



The Firelands Express



Volume 13, Issue 113

May 2023

Serving the communities of Amherst, Amherst Twp., Birmingham, Brownhelm Twp., Camden Twp., Florence Twp., Henrietta Twp., Kipton Village, New Russia Twp., South Amherst Village, Vermilion and Vermilion Twp.

Class of 2023 Shines at Senior Award Night

The 2023 Senior Awards were held on May 2, 2023, in the new auxiliary gymnasium at Firelands High School. Ms. Keener, FHS Principal, welcomed everyone in attendance and stated, "This is one of my favorite events of the school year as we recognize the seniors who have made great accomplishments over the course of their high school career. Students, I congratulate each and every one of you who are receiving an award today." Principal Keener then had the honor of distributing the following academic excellence awards.

Cum Laude (3.5-3.749 GPA): Zachary Crawford, Isobel Pruitt, Adrianna Buchanan, Conner Rogers, Zoe Gifford, Silas Skvor, Samuel Herchler, Mayce Stanley, John Kovach, Macey Taddeo, Austin Latham, and Lauren Valerius.

Magna Cum Laude (3.75-3.999 GPA): Colin Adams, Thomas Ives, Lee Barnett, Richard Jandrew, Ethan Boggs, Lesia Leskovska, Chancellor Chenoweth, Paige McCully, Graham Deshuk, Benjamin McKee, Ty Griebel, Lauren Soltis, Olivia Hammond, and Hailey Toledo.

Summa Cum Laude (4.0+ GPA): Sylvia Cogar, Olivia McGrath, Lydia Dougan, Amber Orlandi, Joseph Formholz, Cohen Overstreet, Zadi Grude, Isabella Simmons, Cassidy Gunter, Cooper Smith, Ashley Johnson, Gabbriella Smith, Kalei Houston, Kate Thompson, Savannah Leverknight, and James Yorko.

Scholarships Awards

Amherst Rotary: Kalei Houston; FEA Memorial: Sylvia Cogar; Franklin B. Walter: Isabella Simmons; Brownhelm Historical Scholarship: Joel Polen; Ryan Walker Memorial, Forever Falcon: Ethan Boggs, Joel Polen, and Isabella Simmons; Michelle Brand Memorial: Sylvia Cogar; Firelands Athletic Booster: Ty Griebel.

Presidential scholarships from LCCC were awarded to the following 13 students: Adrianna Buchanan, Zachary Crawford, Zoe Gifford, Samuel Herchler, Austin Latham, Angelleah Pena, Isobel Pruitt, Conner Rogers, Olivia Selent, Silas Skvor, Mayce Stanley, Macey Taddeo, and Lauren Valerius.

Trustee scholarships from LCCC were awarded to the following 31 students: Colin Adams, Lee Barnett, Ethan Boggs, Chancellor Chenoweth, Sylvia Cogar, Graham Deshuk, Lydia Dougan, Joseph Formholtz, Ty Griebel, Zadi Grude, Cassidy Gunter, Olivia Hammond, Kalei Houston, Thomas Ives, Richard Jandrew, Ashley Johnson, Austin Latham, Lesia Leskovska, Savannah Leverknight, Paige McCully, Olivia McGrath, Benjamin McKee, Amber Orlandi, Cohen Overstreet, Isabella Simmons, Cooper Smith, Gabbriella Smith, Lauren Soltis, Kate Thompson, Hailey Toledo and James Yorko.

Endowment Scholarships

The Firelands Endowment Fund is supported by the Community Foundation of Lorain County. The local endowment trustees are able to award as much as 5.5% of the market value of each account annually. To learn more about our endowment and how you can contribute, visit our website.

Bechtel Family: Mary Dempsey; Susan Beechler: Ty Griebel; Debbie Cook Fine Arts: Lesia Leskovska; Jim Solomon: Conner Rogers; Cameron Greene: Isabella Simmons; John & Ethel Lupe Memorial: Sylvia Cogar; South Amherst Rotary: Ethan Boggs; Marilyn Immler Memorial: Macey Taddeo; John W. Hostetler: Olivia Hammond; and Ortnier Family FFA: Matthew Schnell.

continued on page 2



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www.firelandsschools.org

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THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS



Pictured at left is the Walker family who was there to present the first Ryan Walker Forever Falcon scholarships. At center, Dan Pycraft presents the H.A. Born Scholarship to Olivia McGrath. On the right are graduating seniors Olivia Hammond and Macey Taddeo..



Senior Awards from p.1

H.A. Born Scholarship: Olivia McGrath; Firelands Community: Lydia Dougan, Holden Harker, Lauren Soltis, & Amber Orlandi; Milad & Fanny Abraham: Olivia McGrath, Joel Polen, Isabella Simmons, Zoe Gifford & Cohen Overstreet; Traci Johnston Lighthouse Scholarship: Austin Latham; Mr. Muth Memorial: Isabella Simmons.

This was the first year for the DRW Ryan Walker Forever Falcon Scholarship. Channel 5 covered the Walker Family Scholarship which is memorializes Ryan Walker, an FHS Class of 2020 graduate. Ryan's life was tragically taken by a drunk driver in September of last year. Ryan's family organized fundraisers in order to provide 3 seniors with Forever Falcon scholarships. They said, "We're proud to be honoring students for their dedication to success and for allowing Ryan's legacy to be part of your road to success."

