



The Firelands Express



Volume 14, Issue 115

September 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.

Firelands Wellness Trail Available to Community



Trail Includes Donated Benches & Planters from Canvus; QR Codes for Wellness or Exercise

We are happy to announce that improvements have been made to our cross-county trail, thanks to a partnership with Canvus and the MHARS board (Mental Health, Addiction & Recovery Services Board of Lorain County). This partnership has created an opportunity for the adaptation of our cross-country trail into a health and wellness trail. Visitors will be able to walk this 1.5 mile trail and stop at sustainable benches that are equipped with QR codes. These QR codes provide information for mindfulness and/or athletic workouts.

Canvus, has donated 9 pieces of functional art made from retired wind turbine blades. The majority of pieces are equipped with the above mentioned QR codes that takes the user to mindfulness and athletic opportunities. Two additional pieces have been placed on our campus; the FHS outdoor classroom now features the Willow bench (pictured above, right) and inside of the Falcon Stadium you will find a Charlie planter.

The MHARS board and Lorain County Public Health have

generously donated their time to supply the wellness activities that are connected to the QR codes. We have a long-standing relationship with these organizations and we appreciate their continued support.

On August 29th, Firelands held a ribbon cutting to acknowledge these new additions to our campus. Mr. Cody Norheim, a Firelands High School alumnus and the Senior Director of Operations at Canvus was joined by Mr. Brian Donahue, Vice President of Corporate Affairs. These two addressed the gathering and expressed their excitement about the completion of this project. (Pictured above left: Brian Donahue, Cody Norheim, Mike Von Gunten, Megan Lake-Smith, Tom Myers, Dan Pycraft and Mike O'Keefe.)

The ribbon cutting celebrated the partnership of our community and district. FLSD Superintendent Mike Von Gunten stated, "Canvus has given us the opportunity to create a wellness trail by donating

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

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THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

Firelands Staff Awarded for Years of Service



On August 29th during the annual opening day event, twenty-eight staff members were recognized for hitting service date milestones. All of these staff members received a plaque, and those with 20 years or more received a second recognition gift.

Joan Myer, FHS Spanish teacher, earned her 35 year award (pictured at right). Both Kristi Palmer, FMS 6th Grade, and Judy Born, FES Kindergarten, hit their 30 year mark (pictured at left).

There were 10 employees on the receiving end of 25 year awards: Barb Allomong, Ty Grude, Mary Kaminski, Matt Krieger, Dave Kudela, Chuck Latto, Julie Schneider, Jennifer

Urbansky, Debbie Van Cooney, and Melanie Woodrum.

These staff members have 20 years of service under their belt: Sue Alvarez, Lauren Budweg, Audra Costello, Stephanie Coultrip, and Bill Yakunovich.

The 15 year award went to Jennifer Butchko, John Carlock, Kassie Davis, Betty Jo Hickman, Sandra Lima, Beth Monyak, Kristian Novak, Janine Walbom, and Donna Wheaton.

Finally, our sole 10 year service award went to Andrew Swift. We are grateful to all of our long-time employees for their experience and dedication!

Tim Born donates his labor to engrave all of our service awards. Thanks for your many years of doing this for us, Tim!



Victory's Sweet Sound Rings from Historic Bell

Sophomore Trevor Wilely met his goal to recover, restore and repurpose the old bell from South Amherst Middle School. He used this project for one of the requirements for becoming an Eagle Scout. Now, we have it on our football field, at the ready to ring at the end of each winning game! Thank you for all of your hard work Trevor!



Class of 2036 is Ready to Rule

Friends of Firelands welcomed our youngest falcons with their very own Class of 2036 t-shirt during KRA testing for their official kindergarten signing. Pictured below is Cruz Haponek and Cameron Deichler. See page 4 for signing pictures and FES news.



SPECIAL NOTICE: The October 9th meeting of the Firelands Board of Education will be held at LCJVS in their IVDL Lab.

THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

FFA & 4H at the Lorain County Fair

See articles on page 7. Below is Matthew Schnell's lawn tractor and mini hay wagon. At right is Julia Finnegan and Addi Beal. Beneath that is Parker Maurer and Amy Gerber. Finally, Olivia Howells is pictured at bottom right.



Wellness Trail, continued from page 1



over \$25,000 worth of new, sustainable additions to our campus. Our community will now have the opportunity to easily utilize a wellness trail, on our campus."

