the 8th Grade
Boys Basketball
team for winning
the LC8 Basketball
Championship!**

#FalconPride

Additional Grant News

Mrs. Dempsey, FES Gifted Specialist, was the recipient of two grants that will impact all students at Firelands Elementary School. First, the Firelands Endowment Trustees awarded \$4,320.00. The second grant is from the Martha Holden-Jennings Foundation and is also for \$4,320.00.

Working with the Cleveland Center for Arts-Inspired Learning, students in kindergarten through 5th grade will have the opportunity to enjoy targeted programming that highlights the arts into specific grade level standards and/or required social emotional learning.

Mrs. Hoban, FHS Intervention Specialist, was the recipient of a Firelands Endowment Grant (\$1,691.00) and the People Fund Grant through Lorain-Medina Rural Electric (\$5,000). These grants will impact 50 students at FHS! Mrs. Hoban runs the Transitions Class, which supports students as they learn about life and job skills. The money will support Firelands Outfitters which is a hands-on student business.

Mrs. Hoban stated, "Due to grant funding, students will be able to continue creating spirit items and a percentage of the sales permits the students to engage in meaningful field trips. Our

Register for Kindergarten Now

Fall 2024 kindergarten registration began March 1st for district residents. Children must be 5 years old by August 1st. Families should prepare to upload or drop off the following documents: parent or guardian I.D. cards; student birth certificate; up to date immunization records; and two proof of residency documents (see list on website). Other documents may be needed including custody papers, special needs or gifted documentation, or residency affidavits.

students will have the opportunity to engage with students from outside of the district that have created similar businesses. Together, they will learn from each other and further develop their business skills."

The Firelands Local School District was notified that grant funding for specific, extremely important safety projects, were recently approved! Funding has been received from the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation, the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission and the Ohio Attorney General.

With this grant funding, window security will be improved. Lockdown devices will be installed to help barricade doors to classrooms and meeting rooms. Grants will also provide enhanced security through our network security devices, indoor/outdoor cameras, and iPhone replacement projects (including phone buzzer audio video systems.) In addition to the \$38,000 received for the Centegix wearable security devices, FLSD received \$162,805 through this new funding. Combined, the district has sought and received over \$200,000.00 in safety grants!

For more details about these grants, please see [The Firelands Blog on our website](#).

To begin, please visit www.firelandsschools.org and click on ENROLL. Registration is completed online through our Final Forms platform. Parents and guardians create their parent account (or log into their current account) and then add the student for 2024-2025. A series of forms are included and there is space for documents to be uploaded. The Board Office will be available by phone or appointments can be scheduled if needed. Please call 440-965-5821 for help.

National Honor Society Makes Literacy Bags for Head Start



Members of the Firelands High School chapter of the National Honor Society have spent the past few weeks collecting supplies for literacy bags for students in Head Start preschool. NHS members were able to collect seven books, containers of Play Doh, pencils, erasers and pencil sharpeners for each student in the Head Start program to take home and enjoy. Not only did our NHS students have fun collecting, organizing

and distributing the literacy kits, but our preschoolers will be able to practice their literacy skills at home with some great books!

Ms. Pam Caruso, the site administrator for Head Start said that they are grateful to the students and excited for future opportunities to work with them!

*Submitted by
Ms. Pam Caruso, Head Start
& Ms. Megan Notarberardino
FHS Teacher*

Knoble & Born Show Art at CWRU for Regional Exhibition

March is National Youth Art Month. The Ohio Art Education Association holds a statewide K-8 exhibition and regional K-12 exhibitions throughout Ohio. Firelands entered a pair of works to the regional exhibition at Case Western Reserve University. An

opening reception was held on Sun. Mar. 10. Freshmen Bailey Knoble's oil pastel drawing of their goat "Birch" and Hope Born's oil pastel drawing of a dog were exhibited this year.

*submitted by Mrs. Laura Tawil
FHS Art Teacher*



Firelands Middle School News & Information

The 8th grade boys won the LC8 Basketball Championship! They had a fantastic season. We are so proud of our Falcons!!

We are also very proud of Mr. Chuck Latto and the nearly half million-dollar award for the Career Technical Educational Equipment Grant (article on page 1). We are excited to see what this brings for FMS as well as FHS.