Congratulations to the following Forever Falcon scholarship recipients: Joel Polen, Isabella Simmons, and Ethan Boggs. Donations are being

accepted to enhance the DRW Forever Falcon Scholarships. If you are interested in donating, please contact Belinda Walker at BVWALKER003@gmail.com or Eduardo Santos at EddieSantos2324@gmail.com.

Mrs. Horton, FHS Counselor, was in charge of the Senior Awards Ceremony. She stated, "This evening is always a momentous occasion for the graduating seniors who have worked tirelessly throughout their high school career to achieve excellence. To see the family's celebration and pride as their students were honored for their outstanding achievements makes us equally as proud because

we are all truly a family here at Firelands."

Thank you to these additional scholarship presenters: Ms. Jordan Armstrong, Mr. Michael Von Gunten, Mrs. Kellsey Horton, Mr. Eddie Santos and Ms. Rebekah Savage, Mrs. Becky Kovach, Dr. Diane Zimmer, Mrs. Kristi Palmer, Mr. Dan Pycraft, Mrs. Debbie Van Cooney, and Mr. Nate Hartsel.

Additional awards were presented at the senior breakfast.

The Community Foundation of Lorain County awarded Cohen Overstreet with the 2023 South Lorain Merchants Association Scholarship. Joel Polen was awarded the Myrin and Elinor

A. Kolbe scholarship as well as the Myrin and Elinor A. Kolbe Agricultural Scholarship.

Gabbrialla Smith received the Barb Becker Memorial Scholarship for Nursing. Isabella Simmons received the Beth Becker Female Athlete Scholarship. Matthew Schnell was awarded the Strive Award from the Oberlin Rotary

U.S. Marine Corps awarded the Semper Fi Musical Excellence Award to Bryce Parsons along with Distinguished Athlete Award to Weston Strader and Isabella Simmons. The Scholastic Excellence Award went to Isabella Simmons.

The CollegeNow Scholarship was presented to Cohen Overstreet. The Lions Club Student of the Year will be presented to Olivia McGrath.

We once again extend our gratitude to the individuals and organizations that have chosen to support our students through the funding of these scholarships. Your time and financial contributions are greatly appreciated.

*submitted by Mrs. Jennifer Butchko
from the Firelands Blog*

Important Dates for Fall

Open Houses

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

Labor Day

Monday, September 4th

First Day of School

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

Firelands High School News & Updates

The Firelands FFA Horse Judging Team had quite a successful year, taking them all the way to state finals. At state finals, the team held on to their top-in-state rank and punched their ticket to the national contest in October. Ava Fontaine landed in sixth place in Ohio overall.

The Firelands Team also ended the year undefeated at all contests. Congratulations on a season of growth and success. Best wishes to the state winning team that will compete at National FFA Convention this fall!



On May 5th, the BIGS had a chance to participate in the BIG Futures career and readiness Summit at LCCC. They day was filled with leadership training, job and career opportunities and a motivational speaker.

This was provided by the Big Brothers Big Sisters program of Lorain County. Our Firelands students represented our school and community wonderfully and respectfully in every way!

Firelands hosted the LC8 Leadership Summit and had 3 different speakers come in and presented to 15 athletes per school from all 8 LC8 schools. The auxiliary gym was a terrific venue and Judy Baumann and her staff provided lunch for the 135+ attendees. I received multiple compliments on the school and the food service team coming through for the LC8. We are very blessed to have such a great team working together to make Firelands such a great place.

The athletic boosters, with help from our head golf coach, is going to host a golf outing this spring at Whiskeyville Golf Club (see page 15.) It will be on June 10th and may not be a big outing in year one, but over time it will grow and provide a great opportunity for the boosters to raise additional funds.

We are very excited to announce a new group at FHS called Firelands Outfitters. Our special education teachers have

gotten a grant to purchase a Cricut machine and are making spirit gear for our school! They are planning to run a course next year where the students will make the gear. They will learn business skills, marketing, advertising, as well as the actual creation of the product.

We held our 69th commencement exercises on June 2nd in the stadium. Two students spoke at graduation: Isabella Simmons and Colin Adams. Isabella Simmons is graduating first in her class and spoke to students about finding the positives in any situation and celebrating the growth that students achieved. I am excited to see the great things that our graduates will do and wish them the best.

*submitted by Ms. Cathy Keener
FHS Principal*



Special Olympics Recognition

Congratulations Special Olympics Team Firelands! You brought the fire to the Special Olympics on May 12th! Team members were Eli Chappellear, Noah Cody, Zechariah Crites, Larry Evans, Caden Hall, Grady Hodges, Max Hoover, Maddelin Maclean, RJ Mitchell, Holdyn Nemeth, Brendan O'Donnell, Kayden Pawlak, Lincoln Pelfrey, Danielle Peters, Mathew Ringle, Dylan Sayler, Lindsey Sayler, Zack Spangler, Logan Tanneyhill, and Declan White.

Thank you to these student volunteers: Xavier Carey, Grace Stanley, Ian Sroka, Mathew Riddenour-Rogers, Javier Osborn, Theresa McClintock, Eva Malicki, Emy McKee, Logan Hreha, Olivia Haponek, Jacob Halliwell, and Jadin Brock.

And a very special thank you to the Amherst Eagles for sponsoring our team for the 6th year!