The wellness trail is available during non-school hours. The entrance to the trail is east of our student parking lot. You can find the location of the wellness

trail and donated pieces on the above map. For more information on Canvus please visit <https://www.gocanvus.com/> and to learn more about the MHARS board visit <https://mharslc.org/> and for Lorain County Public Health visit: <https://www.loraincountyhealth.com/>

*submitted by Mrs. Jennifer Butchko
Public Relations Coordinator*



Firelands Elementary School is Off to a Fantastic Start!



New Student Orientation

On August 28, FES administration, counselors, and social worker met with new students to FES. We had the opportunity to review with students and parents important information about FES. They were also given a tour of the building. Kindergarten parents also received the same information during a meeting on Open House night. It is such a wonderful opportunity to meet new community members and share information about FES.

Kindergarten Signing Days

On September 5, 6, and 7, the new FES kindergartners came and met with their teachers to complete a beginning of the year assessment. While they were in the building, we took the time to provide them with yard signs and "Class of 2036" t-shirts that were provided by Friends of Firelands.

Students also took time to "sign" their commitment to having a great school year. We are so excited to see all that they accomplish.

New School Year

FES welcomed students back on September 5 in grades 1-5. Kindergarten students were

welcomed on September 8. The halls of FES were full of smiles and excitement as we begin the 2023-2024 school year. Ms. Fleet, our art teacher, created a mural for the hallway to welcome students. Many students were seen taking pictures in front of it at our Open House.

PBIS at FES

The students at FES continue to be taught SOAR expectations. For multiple years, SOAR has been used as an acronym with our students to remind them of the positive behaviors that should be demonstrated while at school and/or on the bus. Students are taught about these expectations by their teachers at the beginning of the year. They also were reminded of what it looks like to be a Falcon that SOARs during an assembly on September 8. This was organized and ran by our special area teachers.

Ask an FES student to share with you what SOAR stands for!

Teachers will continue to utilize Class Dojo to communicate with parents and share when their child may have needed reminders to meet the expectations. All students are also provided with the opportunity to earn Falcon Bucks

for demonstrating expected behavior. They will have the opportunity to spend Falcon Bucks every 4-6 weeks and earn quarterly and end of year awards based on their behavioral success.

For more information about PBIS at FES, please check out the information on the Firelands Elementary School webpage. <https://www.firelandsschools.org/FESPBIS.aspx>

Counselor/Social Worker Corner

Mrs. Willoughby, Mrs. Monyak and Ms. Blair created a Google Classroom called "Counselor/Social Worker Corner." They have shared this classroom with all the 5th graders. Students were informed that by accessing this classroom, they would have a private way to request a meeting with a counselor or the social worker. This is also where they could apply to be a peer mediator and/or request peer mediation. The

goal is to make this available to 4th grade students in the future.

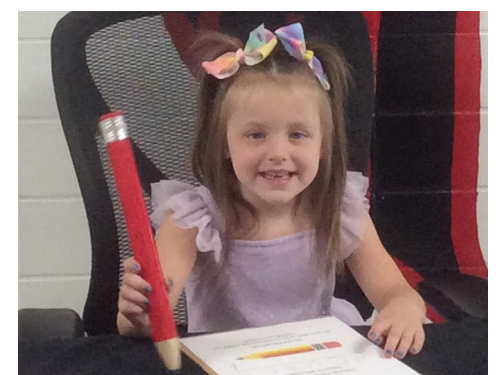
FES PTG

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.

Dates to remember:

BOE Meeting – Oct. 9
PTG Meeting – Oct. 11
No School – Oct. 13
No School – Oct. 16
PTG Fundraiser – Oct. 17-31

*submitted by Mrs. Laura Groboske
Assistant Principal*



THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

Firelands Middle School Looks Forward to a Great Year

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! We have had a great first few weeks of school and are so happy to have our kids back! They have had a wonderful start to the school year. Students are settling into routines and memorizing locker codes at an impressive rate.

New Student Orientation was held August 24th, where we welcomed dozens of new students to the Firelands District. They received a presentation and tour with Mrs. Monyak. We will check in with this group during a New Student Breakfast in October. We look forward to

finding out how things are going!

Open House was a HUGE Success! We had so many families here to visit. Students received their schedules and had an opportunity to tour the school, meet all their new teachers and follow their schedules. Thank you to all the families that came out to support their children. It was wonderful to see whole families including grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins here supporting their middle schooler.

Our 6th graders began on September 5, 2023, and were treated to an entire day of orientation where they took a complete tour, learned the ropes of how to “middle school”. The entire staff was on hand to assist with directions, lockers and how to use the cafeteria lines.