Our 30th annual 8th grade musical "The Little Mermaid" will be held on March 26th and 27th. **Tickets are still available!** There will again be a special showing for Golden Falcons on March 26th at 12:30. Email Mrs. Wendy Johnson at wjohnson@firelandsschools.org.

Our new Intervention groups are moving along with updated

materials and working toward the next benchmarks where we are hoping to see additional growth.

We have a Glow Dance coming up on March 22nd. Family Bingo night will be held in May.

8th grade information night was held during conferences, and the feedback was positive. Students in the 8th grade began scheduling for high school.

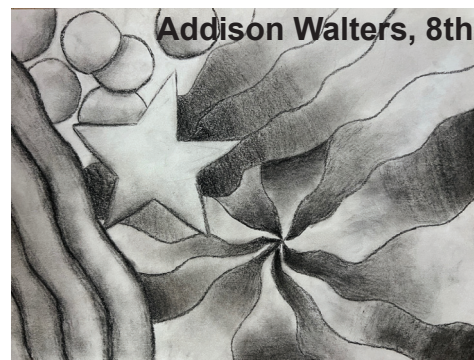
Spring sports are starting! The track team is practicing daily and their meets will be coming up. We are looking forward to all the things that Spring brings, like beautification projects, spring scheduling, class trips, and 8th grade bridging.

*submitted by Mrs. Cara M. Hutchinson
FMS Principal*

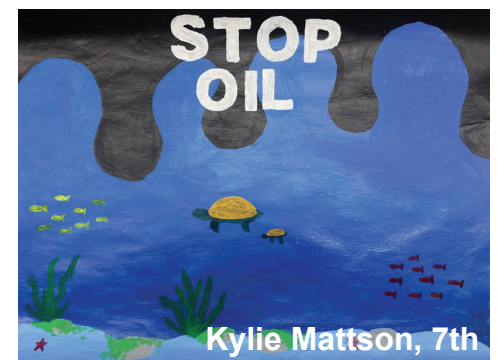
Here's Some Amazing Artwork



Morgan Grote, 6th



Addison Walters, 8th



Kylie Mattson, 7th

Food Service Updates and Announcements

The FES Food Service Staff used their creativity for the Leap Day lunch on February 29th and offered a frog friendly menu. Students enjoyed Frog Dippers (teriyaki dippers w/rice), or Lily Pad (PB&J), Seaweed Greens (beans), Swamp Logs (celery and peanut butter), Frog Eggs (grapes) and Pond Jello. Swamp Logs and Pond Jello are pictured below!

Instructional School Fees:

If your children qualify for free meals, instructional school fees are not automatically waived. It is your responsibility to return the proper paperwork. If you notice the school fees are still owed, it is likely due to one of the following.

1) Direct Certified Students. The form that was mailed at the time of approval hasn't been signed and returned to Judy Baumann.

2) Online Portal. When applying through the online portal, the "Fee Waiver" box didn't get checked.



3) In 2021-2022 we had Universal Free Meals. A meal application was still needed to determine if school fees should have been waived. This was publicized numerous times to make everyone aware. Because all students were free, the Meal Application and Direct Certification was needed to determine who qualified for fee waivers.

Senior Meal Accounts: With the year end fast approaching, read this valuable information. During the last week of school if a senior has \$5.00 or less remaining on their account, the cashier can refund the money ONLY if the cashier has money in their drawer.

Look for a Google survey around May, for student account

transfer, refund, or donation request. This form will allow you to choose to transfer to a sibling or another student, request a refund or you can choose to add it to a donation account to be used to help other students in need. Once seniors are gone, if I don't receive a request I automatically check to see if there is a sibling and transfer to their account. IF NOT, I add the money to the donation account.

FMS/FHS Cafeteria: The staff have been hard at work providing some new options for students. Our Pizzeria is still featuring our signature homemade pizza on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Through March we have Warm



Up Wednesday and provide homemade baked potato cheddar soup on our Deli line. Our Garden Fresh line is changing up some specialty salads and will feature a Big Mac salad on Tuesdays. Our Grille line is popular with our students, allowing them to get a variety of burgers each Tuesday. The Main line features many bowl concepts, walking tacos, homemade macaroni and cheese and delicious cherry blossom chicken.