*Submitted by Mrs. Jennifer Urbansky
District Special Olympics Coordinator*

Letter of Intent Signing Day for Senior Athletics & Military

JD Pitts committed to the United States Marine Corp and has been placed as an aviation mechanic. Congratulations to JD for this courageous and honorable

decision. Eight athletic Falcons participated in the 2023 Falcon Athletic Signing Day ceremony. Football players who signed letters of intent to play in college

were Weston Strader, Washington & Jefferson College; Matthew Ridenour-Rogers, Adrian College; and Shane Stitchick, University of Mount Union.

Bella Simmons, Lydia Dougan and Alex Urbansky all signed to play soccer at Hiram College, Otterbein College, and Bluffton College respectively. Wrestlers Ruben Pina-Lorenzana and Conner Rogers will wrestle at Cleveland State and Baldwin Wallace University respectively.

Athletic Director Ty Stillman spoke of each athlete and their accomplishments and said he "will always treasure these memories and value being a small part of these kids' success over the past

6 years... This group of seniors is the epitome of what student athletes should be. Together they average a cumulative GPA of 3.5 in the classroom.

They have also competed in 9 different sports here at Firelands and earned 41 varsity letters. Furthermore, they have earned 26 All-Conference Awards, 17 All Lorain County Awards and 6 All-Ohio Awards. Bella and Ruben earned All-Ohio twice and Bella did it in two different sports."

Read more about their individual accomplishments in the Firelands Blog.

*submitted by Mrs. Jennifer Butchko
from the Firelands Blog*



THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

Congratulations Firelands High School Class of 2023!

Firelands Alma Mater
For Firelands, our Alma Mater
The Falcon will fly high;

Our Faith in you will stand strong,
Will guide us on our way,
For Firelands High School Honor

We always will be true;
Allegiance we will pledge thee
For all our lifetime through



**Colin
Adams**



**Kevan
Adkins**



**Colin
Arnal**



**Samuel
Bacsi**



**Alex
Barnes**



**Lee
Barnett**



**Tailer
Bartlebaugh**



**Connor
Beno**



**Logan
Bober**



**Ethan
Boggs**



**Brandon
Bowyer**



**Jadin
Brock**



**Lauren
Brown**



**Adrianna
Buchanan**



**Brianna
Budai**



**Nazsiriya
Byrd**



**Ryan
Campana**



**Chancellor
Chenoweth**



**Sylvia
Cogar**



**Gabrielle
Coleman**



**Dylan
Coley**



**Abel
Coultrip**



**Zachary
Crawford**



**Owen
Davis**



**Ashley
Deremiah**



**Graham
Deshuk**



**Maria
DiCesare**



**Lydia
Dougan**

Firelands High School Fight Song:
O come on Firelands "fite" for Victory
O come on Falcons you're the team for me
Fight for victory, "fite" for Fame and glory

"Fite" for Falcons Red and White.
We're with you now
and every game you play, boys
Whether it's home or far away

So come on Red and White
Show us your Firelands "fite"
O come on Firelands Falcons - "Fite"!

THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

Congratulations Firelands High School Class of 2023!



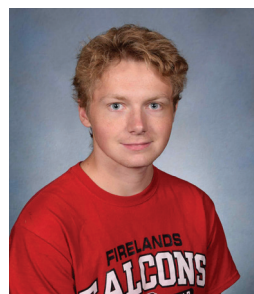
**Andrew
Dunn**



**Savannah
Dyer**



**Kate
Felty**



**Joseph
Formholtz**



**Collin
Galligan**



**Gracyn
Gifford**



**Zoe
Gifford**



**Grace
Gilles**



**Ty
Griebe**



**Zadie
Grude**



**Cassidy
Gunter**



**Jacob
Halliwell**



**Kody
Hamilton**



**Olivia
Hammond**



**James
Hancock**



**Harker
Holden**



**William
Hasley**



**Noah
Haynes**



**Samuel
Herchler**



**Vincenzo
Hicks**



**Matthew
Hinkle**



**Kalei
Houston**



**Logan
Hreha**



**Thomas
Ives**



**Richard
Jandrew**



**Madisyn
Jessel**



**Ashley
Johnson**



**Max
Kennedy**



**Alaysha
King**



**Aaron
Kirk**



**John
Kovach**



**Aurea
Larges**



**Austin
Latham**



**Isaac
Lee**



**Lesia
Leskovska**

THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

Congratulations Firelands High School Class of 2023!



**Savannah
Leverknight**



**Ruben
Lorenzana**



**Alex
Mack**



**Izeck
Manges**



**Christian
McClintock**



**Paige
McCully**



**Olivia
McGrath**



**Benjamin
McKee**



**Billy
Mercer, Jr.**



**Gavin
Nance**



**Amber
Orlandi**



**Kalebh
Ortiz**



**Cohen
Overstreet**



**Mark
Papp**



**Bryce
Parsons**



**Jeremy
Partlow**



**Angelleah
Pena**



**Kierstan
Pennington**



**James
Pitts**



**Joel
Polen**



**Isobel
Pruitt**



**Cory
Ransom**



**Ashlyn
Ridenour**



**Matthew
Ridenour Rogers**



**Conner
Rogers**



**Caleb
Ross**



**Alexander
Salib**



**Jordyn
Sarvas**



**Nina
Sauer**



**Matthew
Schnell**



**Sean
Scott**



**Davis
Sebolt**



**Olivia
Selent**



**Isabella
Simmons**



**Silas
Skvor**

THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

Congratulations Firelands High School Class of 2023!



