



# The Firelands Express



Volume 12, Issue 97

September 2021

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.

## Purple Star Status Renewed for All Firelands Schools



Firelands has a long history of acknowledging our local men and women who have served in the military. It is our privilege to continue that tradition by sharing that we are once again recognized by the State of Ohio as a military-friendly school district.

Each building has renewed its status as a Purple Star building. Ohio's military-connected youth requires additional support measures and the renewal states that we are meeting the academic and social emotional needs of these students. The state of Ohio has declared that Firelands Local Schools continue to show a commitment to students and their families that are connected to the US Military.

There is a designated contact at each school that will provide additional support for children of military families. If you live in a military family please consider contacting your building representative(s):

Firelands Elementary School:  
Mrs. Valerie Schuster, vschuster@firelandsschools.org

South Amherst Middle School:  
Mrs. Lauren Budweg, budweg@firelandsschools.org

Firelands High School: Mr. Rob Clarico@rclarico@firelandsschools.org

In addition, we have created a website (firelandsschools.org/militaryfamilyinformation.aspx) that provides additional information if you are part of a military family. This page allows us to share additional resources that you may find beneficial.

On September 24th, we will once again honor local military and first

responders prior to the Firelands vs Keystone football game. We are excited to welcome back this elite group of individuals! Activity will start on the field at 6:30 p.m.

Local fire departments will have emergency vehicles parked in front of the stadium. We especially appreciate the support of the Florence Township Fire Department and their efforts in making the evening a success.

Tickets for the game can be purchased online at <https://firelandsathletics.org/> or at the gate. This will be a busy evening so we do recommend purchasing tickets in advance.

We are proud to host this evening in support of the many individuals that have sacrificed for our community and country.

### GO FALCONS!

Mike Von Gunten  
Superintendent



## MILITARY & FIRST RESPONDER NIGHT

SEPTEMBER 24, 2021 @ THE FALCON STADIUM

You may view this issue online at:  
[www.firelandsschools.org](http://www.firelandsschools.org)

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# THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

## Firelands Elementary School Rolls Out the Red Carpet

### Welcome Back

Firelands Elementary staff was prepared and excited to welcome our Falcon families back into the building for Open House on August 30th. The theme was "Lights, Camera, Action." A photo opportunity was set up for our families to help energize them for the year. Families can use #FESSpotlight throughout the year to showcase their child's memories on Twitter. The smiles were endless and appreciated by all. Our first through fifth graders returned to school on August 31st. They were welcomed with smiles, greetings, balloons and the "red carpet." Kindergarten students entered on September 3rd with the same festivities! It was clear that FES is ready for the 2021-2022 school year.

### PBIS State Recognition

PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports) is a framework that is utilized to create a school environment at FES that is positive, predictable, safe and equitable. At the end of the 2020-2021 school year, the FES PBIS team (pictured

below) submitted an application to the state of Ohio to receive the first level of recognition from the state for our efforts. Each year, the Ohio Department of Education and the PBIS Network recognize schools and districts for their quality and fidelity of PBIS implementation.

In mid-August the FES administration was notified that we had earned the first-level Bronze Award by the state. The team will continue to further refine and develop our practices in order to improve our implementation of PBIS.

### Class Dojo

Like last school year, students at FES will earn Class Dojo points when demonstrating positive behavior within the classroom. Parents are able to see their child's progress by joining the Class Dojo app. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions about Class Dojo.

### FES Parent Teacher Group

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. PTG meets monthly and finds ways to further enrich the FES environment for all of our students.

Their next meeting will be October 14th at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. A link will be shared as the meeting date approaches. Feel free to reach out to them to see how you can assist and hear more about how you can be involved during the 2021-2022 school year! You can find them on Facebook (Firelands Elementary School PTG) or on Twitter (@FESPTG).

submitted by Laura Groboske  
FES Assistant Principal

### A note from the PTG:

*On behalf of the Firelands Elementary School PTG, we would like to welcome everyone back for the 2021-2022 school year. We hope that summer has provided enjoyable moments with your families.*

*As we turn to the year ahead, we are planning for many of the activities we have done in the past. We want to provide our students with all the experiences and events that are so looked forward to and enjoyed during the school year. We know that these events are memory making for our children! PTG will be working closely with our principals to plan these events in the safest way possible.*