ALL students are welcome at any line regardless of their meal status. A reimbursable meal can be bundled at each station. If you find your child spending a lot of money, it may be due to them not getting the required serving of fruit or vegetables therefore they must pay ala cart prices.

Questions: Contact Judy Baumann, Food Service Director jbaumann@firelandsschools.org or 440-965-4255 ext. 3097

Firelands FFA Develops Skilled, Career-Ready Leaders

Proficiency Awards

The Firelands FFA proudly announces the result of Ohio FFA Evaluation of Agricultural Proficiency Awards, a celebration of skill development among its members. Across the nation, FFA members are invited to showcase their expertise in nearly 50 diverse areas, spanning from agricultural communications to wildlife management.

These awards not only acknowledge proficiency at a national level but also extend recognition at local and state tiers, underscoring the commitment of FFA members to explore and establish themselves in various agricultural career pathways.

The Agricultural Proficiency Awards represent a culmination of dedication, perseverance, and passion within the FFA community. Among the outstanding achievements of Firelands FFA members:

Callie Finnegan, top 4 in Ohio for Equine Entrepreneurship, for her exceptional skills in training horses and providing lessons to youth riders.

Ava Fontaine, also top 4 in Ohio in Equine Placement, for her outstanding work at a horse farm, where she handles horses, maintains cleanliness, and administers Bemer treatments.

Jolee Wissinger, top 4 in Ohio in Forestry Products Placement, for her exemplary job working

with Christmas trees and their products.

Garrett Schlechter, top 4 in Ohio in Diversified Crop Placement, for his outstanding placements in forage, straw, pumpkin, and gourd production.

Kyleigh Klingshirn, achieving top 4 in Ohio in Accounting, for her comprehensive project analyzing record-keeping practices.

All five Firelands FFA members will undergo interviews for final placement in late March and will grace the stage at the Ohio FFA Convention in May, showcasing the excellence and dedication of FFA members in Ohio.

For more information about the Agricultural Proficiency Awards and other FFA programs, please visit ohioffa.org.

Leadership Conference

For the second year in a row, Firelands hosted a FFA National Leadership Conference at FHS on February 29th. Students from multiple school districts (Ehove, Firelands, Keystone, Lakota, Margaretta, Northmor, South Central, Vermilion, and Willard) all participated. Students were led by former FFA state officers from Oklahoma and Oregon.

The conference focused on the student's ability to understand their strengths, inspirations, innovations and vision in order to become better leaders. The

National FFA Organization states, "This FFA Leadership conference will help students to be confident and capable leaders, both in their chapters and beyond."

Without the construction of new high school, the ability to host such an event would not be possible. The FFA program is led by Agricultural Educators, Mrs. Shanna Finnegan, Mrs. Shelby McCarty, and student teacher Anna Shearer.

CDE Winners on the Way to Nationals!

Firelands FFA proudly celebrates a remarkable victory at the Ohio Farm and Agribusiness Management Career Development Event (CDE), securing first place in the state and earning the opportunity to represent Ohio at the national contest in October of 2024.

This achievement underscores the dedication and expertise of Firelands FFA members in mastering business skills and applying economic principles to agricultural enterprises.

The Farm and Agribusiness Management CDE provides students with a platform to enhance their understanding of business operations within the agricultural sector. FFA members tested on business knowledge as well as practical application of farm business management

practices.

Students gain valuable insights into various farm and agribusiness practices, including business structure, succession planning, cost concepts, and risk management. Firelands FFA's exceptional performance highlights their comprehensive understanding of these concepts and their ability to apply them effectively in real-world scenarios.

Individually, Firelands FFA members demonstrated outstanding prowess, with Garrett Schlechter clinching the top spot in the state. Jocelyn Bednar secured fifth place, Kyleigh Klingshirn claimed ninth, and Grace Tansey ranked nineteenth out of 1041 total Ohio FFA members, showcasing the depth of talent within the chapter. Thirty-three Firelands FFA members took the test, the top four scores make up the team score.

As Firelands FFA prepares to represent Ohio on the national stage, the chapter extends its gratitude to all supporters and wishes the team the best of luck in the upcoming competition. Their dedication and determination serve as inspirations to aspiring agricultural leaders nationwide.

The advisors of Firelands FFA are Shanna Finnegan & Shelby McCarty.