**Benjamin
Smith**



**Cooper
Smith**



**Gabrialla
Smith**



**Zackary
Smith**



**Saige
Snyder**



**Lauren
Soltis**



**Adyn
Stackhouse**



**Ahren
Stanley**



**Mayce
Stanley**



**Ava
Stepp**



**Shane
Stitchick**



**Isaac
Stokley**



**Weston
Strader**



**Marin
Striker**



**Bryant
Szilagyi**



**Macey
Taddeo**



**Ashly
Taylor**



**Evan
Tester**



**Kate
Thompson**



**Hailey
Toledo**



**Katelyn
Truxall**



**Thomas
Ulrich**



**LeAnn
Unger**



**Alec
Urbansky**



**Lauren
Valerius**



**Rylan
Votruba**



**Mya
White**



**Lindsey
Wilson**



**Cameron
Wisenbaler**



**Garrett
Yakunovich**



**James
Yorko**



**Ryan
Zimmerman**

Safety Town is July 11-13

The annual Safety Town program is scheduled for July 11-13 from 9:00 to 11:30 at Firelands Middle School. The Safety Sessions include pedestrians and bikes, busses and trains, and water and gun safety.

The trainers will be members of the Firelands Transportation Department and local first responders. Register at this [link](#) or contact Natalie Saylor at nsaylor@firelandsschools.org.

Coach Dave Kudela Inducted Into Hall of Fame



Coach Dave Kudela was inducted into the Lorain County Girls Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in March.

A long-time member of the Firelands community, Coach Dave Kudela began his head coaching career at Avon High School in 1992, coaching the Varsity Boys Basketball Program. After seven seasons, he returned to his alma mater and was the FHS Athletic Director for the next 3 years. Coach Kudela took over the Lady Falcons basketball program in 2003 and stayed as head coach until 2022. During that time, the Lady Falcons won 6 Conference Championships and 5 Sectional

Championships. According to him, "the success of the program was due to fantastic players who played hard and wanted to learn. They were not only hard working, but were great students and wonderful human beings."

Coach Kudela had the privilege to coach two Miss Basketball winners and one Mr. Basketball during his tenured career. Through the years, great relationships were forged with assistant coaches and more importantly friends; Mr. Chuck Morgan, Ms. Lori Kniesel, Mr. Paul Nixon, Mr. Tom Moyer, and Ms. Donna Palmer. Coach Kudela won Conference Coach of the Year 7 times and 8 Coach of the Year awards for Lorain County Division II. He leaves coaching with 310 wins and is the all-time winningest coach in Lady Falcons Basketball Program history.

All of this success was made possible with the understanding and support of his wife Kelli and his children Megan and Kyle, all Firelands graduates and involved community members.

Congratulations Coach!

*submitted by Mrs. Jennifer Butchko
with thanks to Mr. Paul Nixon
from the Firelands Blog*

FHS Girls Track Takes Districts

High School track had a great season. The boys finished 2nd in the LC8 while the girls won their first conference championship since 1998. The following week the teams competed in the OHSAA District prelims. On the girls side we had a great night with almost every event represented by a Firelands athlete in the finals. On the boys' side our two hurdles, Jimmy Berry and Aiden Bokulich lead the way as they both qualified for the finals in the 110m and the 300m hurdles. At the district Finals on the boys side only Jimmy Berry was able to secure a spot at

the Regional meet. The girls not only sent 11 girls to the Regional meet, but they were also District Champions for the first time in school history.

At the regional meet the top 4 finishers head to the State meet the following week. Our Falcons had some great performances, but in the end only sophomore Ariannah Floyd qualified for the state meet in the 300m hurdles. What a great year for the Firelands track program and good luck to Ariannah at State!

*submitted by Mr. Ty Stillman
Athletic Director*

National Honor Society Inducts 46 Juniors

Any student who attends Firelands, LCCC, or some combination of Firelands and LCCC, is considered for NHS after their first semester of their junior year. Students must have a minimum of a 3.5 weighted G.P.A. to be initially considered. Any student that meets that criteria is invited to fill out an intent form, listing their extracurricular and volunteer activities. As those students are filling out their intent form, faculty members discuss if any student does not meet the four pillars of NHS: Character, Scholarship, Leadership, and Service.

This year, after careful consideration, 46 members of the junior class were inducted into the Firelands Chapter of NHS on April 5, 2023. Those members are: Collin Adkins, Logan Bass, Jocelyn Bednar, Nathan Bodak, Caley Bomback, Olivia Bonomolo, Angelina Caporale, Machaela Clark, Hayden Clough, Daniel Dempsey, Amanda DeWitt, Nathan Draga, Nathaniel Duke, Nicholas Dunfee, Reagan Evans, Amy Gerber, Niko Gotsis, Xavier Harper, Ivory Jackson, Morgan Janicek, Alex Kalassay, Marley Klekota, Emma Krebs, Carson

Krupa, Kalley Leimbach, Devin Linn, Joey Mathewson, Alyssa Montgomery, Christopher Radman Jr., Elsie Rector, Raleigh Roule, Kathryn Ruh, Garrett Schlechter, Lukas Shumaker, Hannah Sigsworth, Ginevra Smith, Allison Stewart, Mia Satorius, Anna Sweinhagen, Karly Sweinhagen, Madison Taddeo, Grace Tansey, Allison Tuggle, Cole Von Gunten, Jorja Weber, and Jolee Wissinger.