*We are not sure yet how things will necessarily look but please know that close collaboration will occur between our administrators and officers. We will keep our families informed.*

*Sincerely,  
Nikki Beal, President; Joanne Wagner, Vice-President; Molly Royster, Treasurer; Anne Born, Secretary*

### Upcoming FES Important Dates

September 24	Picture Day
October 1-7	Scholastic Book Fair
October 5-20	PTG Fall Fundraiser
October 6-7	Parent Teacher Conferences after school (Please watch for further information as we approach these dates.)
October 8	No school
October 14	PTG meeting at 6:00 p.m. through Zoom.



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## FES Open House & First Day



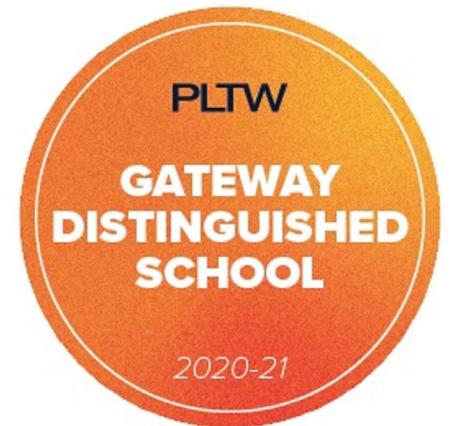
## South Amherst Middle School Leads the Way

South Amherst Middle School has been recognized as a 2020-21 Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Distinguished School. It is one of just 158 middle schools across the U.S. to receive this honor for providing broad access to transformative learning opportunities for students through PLTW Gateway. [PLTW](#) is a nonprofit organization that serves millions of PreK-12 students and teachers in schools across the United States.

The Project Lead the Way Distinguished School recognition honors schools committed to increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in their PLTW programs. To be eligible for the designation, South Amherst Middle School had to meet the following criteria:

- *Have more than 50 percent of the student body participating during the 2019-20 school year;*
- *Have 25 percent of students advancing to high school participate in two or more units;*
- *Offer at least one PLTW Gateway unit at each grade level;*
- *Have strategies and supports in place that support reasonably proportional representation with regard to race, ethnicity, poverty, gender and can support such claims with relevant data.*

“It is a great honor to recognize South Amherst Middle School for their unwavering commitment to provide students with an excellent educational experience despite the unusual circumstances and unique



challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic presented to the educational landscape this past year,” said Dr. Vince Bertram, President and CEO of PLTW. “They should be very proud of their achievements in unlocking their students’ potential and equipping them with the knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in life beyond the classroom no matter what career path they choose.”

South Amherst Middle School is part of a community of PreK-12 schools, colleges and universities, and corporate and philanthropic partners across the country united around a passion for providing students with inspiring, engaging, and empowering learning opportunities.

For more information about PLTW’s recognition program, visit [pltw.org/our-programs/program-recognition](https://pltw.org/our-programs/program-recognition).

*submitted by Chuck Latto  
PLTW Instructor*



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## Firelands High School



We had a great start to the school year. It is wonderful to see all of our students back in the buildings. Our freshman enjoyed coming in on August 31st for their first day of school and orientation so that they could learn the building, open their lockers, get their Chromebooks, and meet all of their teachers in a low pressure environment. Our new student orientation also went well. Students were given their Chromebooks and learned how to access their accounts so that they could orient themselves digitally as well as in person to the school. New students were also given pizza and ice cream as part of their welcome to Firelands.

Congratulations to Laura Tawil for being invited to represent Firelands in the Cleveland Arts Education Consortium as part of their "Schools Schools Schools" series. She will be part of a panel where she will discuss the arts program at Firelands as well as answering questions from viewers.

Our first home football game was a success, beating Vermilion 42-14. We had a great student section in the end zone and they

did a great job celebrating both the team's success as well as the return to a full stadium.

Our homecoming game is scheduled for October 1st, with the dance to follow on the 2nd. We will again be holding a pep rally outside in the stadium at the end of the day on Friday where we will announce the Homecoming court. The king

and queen will be crowned at the game that evening.

Our students represented Firelands at the Lorain County Fair and Erie County Fair extremely well with eighteen students/alumni earning awards—many of whom earned awards in several categories.