*submitted by Shanna Finnegan
Agricultural Educator/FFA Advisor*

For more information about the Agricultural Proficiency Awards and other FFA programs, please visit ohioffa.org.



Callie Finnegan



Ava Fontaine



Jolee Wissinger



Kylie Klingshirn



Garrett Schlechter

Firelands Elementary School News & Information



Fifth Grade Clubs

Mr. Braddock, Mr. Popik, and Mrs. Hozalski shared their love of board games with 12 fifth graders after school. Students were introduced to some new games while also playing some of their favorites. They learned how to develop strategies to win and how to work together as a team. It was a fun time for all involved. (Pictured above.)

Mrs. Fleet, FES art teacher, and Mr. Braddock, FES math teacher, have been seeing some wonderful creations come out of the students at the fifth-grade art club. Fourteen students have been staying after school on Mondays to complete a different project each week. Students have enjoyed having a longer amount of time to complete their artwork. The picture shown is of a graffiti name on a brick wall.



Falcons on the Fly

FES has continued our tradition of students running or walking laps during recess that equate to a marathon. All students are encouraged to complete at least one lap per day. At the completion of the marathon, they are awarded a t-shirt to recognize their accomplishments. Multiple students will continue to log laps after reaching the marathon status. We currently have 277 students in the building that have earned a 10K, 244 have earned a ½ marathon and 97 have completed their first marathon. Our second graders have demonstrated their love for running and walking! 37 have earned their first marathon and 11 have earned their 2nd. Six second graders have also earned 3rd and 4th marathons. We are so proud of their accomplishments and commitment.



**Fly
Falcons,
Fly!**

Junior TLC at FES

The Junior TLC (Teen Leadership Corps) recently organized a clothing drive. The clothing donations have been bagged and donated to local Firelands families in need. Ashley Blair, FES social worker, has aided in this process. Our leftover donations have been given to the Salvation Army. Our high school TLC students have consistently been working with our Junior TLC members and teaching valuable leadership skills. We enjoy seeing the benefits of this wonderful partnership!

Junior Achievement Returns

Thanks to a group of dedicated volunteers, the students at FES are being taught about financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and the importance of community during 5 visits sponsored by Junior Achievement. This is a wonderful program that the students really enjoy. Volunteer Coordinator, Nancy Mitchell is so grateful for everyone who is willing to come in and give up their valuable time to present this opportunity to our students.



FES PTG

Firelands Elementary is very lucky to have an active PTG (Parent Teacher Group). Parents of FES students are encouraged to become involved with this group. They meet monthly and find ways to further enrich the FES environment for all our students. They are actively planning events for the students. Feel free to reach out to them to see how you

can assist. You can find them on Facebook (Firelands Elementary School PTG). Their scheduled meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 in the FES Library or via zoom.

Upcoming Dates

March 28, Bundt Cake Pick-Up
March 29 to April 8,
Spring Break - No School
April 10, PTG Meeting at 7:00 pm
April 15, BOE Meeting at 5:30 pm
April 20, My VIP and Me Glow
Crazy Dances (Boys 4:30-6pm;
Girls 6:30-8 pm)
April 27, Fine Arts Festival at FHS

*submitted by Mrs. Laura Groboske
FES Assistant Principal*



Youth Football Camp in April

Spring Football Camp is back for our Youth Program! This camp is open to all Kindergarten to 6th grade athletes. The camp will be held on three Tuesdays: April 16th, April 23rd, and April 30th. It will meet from 7:30-9:00 pm at Gameday Sports Center in Oberlin. Registration can be done online by scanning this QR code. Participation fee is \$50 cash or check, paid the first day of camp. Sponsored by Firelands Athletic Boosters.



THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

Fine Arts Fest Set for April 27

The greatest way Firelands celebrates student art is at the annual district Fine Arts Festival. Please join us on Saturday, April 27 from noon-4 at FHS. This K-12 event has been going on since the mid-1990s. This free community event includes an art market, art-making opportunities, a digital alumni art exhibition, K-12 art awards, and entertainment and food trucks.

The cafeteria will be the hub of the festival with the exhibition, market and art-making events. There will be hundreds of K-12 art on display in addition to student vendors selling jewelry, stickers, drawings and more. There will

also be free make-it-take-it button-making, card crafts and more. Guitar entertainment from Kevin Hobson will be in the gallery and FHS vocal ensembles will perform on stage. The Alumni Art Exhibition will be on the digital displays.