The new members of NHS are expected to obtain a minimum of 15 hours of community service. Students are to be providing for our community within the school, churches, animal shelters, etc. This year's inductees are going to be encouraged to work with our students at FMS, as well as work at the Book Fair at FES and any other opportunities that arise on our campus. Inductees are to maintain and encourage high standards of Character, Scholarship, Leadership, and Service. After the members have completed their minimum of 15 hours of community service, they will receive a medallion to wear at their Senior Commencement.

Congratulations to all of these outstanding Falcons!

*submitted by Mr. Chris Jones
FHS Teacher, NHS Advisor*



Congratulations



Class of

2023



Congratulations to the Lorain County JVS Class of 2023 on receiving their career-technical certificates in Building Trades, Business and Marketing, Community Services, Culinary, Healthcare, Manufacturing and Engineering, and Transportation. We are so proud of your hard work and wish you the best of luck!

JVS Celebrates Year of Successes

Lorain County JVS/Firelands students enjoyed a successful school year. From advancing their skills in the cybersecurity and networking field to learning the ins and outs of diesel mechanics, students took on the challenges of their career tech program and excelled!

The students' dedication and hard work were evident in their participation in Career Technical Student Organizations competitions on the regional, state, and national levels. Fifteen students competed in areas of baking and pastry, masonry, ag mechanic skills, desktop publishing, and much more. These competitions provided valuable learning experiences and opportunities to showcase their skills and garnered them recognition.

Firelands students were also inducted into the National Technical Honor Society underscoring their academic and community outreach achievements. They also participated in the fourth-annual Lorain County JVS Signing Day, where senior students signed with local businesses for full-time employment or an apprenticeship in their skilled trade after graduation. This event provides a bridge to meaningful employment for students, and their participation is an important milestone in their career journeys.

We extend congratulations to all the Lorain County JVS/Firelands students on their exceptional achievements this year. Their dedication and hard work are truly praiseworthy, and we look forward to seeing how they continue to make a positive impact in their respective fields in the future.

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

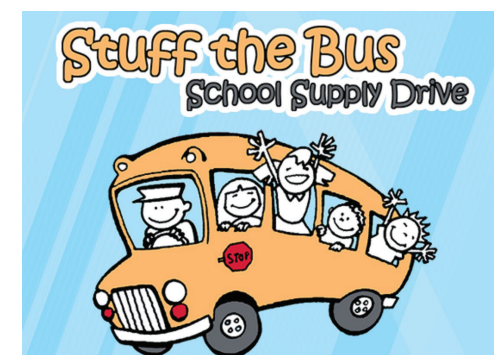
Izeck Manges, Industrial Electricity senior (Firelands) smiles after receiving his NTHS senior graduation cords, and his purple NTHS stole and medal for completing over 150 hours of community service.



Stuff the Bus on July 12th

Thanks for your support!

Stuff the Bus will be on July 12th from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the FMS parking lot. This annual event collects donated school supplies for use by our K-12 students throughout the school year. In demand items include large backpacks, folders, rulers, markers, glue sticks, pens, and loose-leaf paper. All other school items are accepted and appreciated as well!



Firelands Elementary School News & Updates

Kindergarten Students at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

Kindergarten students at FES took a field trip to the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center in Bay Village. Students spent the day at the Center exploring native animals and plants. The trip allowed students to observe animal habitats and plant life cycles firsthand. They also attended a presentation in the Planetarium where they participated in a program called "Look Up!" They observed the daytime and nighttime skies under a dome projector.

Spelling Bees

In early March, 8 fifth graders and 8 sixth graders participated in the District Spelling Bee at FES. The students worked hard studying the published spelling words and hoped to be Spelling Bee Champion. Five top winners were given a trophy for their achievement. The winners included: 5th place, Regan Viock; 4th place, Brooke Johnson; 3rd place, Scott Grills; 2nd place, Ian Elkin; and 1st place, Sebastian Citak.

Also in March, 22 third and fourth grade students had their shot to show off their spelling

skills at the District Spelling Bee at FES. They also worked incredibly hard to study their word list for this competition. The 5 top winners received a trophy for their accomplishments and the top 4 winners were invited to represent our district at the 3rd and 4th grade Lorain County Spelling Bee in May. The winners included: 4th place, Allison Pelfrey; 3rd place, Landon Mitchell; 2nd place, Addy Hoover; and 1st place, Liam Wagner.

Liam, Addy, Landon, and Allison represented our district at the 3rd & 4th Grade Lorain County Spelling Bee on May 4, 2023. Sebastian, Ian, Scott, and Regan represented our district at the 5th & 6th Grade Lorain County Spelling Bee on May 11, 2023. We are so proud of them for their bravery and resilience! Congratulations to all spellers for a job well done!

Young Authors Competition

Congratulations to all the Young Authors in grades 3, 4, and 5 who worked hard to write, revise, edit, and publish their stories! Congratulations to Zoe Schuster, Allison Pelfrey, and Sam Stephens, who were all nominated for writing awards. Congratulations to Corrine Viock, Caidance Stillman, and Keira Grant, who were all nominated

for illustration awards. Special congratulations goes to Caidance Stillman, who won the "Best in Show Artist" award for 4th grade against 9 other schools! Caidance showcased her special talent in origami and cut paper design, along with photography, in her illustrations. We are very proud of our FES authors and illustrators.