We have begun our modified block schedule. Our students will

have regular 50 minute classes three days a week and on Wednesday and Thursday, they will have a double period where teachers can use the longer class time to dive deeper into content.

*submitted by Cathy Keener  
FHS Principal*

### Drone Captures Scope of FHS Construction Site

*photo courtesy of Greenspace Construction Services*



## SAMS Updates

We are off to a great start this year. It is wonderful to have all of our students back in the building. Everyone seems to be adjusting quite well. At SAMS, we welcomed 48 students who are new to the district. We are very excited that they have joined us this year.

Students have already been hard at work within their classrooms. Math and English Language Arts Teachers administered the first of three benchmarks using MAPS. The benchmark will identify strengths and weaknesses within each child's learning so that we are able to hone in on the correct interventions and supports for each child.

Our Volleyball, Football, and Cross Country teams have been engaged in their events for a while now and are doing great.

Our Positive Behavior Supports Team (PBIS) has decided that our first goal with students is to teach and support them through using their agendas on a daily basis. Students who routinely do this will be recognized in a number of ways throughout the 9 weeks. We realize that many of our students have not been in physical class for up to 18 months, so our first goal is to reteach a lot of the procedures and practices that they may have

forgotten.

We are planning on all three grade levels taking a trip this May. Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders are planning on a May 11-13 trip to Philadelphia. The parent meeting for this is September 28 at 6:30 PM. 6<sup>th</sup> graders are planning on going to Beulah Beach May 23-25. Information for parents will come out later regarding this trip. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade is also planning on taking a trip. This is to be determined, so stay tuned!

*Submitted by*

*Cara M. Hutchinson, Principal*

## Are Your Final Forms Final?

All school forms will be completed through Final Forms: <https://firelands-oh.finalforms.com/>. Any changes in contact information, including phone numbers or email addresses must be updated in this platform throughout the school year.

Delays in important email communications from principals or the district can happen if ALL the forms, including student forms, are not completed. Alerts have been sent to students and parents/guardians to complete forms. *Please do not ignore these notifications.* PowerSchool will not be updated until all documentation in Final Forms is 100% finished.

**It is extremely important for forms to be completed today. Contact information is critical in case of an emergency.**

If you are experiencing any problems with FinalForms please contact your student's main office or the board office.

*submitted by Lori Roemer  
Director of Educational Services*

## Food Service News

**Free meals for all students for 2021-2022.** The USDA has extended the free meals for all students regardless of need. All students may get a free breakfast and lunch every day.

Our number of meals have more than doubled since last year. This is great for our students to be able to have access to nutritious meals. Students must take the required components to qualify for a reimbursable meal.

**Ala cart items** are not free. Items may be purchased using money that has been put on your child's account or they can bring money to school in the form of check or cash. Students cannot charge ala cart items. Students must have money on account or cash to purchase.

**Meal/Fee Application.** The meal application is being used to determine if your child/children qualify to have instructional fees waived. If you have completed this application but receive a letter stating your child is reduced or denied, they can still get FREE meals. However, the instructional school fees will not be waived. *When completing the application, be sure to check mark the box for fee waiver. Fees will not be waived if this is not marked.*

**Food Supply Shortages.** Nationwide food supply chain shortages due to issues with labor, transportation, and raw materials continue to affect breakfast and lunch menus. For example, there are long term shortages for bread, bottles for drinks (like Gatorade), eggs, condiment packets, and much

more. These shortages may force us to make substitutions at short notice.

**Firelands App.** Download this free app to have information at your fingertips. There is a menu link for all three schools. You can also go to the Food Service tab to see our department news. Scan the QR code below to get to the app.

**Online menus –** Download the free my school menu app for free or you can use the above, Firelands app. You can filter the menu for allergens, check the nutritional information as well as print the menu.

### Links for Food Service

- Online payments: [www.payschoolscentral.com](http://www.payschoolscentral.com)
- Meal application/fee waiver: [www.payschoolscentral.com](http://www.payschoolscentral.com), mark the box for fee waiver.
- Menus: [www.myschoolmenus.com](http://www.myschoolmenus.com), select the district then the school or download the free Firelands app or download the free my school menu app. When you download the free apps it should recognize your district and save you a step.