Art awards will be held in the auditorium in two parts: grades K-5 from 1-2:00 pm, and grades 6-12 from 2:30-3:30 pm.

Food trucks from "Mellow Yellow" Pizzeria in Norwalk and "Trailer Perk Mobile" from alumni Savannah Klingman will be on site.

Contact FAF Coordinator Mrs. Laura Tawil for more information ltawil@firelandsschools.org

Call for Alumni Art Deadline April 12

The Firelands Fine Arts Festival returns to FHS on April 27. Hundreds of K-12 works will be installed in the cafeteria and we want YOUR work to inspire these students in our 2nd annual Alumni Art Exhibition. We'd love to have every decade and *both* high schools represented! As of this writing we have 1970, 2006, 2007 and 2019 from FHS represented.

Submit up to 3 high quality digital photos of visual works of art that you have made *since* graduating from FHS or SAHS. Works must be original to you. Share work that demonstrates how you've expanded on your art education from Firelands or South Amherst, how art plays a part of your adult life or your works that may inspire young Falcons to excel.

Two-dimensional works including digital photography and still digital graphics as well as views of 3-dimensional works can be submitted. Although you may enter up to 3 works, not all entries may be accommodated.

Animation, film, video and any digital-motion graphics can not be accommodated at this time. This is a family-friendly and inclusive event so please exercise judgment with what you submit for consideration.

Submission for entries closes April 12, 2024 at 6:00 pm. The digital exhibition/slideshow will open Saturday, April 27th from noon-4 pm at the Fine Arts Festival.

The compilation slideshow will be shared with all entrants. Use this form to submit your works. <https://forms.gle/GvcvviFFDZbrHvKW7>

Please share this form with your Firelands and South Amherst alumni social network. We'd love to have every decade represented!

Contact Laura (Ursem) Tawil, FAF Coordinator and FHS Art Teacher for information ltawil@firelandsschools.org

Congressional Art Exhibition



For 41 years the US Congress has been hosting a high school art exhibition within each Congressional District to select the top student works to hang in the Capitol for one year. Two runners-up are selected to hang in the Congressperson's local and federal offices for the year as well. Firelands is represented by two Congressional districts: the 5th with Rep. Robert Latta and the 9th with Rep. Marcy Kaptur. The 9th district exhibition is currently up and running at the Toledo Museum of Art in the Community Gallery with works by three FHS students. Freshman Harmony Horn's "Grey Man" drawing, junior Telaysia Kraus' "My Red Kerchief"

mixed media and senior Jocelyn Bednar's watercolor "Pretty Pears" join works from 15 high schools in 8 counties through March 31. There was an awards program and reception for the artists and families on Sunday March 10 where Congresswoman Kaptur spoke and students were recognized. Five jurors selected the top three Congressional awards and the 16 sponsored awards. FHS art students who live in the 5th Congressional district (Lorain County), have their work due (framed) by April 19th. Stay tuned for results from that exhibition.

submitted by Mrs. Laura Tawil
FHS Art Teacher

SAVE THE DATE

APRIL 8, 2024

ECLIPSE VIEWING PARTY!

10am til 6pm

Entertainment by **LINDA HOWELL**
11am - 1pm
Leota Bettcher Hall
15018 South St.
Wakeman, OH 44889

FREE!
1000 Pairs of
Viewing Glasses

Activities
FOOD TRUCKS
TELESCOPE
KID FRIENDLY

Call Debby: 440-320-6841 for more information

Firelands High School News and Information

Student Council is again bringing the fun! On February 17th, they hosted our Winter Formal dance. Attendance was high and students had a great time getting dressed up and dancing.

Student Services hosted a CCP parent night as well as a Financial Aid presentation on the night of our parent/teacher conferences. The feedback was overall very positive. They appreciated the information that was shared and indicated that it was very helpful.

We completed our annual SAT test on March 6th with all juniors. This was an entirely new format for the SAT as it was completely digital. Students used an app called Bluebook to complete testing, which made the

entire process very smooth. Our technology worked perfectly and the overall feedback was positive.