2nd Graders Visit Cleveland Museum of Natural History

Written by Room 26

Today we went to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. It was fun. We learned about Lucy, a three-and-a-half-foot tall early human. There were 2 bobcats, Bob and Bitty, climbing in tubes. We saw a fox named Scarlett and coyotes. We saw otters. One was sleeping while one was playing. There were big catfish. We saw the fossil skeleton of the triceratops (that had a silly cheeseburger in his mouth). We went to the play center and brushed away sand to find fossils. There was a microscope where you could see dead bugs in clear cubes. We went to the planetarium and saw a supernova. There was a movie section where we saw a 3D dog movie and the "Walking with Dinosaurs" movie. There was a slide. We got to touch a real megalodon tooth. So, you can see,

the second graders had fun at the Museum of Natural History in Cleveland.

Kindergarten Screening

On May 17, FES welcomed over 100 of our incoming kindergarteners for their first experience in our school! Thanks to the Falcon Leaders who helped them feel comfortable and show them where to go for Kindergarten Screening! We are also grateful for the kindergarten teachers and staff members that met with these students.

FES Fundraiser for Give Kids the World

Thanks to the generous donations of many, FES raised \$6,352 for Give Kids the World! Give Kids the World Village is a nonprofit resort in Florida that provides a week-long, cost-free vacation to critically ill children and their families from around the world who want to visit the Orlando theme parks. It's a magical week where kids can experience the simple joys of childhood, and families can recapture some of the previous moments that may have been missed due to illness. This was an opportunity to focus on one small way we can help others and our Firelands families really stepped up!

*submitted by Mrs. Laura Groboske
FES Assistant Principal*



THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

Firelands Middle School News & Updates

Testing is over and FMS is buzzing with year-end activities! Our students worked very hard during state testing. We are also finishing up our final MAP assessment, which is the third in our series to determine growth. Students have growth goals, and we have a celebration planned for those who reach their goals. Our staff and students have been doing a lot of work around setting and reaching goals.

Our 8th graders went to Philadelphia May 10-12th. A fantastic time was had by all! A huge thank you to Stephanie Coultrip for planning that trip and making sure every detail was handled. We first traveled to Gettysburg to learn about the battle and the impact that battle had on the Civil War. Our second day was spent learning about the city of Philadelphia and its impact on the founding of our country.

Our final day we spent at Flight 93 Memorial learning about the events of September 11, 2001. Students learned so much about our history during this trip and made so many memories of middle school.

Our 6th grade students went to Beulah Beach at the end of May. This outdoor adventure always leaves our sixth graders with lasting memories. Thank you to Brianna Dulemba for running the

trip this year.

Our PTG hosted an amazing staff appreciation week for us that culminated with 10-minute massages for everyone. We are all very grateful for the support and goodies we have received from our outstanding PTG.

PTG also hosted a Family Bingo Night in May. We had so much fun playing rounds of BINGO. Families ate dinner, had fun and won awesome prizes. The

7th and 8th grade formal dance was held on May 20th. Our students looked so beautiful and danced the night away together! Our Day of Awesomeness was held on May 16th and students had an absolute BLAST!

Our PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports) has continued to recognize students each week for being caught doing positive actions. We also had our monthly Fabulous Falcon pizza with the principal. We are in the planning stages of implementing of a Junior Teen Leadership Corps for next year. This will be another great opportunity for our students to partner with the older students and have great leadership skills modeled at a younger age.

It has been a great year at FMS!

*submitted by Mrs. Cara Hutchinson
FMS Principal*



FMS Honors Band Selected

Congratulations to the following FMS band students that were selected to participate in Lorain County's 39th annual Middle School Honors Band.

First Row: Kaden LaScola, Jonathan Golden, Landon Zarrelli, Khloe Meinke, Spencer Meyer.

Second Row: Ella Rivera, Christina Byrd, Avarie Carstensen, Maggie Tansey, Kaleb Cain, Aaron Powers. **Third Row:** Alex Flores, Alex Hunkin, Grayson Burdue-

Suggs, Parker Craycraft, and Taylor Wiley

The students rehearsed with other middle school students selected from various other schools from Lorain County and performed a concert Wednesday, April 25th at Keystone High School.

The students are under the direction of Mr. Mike Brawley.

*submitted by Mrs. Jennifer Butchko
from the Firelands Blog*



8th Grade Trip a Success

The Firelands Middle School 8th grade class recently had the opportunity to attend a three day field trip to Gettysburg, Shanksville, and Philadelphia, PA. It was a truly unforgettable experience. As we explored these historic cities, we learned about the birthplace of our nation and gained a deeper appreciation for the sacrifices made by those who fought for our freedom.

This trip would not have been possible without the generosity of our Firelands Endowment Committee. We appreciate their dedication to providing educational opportunities to our students. Because of their contribution, many students had their first chance to experience travel outside of their hometown, immersing themselves in our nation's history.

We would also like to thank the middle school PTG, The Sanctuary of South Amherst, and our parent chaperones all

who also supported our students in more ways than one. We are incredibly grateful for you all.