### Questions?

**Contact our Food Service Director, Judy Baumann,** [jbaumann@firelandsschools.org](mailto:jbaumann@firelandsschools.org), (440) 965-5821 ext 1011

The next meeting of the Firelands Board of Education will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 11, 2021 at the board office building.

We are located at 112 North Lake Street in South Amherst. For more information call the board office at 440-965-5821



**FALCON SPORTS INFO**  
<https://firelandsathletics.org/>  
Follow Athletic Director Ty Stillman on Twitter @FirelandsFalcon



## Hard Work Pays Off for FFA at the Lorain County Fair



In order for Firelands FFA members to show at the Lorain County Fair, they need to develop a Supervised Agricultural Experience project, sign up to show the project, and keep records of finances and journal their time. Firelands FFA students spent countless hours working to get animals and still life projects ready for the Lorain County Fair. Our chapter works very hard all year round to make sure every member has a successful fair! We are proud of the members that had outstanding projects at fair.

Ag. Shop and Crop Awards included Amy Gerber: Grand Champion FFA Vegetable (cabbage), Garrett Schlechter: Best of Show Field Crop (mixed grass hay), Kelsey Hardwick: Grand Champion FFA Poster, Gracie Groot: Grand Champion FFA Engineering (picnic table), Katelyn Konicek: Reserve Grand Champion FFA Engineering, Joel Polen: Champion Engineering Restoration & Grand Champion Restoration Lagrange Engine Club (John Deere tractor), Parkey Frey: Reserve Champion Restoration (Dodge truck), and Teah Hildebrandt: FFA Supreme Exhibitor.

Beef and Dairy Awards went to Michael Ranney: Grand Champion Bred, Born, and Raised Modern Beef Steer, 5th Place Senior Beef Showmanship, Isabella Delgado: Reserve Grand Champion Beef Breeding, Tristan Born: 3rd Overall Bred, Born, and Raised Modern Beef Steer, Reserve Champion Senior Modern Beef Showmanship, and Morgan DiCesare: 3rd Beginner Modern Beef Showmanship.

Fowl Awards were given to Amy Gerber: Best Bantam Duck, Reserve Grand Champion duck, 3rd Place Overall Waterfowl Showmanship, Reserve Grand Champion Overall Waterfowl, Class Champion Waterfowl Senior Showmanship, Reserve Grand Champion pigeon Pair, Reserve Grand Champion Pigeon Showmanship, Class Champion Egg Layer, Best Overall Standard Chicken, 5th Place Fancy Chicken Showmanship, 1st Place Market Chicken Senior Showmanship, Grand Champion Overall Market Chicken Showmanship, Holden Harker: Reserve Class Champion Market Turkey, and Grace Stanley: 3rd Place Meat Chicken Showmanship.

Holden Harker took the following Sheep Awards: Grand Champion Breeding Sheep Aged Ewe, 4th Place Senior Beginner Showmanship, and 4th Place Sheep Breeding Ewe Lamb. For Goat Awards, Michael Ranney received 5th Place Senior Goat Showmanship. The Cavy Awards won by Teah Hildebrandt were Reserve Champion Showmanship and Class Champion Sow.

Horse Awards included Maddy Chenoweth: Champion Trail, Champion English Equitation Senior, Champion English Showmanship Senior, Champion Western Showmanship Senior, Champion Ranch Riding, Champion Western Horsemanship, Saddle

dedication to make this year's fair happen. Firelands FFA Members serving on Lorain County Junior Fair Board are: Steven Jessel (executive member), Madison Chenowith (executive member), Katelyn Konicek, Morgan DiCesare, Maria DiCesare, Madisyn Jessel, Holden Harker, Matthew Schnell, Gracie Groot, Gracyn Gifford, Zoe Gifford, and Amy Gerber.

The Firelands FFA has not only had success at the Lorain County Fair but at Erie County Fair as well. Congratulations to Krystal Scheeres, Grand Champion Pack Goat Obstacle Course, Grand Champion Senior Dairy and Market Goat Showmanship, Grand Champion Overall Dairy Goat, Grand Champion Senior Dairy Doe, Senior Premier Exhibitor, 5th Place Pack Goat Showmanship, 1st Place Senior Dairy Doe, 1st Place Mature Dairy Doe, 2nd Place Best Udder.