I am excited to announce that FHS, in conjunction with the Lorain County Sheriff's Department, is presenting a Mock Crash for students on May 2nd. We will have a scenario staged shortly after arrival and students will be able to witness the event with a follow up presentation in the competition gym.

Juniors and seniors leave for Washington, DC at the end of the month. We have 79 students, 8 staff members, and a few additional parent chaperones scheduled to go. Stops include the Capitol Building, Ford Theatre, the National Mall, the Smithsonian, a moonlight dinner cruise, Arlington

Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Women's Memorial, and the Kennedy gravesites.

On March 12th, the Firelands chapter of the National Honor Society gathered with families and faculty to induct 29 members of the Class of 2025 into the organization. 29 juniors selected by the faculty encapsulate the four tenets of NHS: scholarship, leadership, service, and character. Additionally, 46 senior members of the chapter were recognized for their service projects and received their NHS medallion which will be worn at graduation.

This year, FHS alumnus, Dr. Daniel Truitt, '14 was our guest speaker. Dr. Truitt, who will be starting a private family practice in

the Sandusky area this summer, talked to our students about the power of overcoming adversity and finding one's passion.

NHS would like to thank Friends of Firelands who graciously donated our new stoles, Mrs. Johnson who let us borrow the choir robes, and Mr. Wiley who helped with sound and lighting. I am pleased with the work that our current members have done so far this year, including the literacy collaboration with Head Start preschool (see article on page 3.)

Finally, I'd like to congratulate our cheerleading team who placed 5th in their division at the OASSA State Cheer Championships! We are very proud of you!

*submitted by Ms. Cathy Keener
FHS Principal*

National Honor Society Induction Ceremony



Newly inducted members:

Noah Angle
Christina Ardiner
Andrew Bartish
Connor Bass
Sarah Blankenship
Aiden Bokulich
Ryleigh Born
Caitlyn Buchanan
Andrea Eberhardt
Kendal Fleming
Nina Hoffman
Madelynn Holland
Olivia Howells
Ruth Howells
Kaden Kirby
Kyleigh Klingshirn
Telaysia Kraus
Ethan Meszaros
Claire Ohle
Brody Parrish
Aubrynn Reichle
Lydia Schlechter
Liliana Schmittle
Collin Scott
Ella Skvor
Mia Streby
Asher Widener
Emmarose Woods
Elijah Zidar



Annual Pancake Breakfast & Craft Show, April 14

The Firelands Band Boosters invite you to their annual pancake breakfast and craft show on Sunday, April 14th from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

It will be held at Firelands High School on 10521 Vermilion Road in Oberlin.

There is no cost, but donations are accepted for breakfast. Entry to the craft show is free.

There will be over 30 vendors. A 50/50 raffle will also be held.

All proceeds will go to the Mighty Falcon Marching Band.



Pet Adoption Awareness Service Project at JVS

Early Childhood Education Students with Multiple Breed Rescue

Students in the Early Childhood Education program at Lorain County JVS have been on an exciting mission lately, and it's all about our furry friends! Teaming up with Multiple Breed Rescue for their FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America) community service project, these budding educators have been spreading love for pets and teaching the importance of pet adoption to their preschool students.

Their initiatives have been nothing short of awesome. Organizing a variety of engaging activities, from pet boutique fundraisers to a 'pet week at preschool,' they've been instilling the joys of pet companionship in the LCJVS preschool and beyond.

The highlight of their efforts was a spectacular pet show where parents and guardians of the preschoolers could showcase their family pets or their child's beloved stuffed animals. The entry fee to participate was a bag of pet food, going directly to support the cause.

Their dedication paid off with over 30 bags of pet food collected and \$250 in donations. These

students have made a tangible difference in the lives of rescue animals.

Congratulations to these compassionate young minds for their hard work and commitment to making the world a better place for our four-legged friends!

*submitted by Ms. Cheryl Fridenstine
LCJVS PR/Marketing Coordinator*

Alayna Gray (5) and her mom, Nichole Gray, proudly pose with their adorable puppy, winner of the Best Dressed Pet award at the LCJVS Preschool Pet Show.



Homeless Humanity Project Started by Emmarose Woods



With a deep desire to help and determination to follow through, Firelands junior Emmarose Woods started the Homeless Humanity Project. The goal is to be able to hand out care bags to people in need. Each care bag will include items such as toiletries, socks, and gift cards. She also plans to include a list of resources and pocket Bibles or inspirational messages.