The Firelands community should be very proud of these students. As with previous classes, in every city we toured, this group of students received compliments from park rangers, exhibitors, food vendors, even our bus drivers on their respectfulness, behavior, and their overall appreciation for the locations they traveled.

Thank you and well done Falcons!

*submitted by Ms. Stephanie Coultrip
FMS Teacher & Trip Coordinator*



Award Winning Art Students

National Scholastic Art Medal

The National Scholastic Art and Writing Awards this year includes a Firelands student for the first time ever! From the Lorain County Regional exhibition, Firelands sent forward 4 Gold Key winners; sophomores Aiden Bokulich and Mia Streby, and seniors Lesia Leskovska and Lauren Valerius. Aiden Bokulich earned a Silver Medal for his sculpture "Adolescent Smile". This is a new school record. Aiden's work joins nine other national silver and gold medalists of the region. All medalist works will be exhibited digitally with all of the national honorees beginning June 5, 2023. Some gold medalist work was shipped to New York City for an in-person highlights exhibition this summer. Medals and certificates will be mailed to the students. See <https://www.artandwriting.org/gallery/> June 5 for the exhibition.

National Art Honor Society

The FHS Chapter #2212 of the National Art Honor Society inducted six new members in April. NAHS offers opportunities for national recognition, exhibition, scholarships and connectivity to over 58,000 art students across the country. The Firelands High School chapter, founded in 2003, is the first chapter in Lorain County. Criteria for induction are sophomore standing, Honors Art

3 or higher, A average in all art classes, 2.5 GPA overall, and clear disciplinary record. A slideshow displayed the inductees work and the current members pinned the new members.

Congratulations to these new inductees who earned their pins; Aiden Bokulich, Amanda DeWitt, Madelynn Holland, Claire Ohle, Mia Streby and Victoria Turczyk. They join our current members Jocelyn Bednar, Olivia Bonomolo, Reagan Evans, Saige Loyd, Madison Pitts, and Jorja Weber. Senior NAHS members received their rainbow honor cords to wear with their caps and gowns at graduation. Seniors lit the chapter candles at the end of the ceremony. Congratulations to seniors Lydia Dougan, Lesia Leskovska, Cohen Overstreet, Gabbrialla Smith and Lauren Valerius.

Congressional Show Award Winner

Aiden Bokulich, grade 10, broke *another* school record this year. For 40 years, Congress has displayed one high school student's work from each state in Washington DC for a year. Over Firelands has been in the 9th, 4th and now 5th Congressional districts. We have had works compete and exhibited locally, but none earning honorable mentions or the top spot until this year.

The 5th Congressional district, represented by Robert Latta, is



Back row: Mia Streby, Maddie Holland, Claire Ohle, Aiden Bokulich, Victoria Turczyk. Front row: Saige Loyd, Gabbrialla Smith, Lydia Dougan and Cohen Overstreet

comprised of 12 counties from the Indiana line to Lorain County. 98 students from 27 high schools submitted work for consideration. Only four works from this massive district were selected for exhibition. Aiden's colored pencil drawing titled "Snow Day" earned one of three honorable mention spots and will hang in Rep. Latta's Elyria office for one full year. This is the highest a Firelands student has achieved in this competition.

Bokulich Receives Honor at Governor's Youth Art Exhibition

The Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibition held its 53rd annual

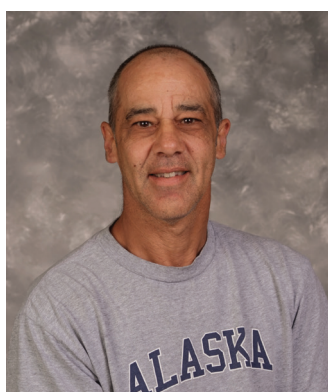
exhibition at the Riffe Center Capitol Theater in Columbus. Aiden Bokulich joined over 200 students to receive their certificates and scholarships. Following the program the entire assembly migrated to the Rhodes Office Tower across the street to open the exhibition. 241 works filled the cavernous light-filled lobby. It was fun to search through the showcases to find both of Aiden's works and inspiring to see the best high school artwork in Ohio with the happiest and proudest audience in the state.

*submitted by Mrs. Laura Tawil
FHS Art Teacher*

Congratulations to Retiring Firelands Staff!



Teresa
Coultrip



Doug
Heberling

The following Firelands staff members have declared their retirement intentions. Please help us thank them for their many years of dedication to our students and our community. Not pictured are Karen Jones and Kim Abrahamowicz.

*We wish you all a long
and happy retirement!*



Howard
Park



Carolyn
Sayler

Junior Achievement Volunteers at FES

Firelands Elementary students have been busy learning about fiscal literacy and entrepreneurship with our Junior Achievement Volunteers. Nine volunteers visited 22 kindergarten through fourth grade classrooms for a five-lesson session. I believe that the volunteers enjoyed it as much as the students.