Amazing job to all our Firelands FFA members with their projects this year! A Special Thank You to the Buyers of Firelands FFA Members' Animals at Fair: Miller's Apple Hill, Tom's Country Place, Cairns Shorthorns, DRC Construction, Schlechter Bros Country Harvest Farm Market, Shagovac Heating & Cooling Inc., Laborers Union Local, Jamie Brasee, Farkas Farms, Green Circle Growers, Jim's Custom Kitchens, Richard's Tree & Crane Service, Addie's Antiques, Fath Farms, Pat Gede, Born Farms,

**continued on page 8**



Horse Supreme Showman, 3rd Place Large Animal Sweepstakes Showmanship (4H), and Allison Tuggle: Grand Champion Hunter Under Saddle (4H).

The Royal Court included Morgan DiCesare, 2nd Runner Up and Steven Jessel, 1st Runner Up.

Junior Fair Board members are volunteers who spend hours upon hours working to get the junior fair ready. The junior fair is designed, planned, and run by this group of determined youth. We thank all of you for your hard work and



**Pictured left to right: Holden Harker, Katelyn Konicek, and Aiden Harker in their turkey type class. Joel Polen with trophy for Champion FFA Restoration. Morgan DiCesare and T-Bone.**

## Local and State Fair Honors Earned by 4-H Members



The Four Leaf Clovers had a great year at the Lorain County Fair. Members showed everything from cooking and sewing to horses and cattle! Some members even showed at the Ohio State Fair and in livestock circuits and other county fairs. We are proud of all of the grade A judging ribbons our club members won and here are some of the special award winners:

Addison Beal earned Grand Champion Pygmy Goat, 1st Place 12-24 month Wether Pygmy Goat, 1st place Junior Showmanship, 2nd place overall showmanship Pygmy Goat. She also received 2nd Place Pack Goat Level 1 Advanced, and 3rd Place in Cat Type. Caleb Bednar took 1st Place in Junior Woodworking for his table. Elise Bednar took 1st Place for Family History Treasure Hunt. Jocelyn Bednar earned 1st Place for Creative Costumes and 1st Place for Clothing for High School and College.

At the Ohio State Fair, Callie Finnegan took 2nd in Reinsmanship, 3rd in 9-18 year old Small Equine Showmanship, 5th in Trail in Hand, 8th in Pleasure Driving, and 4th in Horse Communications, and 4th in Ohio in-person 12 year old Skillathon. She also took 2nd in Ohio in-person 12 year old Skillathon.



Closer to home at the Lorain County Fair, Callie succeeded in Dog Obedience, with Champion Beginner A Agility, Reserve Combined Champion, Reserve Champion Pre Novice A, and Reserve Champion Showmanship A Junior. In Pig, she took 5th place Intermediate Showmanship. In Miniature Horse (WCS Cinnamon Golden Kid) she earned Reserve Champion Junior Showmanship, 4th place Showman of Showman, Champion Trail in Hand, Reserve Champion Hunter Jumper, 3rd place Pleasure Driving, Reserve Champion Under 12 Year Old Open Pleasure Driving. For Saddle Horse (The Urge to Inspire), Callie took

Grand Champion Versatility (1st in Horsemanship, 1st in Hunter Under Saddle, 3rd in Reining, 4th in Barrels), Champion Junior Western Showmanship, 3rd place Showman of Showmen, Reserve Champion Junior English Showmanship, and Reserve Champion Ranch Riding. Finally, she earned 5th place Open Solid Gelding, Reserve Champion Open Donkey with her donkey Finn.

At the Ohio State Fair, Julia Finnegan earned 5th in Horse Communications, 10th for Horse Costume Class, and 3rd in Ohio 8/9 year old in-person Skillathon. In the Swine category, she took 10th in state in-person 8/9 year old

Skillathon. At the Lorain County Fair, in Beef Breeding, she won 3rd place Beginner Showmanship and 4th place Senior Yearling Heifer. In the Pig category, Julia was Reserve Champion Beginner Showmanship. In Saddle Horse (Heza Major Leaguer), Champion 1st Year Showmanship, Champion Walk-Trot Trail, Reserve Champion Horsemanship, Reserve Champion Western Pleasure. Miniature Horse (WCS Cinnamon Golden Kid) - Champion 1st year showmanship, Reserve Champion Showman of Showmen, 5th place Trail in Hand, 1st place Under 12 Year Old Miniature Horse Open Showmanship.