"People can keep them in the back of their cars," she said. "Then, whenever we see people on the side of the road, we can give them these bags, and hopefully, help them in some way."

Using GoFundMe, she hopes to raise funds to support her project. She is getting support and advice from her community and is also working on applying for nonprofit status. She hopes to see the

project grow so that more and more people can be helped.

Recently Emmarose was featured in the Morning Journal and she said the project aligns with her plans to be a pastor. "I feel like my calling from God is to just love on people and to help those who need it," she said. "My family is always giving and reaching out to people in need. I grew up in that, so it's just in my heart."

Emmarose's parents, Julene and Brett Woods, own the Woods Family Farm in Vermilion. They are extremely proud of Emmarose for recognizing that she is being called to serve people. When asked about it, Julene said, "She wants to help make this world a better place. In today's society, so many people like to complain on social media about the world's problems, but they never take the steps to change anything. We have raised our kids to understand that growth and improvement is an important part of being a successful member of society. Tiny gestures can make a huge impact!"

To learn more or to donate, visit [The Homeless Humanity Project page on Facebook](#).

Zoe Klingshirn Wins Finalist Spot in Stop the Hate Contest

The Maltz Museum is proud to announce the 2024 Stop the Hate® Youth Speak Out and Youth Sing Out Awards finalists.

Firelands is proud to share that 9th grader Zoe Klingshirn has been named a finalist!

This is the second year in a row Firelands has had a finalist. Winners will be named on Wednesday, April 3, at an awards ceremony to be held at the Cleveland Museum of Art. The community is invited to attend this free event. Seating is limited and advanced registration is required.

Register at www.maltzmuseum.org/sth24.

Over 4,100 students at more than 100 Northeast Ohio schools participated in the Stop the Hate contest and workshops this year, writing individual essays, poetry, or group songs for a chance to win prizes for themselves and their schools. To say the entries are inspirational understates their power. The voices of these young students shine a light on hate and intolerance—yet guide the way to a more accepting and inclusive society.

Through the generosity of Milton and Tamar Maltz, the Maltz Museum's Stop the Hate contest annually awards \$100,000 to Northeast Ohio middle and high school students, teachers, and schools, who stand up to bias and discrimination.

Since the contest started, over 50,000 students in 12 counties across Northeast Ohio have participated, and \$1.6 million has been awarded to students and schools.

Source: Maltz Museum Press Release



THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

South Amherst Historical Society

Eclipse Open House

South Amherst Historical Society will be hosting an Eclipse Open House April 8th starting at 11:00 am. Come tour the South Ridge Hall and meet members of our community. Kids Color sheets, educational and historical information about the eclipse and South Ridge Hall and more. Hotdogs, brats and kielbasa by Kait's Carts and Catering for lunch and coffee from Trailer Perk Mobile Coffee Company!

South Ridge Hall Available to Rent

Great venue to celebrate your 2024 graduation, birthday, showers, retirement parties and more! For rental information contact: William Jones at 440-522-4014 or e-mail southridgehallrental@gmail.com. South Ridge Hall, 110 West Main St., South Amherst

Ad Space Available for 2025 Calendar

The South Amherst Historical Society annual 2025 calendar will be celebrating our coaches of South Amherst School. Ad spaces are \$50. Anyone interested in purchasing an ad space should email sahistoricalociety@gmail.com by April 1st.

Coffee & Friends Make the Best Blend



You're invited to join the South Amherst Historical Society starting on Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. for coffee, sweets, and conversation. We will be at the South Ridge Hall, 110 West Main St., South Amherst.

*submitted by Lynn Schmitz
South Amherst Historical Society*

Open House & Tour of Masonic Lodge

An open house and tour of Wakeman Masonic Lodge will be held on Sunday, April 21, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The lodge is located at 34 Pleasant Street in Wakeman. It was built in 1894 and was originally an Opera House and Town Hall. The lodge has had many uses over the years. It was used for meetings, plays, graduations, basketball games, voting and the library. In the 50s and 60s it was used as extra classrooms.

The lodge is handicapped accessible. Light refreshments will be provided. We are looking forward to seeing you and sharing the evening of history on the building.

Respectfully, Worshipful Master, Aaron Pearson

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