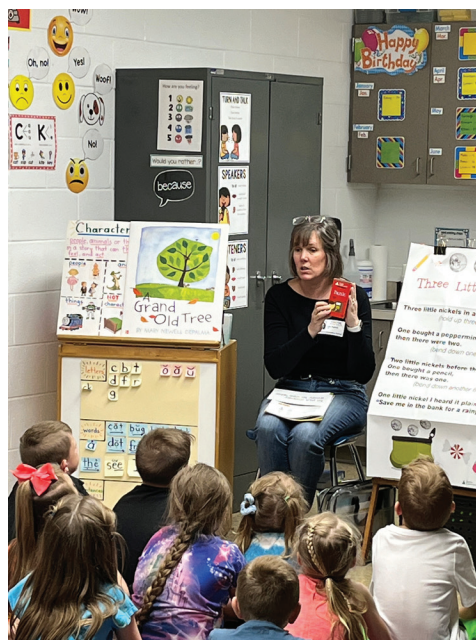
I finished Mrs. Jaskiewicz's Junior Achievement class with pizza and a guest speaker, Katrina Thorne, who talked about working



in a pizza shop.

Special thanks to the following for volunteering this year: Lee Steindl, Becca Burdue Royster, Jackie Rotta, Rachel Woodrum, Angie Crawford, Lucia Keressi, Jim Cahlik, Ryan Boehm, and Nancy Mitchell.

*submitted by Mrs. Nancy Mitchell
Retired Teacher & Volunteer*



Marching Through History

Our second graders recently “Marched Through History”. Students researched a historical figure or a person of significance. They wrote a report and completed a timeline of their lives. Finally, students created a doll in the likeness of the person they researched. In our 1st annual

parade, students marched through the halls of FES to show off their creations. Students, staff and parents were invited to line the parade route and cheer for a job well done by all!

Submitted by Ms. Wendy Baxter
FES Teacher



Firelands Middle School National Junior Honor Society

On Tuesday, May 23, 2023, Firelands Middle School inducted the newest members of the National Junior Honor Society. The induction of NJHS members serves as a testament to their outstanding achievements in scholarship, leadership, service, character, and citizenship. These exceptional students are destined to become future Falcon leaders, as well as leaders of our society. Their hard work, dedication, and exemplary qualities inspire us all.

Let us celebrate their accomplishments and support them in their continued pursuit of excellence. Congratulations to our newest NJHS inductees, and may their journeys be filled with success and fulfillment.

Submitted by Mrs. Michelle Radanovich
National Junior Honor Society Advisor
FMS Teacher



Pictured above - 8th Grade. Below - 6th Grade, then 7th Grade.

Well done
Falcons!!



THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

Kindness Closet Is Basis for Project Based Learning

As a group we wanted to work on a project that would affect the community in multiple ways. As high school students it was important to learn how to work together for a greater cause. After reaching out to administration and counselors, the students determined that the biggest need was to organize the Kindness Closet and create a safe environment for their peers to receive what they needed.

There was a closet already started that was disorganized. The students sorted and set up the closet to create an inviting atmosphere. They found they needed certain items, such as men's clothes, trendy clothes, organizational bins, and undergarments. They also wanted to paint the space and make it inviting and creative.

The students reached out to community members to arrange donations. They sorted and organized the donations and then they sent out thank you letters.

What the students have learned, in their own words:

I learned that is important to communicate with the people you are working with because not communicating makes the job harder. ~ Sam Hill (10th grader)



I learned to work with people that I normally would not work with and that is important because in a job setting there will be people I may not like. I will have to learn how to deal with it and still do my job.

~ Xander Mincey and Brook Baird (11th graders)

I learned how to follow directives from my "boss." Boss meaning Mrs. Hoban or Brook. This is an important skill because showing respect to my superiors is a skill I will use forever.

~ Jackson Lima (10th grader)

I learned that we each have skills that we contributed to the project. This is important because

our boss was able to see the areas we excelled in and could assign the appropriate jobs to complete the task.

~ Chris Bursley (11th grader)

I learned that I need to work with people. This is important because building our people skills is something we will work on for the rest of our lives

~ Nicholas Trimble (9th grader)

Students have been able to log hours for community service and will be able to apply for their Community Service Seal. Students will be able to fill in parts of their Ohio Means Jobs Seal as well proving they have been responsible for completing the

work put before them.

The students have been working on the closet during Study Skills. If they are missing work they are unable to participate until the work is done. They have been so thrilled to work on the closet that most of the students finish work quickly so they can get to work!

We would like to thank the following staff and community members: Ms. Keener, Mrs. Watts, Mr. Scott Jackson, Mrs. Dzat, Mrs. Urbansky, and Mrs. Wheaton.

Thank you also to Wee Care Closet, Ms. Von Gunten, Mrs. Jackie Ziegler, The Duke Family, and 6 people who left their names unknown! We are grateful also to Deichler's Tires, Middle School Student Council, Middle School National Honor Society.!

Thank you to Penny Becker and H&M, Amber Hyster, Renee Collins, Shelley Wossilek, Christine Whitacre, Jill Simonvich, William Jones, Mrs. Copley, Mrs. Dulemba, Mr. Hertensteiner, Ms. Natalie Saylor and anyone else who has dropped off clothing without leaving their name.

Submitted by Mrs. Jessica Hoban
FHS Teacher

Day of Awesomeness Lives Up to Its Name at FES



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Firelands Athletic Boosters Golf Outing This Weekend

On June 10th, the Firelands Athletic Boosters will hold a golf outing at the Whiskeyville Golf Club. \$80 per person includes skins, lunch at the turn, two drink tickets and dinner. It will be in a scramble format. For more information scan the QR code at the right to register or email Athletic Director Ty Stillman at tstillman@firelandsschools.org.



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