Daniel Hartung was named Reserve Champion Pen of 3 Market Rabbits. Davis Hartung took 5th Place in Under 10 Rabbit Showmanship and 4th Place in Rabbit Type Class. Jennifer Keets entered in the Market Hog category and took 3rd place Junior Showmanship, 1st place Ohio State Fair Skillathon - 10 year old. Market Steer - Reserve Champion Junior Market Beef Showmanship, 3rd place Market Steer. Beef Breeding - Reserve Champion Junior Beef Breeding Showmanship, Reserve

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**Pictured above, left to right: T. J. Logan and his meat chickens. Ellie Keets and her heifer. Addison Beal and her Pygmy goat. More fair photos on page 8.**

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**4H continued from page 7**  
 Champion Senior Yearling Heifer.

Jennifer & Ellie Keets won Grand & Reserve Champion Hereford Female, Best Pair of Females, Breeders Herd Award in the Lorain County Open Beef Show. T.J. Logan took home Champion Jr. Market Chicken Showmanship, Reserve Grand Champion overall Market Chicken Showmanship, and Fancy Chicken Best of Breed. Joey Mason earned an Honorable Mention for his project "Let's Bake Quick Breads, while Leah Mason earned an Honorable Mention for her Photography and Art Projects.

A special thank you to Jocelyn, Matthew, Elise, and Caleb Bednar for their work on our club Home Economics Booth as it won reserve champion Booth of the Day. We are proud of all of our members that completed their projects and proud of those that won special awards.

Thank you to the award sponsors and all of our livestock buyers and Breeder's World Final Drive add-on donors. Livestock Buyers & Add-On Premium Donors: Advantage Financial - Cheryl Janik, Ag Credit; Brian-Kyles Landscaping, Born Partners LLC (Dan & Tim Born), Brick Layer's Union, Callihan Electric Inc., Cutting Edge Excavating, CSI Insurance LLC, Dr. Samantha Abraham, Firelands Farms, Heffelfinger Meats Inc., Hickory's Legacy Farms, Keets Herefords, Lake Erie Electric, Messaros Photography, Miller's Apple Hill, Ohio State Representative Joe Miller, Schlechter Brothers Country Harvest, and Vivid Jewelers.

The club is advised by Diane Davis, Ruth Davis, Kassie Davis, and Heather Croushore.

*Submitted by Julia Finnegan, reporter for Four Leaf Clovers*

**FFA continued from page 6**

Kalt Mfg - Joe Kalt, Ag Credit, Sunrise Cooperative Inc., T. L. Keller Meats, Avon Lake Animal Clinic, C & T Camels, Triple M Service, Adam Smyth, KMU Trucking & Excavating, Nielsen Jewelers, Denes Concrete Inc., Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers, FCA Kids Farm, and Cuyahoga Fence.

Thank you to the amazing Livestock Sale Committee and auctioneers for volunteering their time to the Junior Fair auction, we couldn't have done it without you!

We thank each and every one of the parents, award sponsors, and buyers for coming out and supporting our Firelands FFA members at the 2021 Lorain County Fair!

*submitted by Maria DiCesare FFA Reporter*



Pictured at right: Julia Finnegan and her bred heifer, Vanna; Below - Jennifer Keets and her steer; Above - Callie Finnegan and The Urge to Inspire.



## Firelands Band Boosters

**Firelands  
 Band  
 Boosters**

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

The meeting dates for the 2021-2022 school year are as follows: October 19, 2021; November 16, 2021; January 18, 2022; February 15, 2022; March 15, 2022; April 19, 2022; May 17, 2022; June 21, 2022.



[firelandsbandboosters@gmail.com](mailto:firelandsbandboosters@gmail.com)

# THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

## Firelands Elementary School Art Gallery



Firelands artists are back to school and in full creative mode. We look forward to seeing more of their work in the coming months. You can always check the web pages of each school. Featured at left is work from

last year by Elsa Littleton, 2nd Grade. Madison Howard, 5th grade is below. Kylie Mattson, also 5th grade, drew this wonderful wave at left.

Thank you, art students and teachers, for a taste of things to come!



## Firelands Needs Good Subs!

Firelands is always in need of reliable substitutes to cover for both classified staff positions and teachers. The classified positions we need subs for are: custodial, kitchen, secretarial, lunch or recess aides, SAFE aides, bus drivers, bus monitors, and special needs paraprofessionals. These positions are linked on the Employment tab of our website. <https://www.firelandsschools.org/Employment.aspx>. An application must be filled out online, followed by a background check. Background checks are \$60 (includes state and federal both), and are done through the Educational Service Center of Lorain County. They require appointments, so call (440) 324.5777 to schedule. We do not interview without having received a clean background check first. Once you have been hired, your contact info will be shared and you will start getting hours. Call 440-965-5821 x. 1010.

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## One Team, One Dream: Firelands Athletics Capital Campaign



**The ONE TEAM, ONE DREAM** campaign is one in which Firelands Local Schools will generate privately raised funds to turf the existing high school football field through selling naming rights to our current and future athletic facilities. By placing artificial turf on the existing football field we will be able to move both boys and girls soccer from the SAMS campus to the Firelands campus. We will be able to have a state of the art practice and playing facility for the marching band, football, baseball, softball, and soccer teams as well as all of the youth sports.

### WHY TURF AT FHS?

During my research in regards to the athletic needs of Firelands Local Schools, the one big recurring issue that I found for a district our size is unusable athletic fields. Natural grass simply cannot remain lush and resilient if used more than three to four days a week, in snow or drought, or during months when grass doesn't grow. When the fields are wet, the opportunity for our teams and our community to have a place to call home is only possible 3-4 months a year. This issue, along with an escalating need for durable fields that accommodate multiple teams and activities, the high cost of maintaining a grass sports field or landscape, and the need to conserve water, have prompted

a rising number of schools, parks and municipalities to turn to synthetic turf to meet their needs.

With the new building coming in 2022, moving our athletes to one campus is going to be critical for not only financial reasons, but a logistical reasons as well. We would no longer have to travel for home soccer games, and there would be no need to maintain the SAMS field with fertilization, cutting, electricity, and restrooms.

***“Having access to turf 12 months a year allows athletic development to never stop”***  
– Zach Papay, Firelands Strength & Conditioning Coach

I believe that a synthetic turf field could be used 12 months a year and benefit the entire community in these ways:

- Baseball and Softball throwing, catching/skill development. Can hold practices after school rather than waiting for gym time. Can hold scrimmages on a turf field per OHSAA bylaws.
- Track and off season field sports would use it for speed development/ skill development.
- Band can use the field for practices and performances, spring tune-up, and summer camp.
- Soccer can have practices and games for all levels, open fields for camps and clinics. Host OHSAA playoff soccer.

- Football can have year-round practices for all levels, plus camps and clinics, throwing and games. Host OHSAA playoff football.
- Graduation and other community events.

***“This is a game changer for the entire Firelands Community.”***  
– Mike O’Keefe,  
Firelands School Board President

### JOIN TEAM 333

The Firelands Local Schools Athletic Department seeks to raise \$333,000.00 in private funds to bring this much needed improvement to the district without additional tax dollars. With the support of families in the community and local businesses Firelands Local Schools looks towards providing a facility that the community can be proud of. To match these efforts, we have created the “TEAM 333” campaign, which was designed to attract 333 people to donate 3 payments of \$333.00 between now and fall 2022. In what equates to less than \$2.00 a day, the money raised from the “TEAM 333” would bring the Falcons one step closer to making this dream a reality for the Firelands community. There are payment options as low as \$30 per month for three years.

### NAMING RIGHTS

In addition to Team 333, there are naming rights available

for the stadium, bleachers, press box, track, gymnasium, gymnasium floor, locker rooms, softball field, and wrestling room.

Naming rights would include having the venue named after the sponsor and industry exclusivity means no other business engaged in the same type of work will be advertised in that facility. A long list of benefits come with the naming rights and are detailed on the campaign website. <https://www.firelandsturf.org/namingrights>

### SYNTHETIC TURF BENEFITS

Synthetic turf has a measurable, positive impact on the environment.

A typical natural grass sports field requires between 500,000 and 1 million gallons water per year. Every square meter of natural grass replaced with synthetic saves 2,200 gallons per year. Synthetic turf conserves 4 to 8 billion gallons water annually.

Synthetic turf eliminates the need for harmful pesticides and fertilizers, a principal cause of water pollution, which can lead to algal bloom, depleted oxygen and damage to wildlife.

Helps reduce noxious emissions from maintenance equipment and mowers. A push mower emits as much pollution in one hour as 11 cars. A riding mower emits as much as 34 cars.

Synthetic turf has been

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proven to be a highly cost-effective investment. A synthetic turf field pays for itself over 3-4 years. The cost of installing and maintaining a synthetic turf field over a 20-year period (including one replacement field) is over 3x less expensive per event than the cost of a grass field.

Maximize land use with the same surface space. Synthetic turf promotes greater utilization of land than natural grass, as you can achieve more with the same surface space. This is especially useful for highly urbanized environments with limited access to recreational areas, maximizing event spaces, or areas in drought.

Ideal for inclement weather climates. Preparing and

maintaining natural turf can be particularly challenging in cold or very hot climates. Natural turf is generally in poor condition after long winter months, requiring extensive maintenance and re-leveling. Hot climates experiencing drought face significant water shortages. Synthetic turf playing fields remain uniform and consistent, season after season, and can be used within hours of installation—without worry of damage.

For more information and how you can support this campaign, contact Ty Stillman at (440) 965-4255 or 263-0683 or email [tstillman@firelandsschools.org](mailto:tstillman@firelandsschools.org). Visit the website at <https://www.firelandsturf.org/>

## Help Available for Families

**Deanna Watts, LSW, LSSW is a full-time social worker for our district. She explains her role here:**



My main goal is to provide as much support as possible for our families, students, and school staff. As your school Social Worker, I can help provide and/or assist with:

- Mental Health Supports (Counseling services, individual, group, tele-therapy).
- Community Resources (Food pantries, financial assistance programs, COVID relief information).

- Kinship Care Resources (grandparent/guardian support systems).
- Liaison from home to school concerns (Online school issues, internet/hot spot help).

Please feel free to contact the school guidance counselor or me directly via email or phone to discuss any concerns or to schedule a face-to-face or virtual meeting. Confidentiality and safety are my highest priorities.

Email: [watts@esclc.org](mailto:watts@esclc.org) or [dwatts@firelandsschools.org](mailto:dwatts@firelandsschools.org)  
Call or text: 440-334-8801

## Firelands Now Has an App!

Firelands Local Schools has launched an app that is available for iOS™, Android™, and Windows™ devices. The app gives anyone the ability to stay connected and informed about what is happening within our schools. The app is free and provides quick access to everything school related including calendars, directions to events, contact information for teachers and administrators, important documents and more. To install

the app, scan the QR code or visit your app store under Firelands Local Schools. Once you have installed the app, you can choose buildings and the amount of push notifications that you want to receive. We recommend that you stay connected with your child's building and the district for important updates! Once installed, place the app on your home screen and you will begin to receive notifications!



40 Years

Firelands High School  
Class of 1981  
Class Reunion  
3 day weekend



### SAVE THE DATE!!

October 15<sup>th</sup>: Firelands Football Game and High School Tour  
Matus Winery after the game  
October 16<sup>th</sup>: Wakeman Eagles (time and price TBA at later date)  
Catered by Sterks Catering (Ray Sterk)  
October 17<sup>th</sup>: Wakeman Elevator  
Flyer will be sent out in June with more information.  
Class Committee:  
Scott Cameron, Melvin Saylor, Jane Park-Plas, Patty Goebel-Kopcho,  
Brenda Vetter-Whitacre, Lisa Cable-Able,  
MaryAnn Scheckel-Steffani, Jen McDonald-Vasu  
FACEBOOK: Firelands High School-Class of 1981  
Any questions please contact a committee member

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Peggy Karolak, Agent  
805 Patriot Drive, Suite C  
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Making Memories One Home At A Time

**NEXT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS:**  
SEPTEMBER 13  
OCTOBER 11  
NOVEMBER 15  
DECEMBER 13  
JANUARY 10

Ad space available on page 11! Email [sschaefer@firelandsschools.org](mailto:sschaefer@firelandsschools.org)

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