Our sports teams are in full swing, and we wish them the best of luck!!

*submitted by Mrs. Cara Hutchinson
FMS Principal*

Follow our Social Media accounts!
X (Twitter): @Firelands Middle
Facebook: Firelands Middle School-FMS

Athletic Calendar is at www.firelandsschools.org.



FMS Girls Volleyball Team during a recent game.

FLSD TICKET INFORMATION

HIGH SCHOOL EVENT: ADULT-\$7
MIDDLE SCHOOL EVENT: ADULT -\$5
FIRELANDS STUDENTS ARE FREE
SENIORS 62+ ARE FREE



FALCONS

Tickets can be purchased at the door & select games can be purchased online as well.



Above: Creative Expressions (7th grade) and Art Fundamentals classes (8th grade) with Ms. Ashley Conrad created buttons for National Arts in Education Week.

Below: Scenes from 6th Graders first day in their new buildings.



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Firelands High School Homecoming is September 29th

Freshman students enjoyed their first day of school on Tuesday, September 5th. They were able to learn the new building, navigate the lunch lines in the cafeteria, find their lockers, get their Chromebooks, and learn about the new school. The first day for grades ten through twelve was Wednesday, September 6th. It is wonderful to see the looks of excitement on student faces as they return for another great year. Much thanks to the community of Firelands for making this dream possible for our students.

We are excited to announce a new course for seniors in partnership with LCCC called **Bridges to Success**. It is composed of two semester courses that will be taught here at FHS. Through Bridges to Success students will have the opportunity to earn free college credit and explore career pathways focused on in-demand fields such as business, computer and information technology, healthcare, and engineering and smart manufacturing.

Students will have a unique opportunity to connect with LCCC faculty and engage with local industry partners through customized hands-on labs and workshops. The career pathways students will explore lead directly into a Fast Track certification



Pictured above and below are just a few of the many creative senior parking spaces!

at LCCC, which will prepare students to attain an industry-recognized credential.

Students will reflect on this learning in an introductory course designed for first-year students who want help in career exploration, choosing a major, and developing skills for college success and life planning. Students will earn college credit for SDEV 105 Student Success & Major Exploration which fulfills the first-year College 101 requirement. We are pleased to let you know that students do not have to qualify for college credit prior to enrolling in the course. **Any senior** that is unsure of their post-graduation plans or would like more information about LCCC programs is a perfect fit for this course.

The 2023 Homecoming game is September 29th. Students will be voting for Homecoming court through

Google classroom. The king and queen will be announced prior to the football game on Friday. Student Council is planning the dance for Saturday, September 30th from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm. We will hold our annual Homecoming Pep Rally at the end of the day on Friday.

Seniors came in on August 31st and September 1st to paint their parking spots. They did a great job and were very grateful for the opportunity.

We are already gearing up for the **PSAT test on October 11th**. This test is given annually to all freshmen, sophomores, as well as some juniors. Sophomores and juniors will take the PSAT/NMSQT, which gives them the opportunity to qualify for National Merit Scholarship. The PSAT test is designed to help students prepare for the SAT, college, and careers. Studies show that students that take the PSAT do better on the SAT. Data from the PSAT can be used to help students prepare for the SAT test (taken in the spring of junior year) by giving students and families specific information about individual student strengths and weaknesses. All students that are testing are required to be at school at 7:30 on this date.

On October 11th, we are also offering the SAT test to any

senior that would like to retake the SAT to improve their score. Any senior that is interested should see Mrs. Wolanin to register.

For students that are not testing (most juniors and all seniors), there is no school. They are encouraged to do either a college visit or a career shadow. In addition, we are planning a Day of Caring for any junior or senior that is interested. Students that participate in the Day of Caring may be able to earn the Community Service Diploma Seal. Contact Mrs. Wolanin or Mrs. Horton if you are interested in participating.

*Submitted by Ms. Cathy Keener
FHS Principal*

LAST CHANCE FOR FRANCE

FHS students will be going to France over Spring Break 2024! If you will be a junior or a senior in 2024 and you are enrolled in or have completed one of the following classes: 2 years of French, Art 3, or Art History, then you are eligible to sign up for the trip. **The enrollment deadline is September 30th.** Please check the FHS French Website for the enrollment flyer or email Madame Rice at jrice@firelandsschools.org for the links. You can call EF Educational Tours traveler support team at 800-665-5364 with questions as well.



THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

FFA Shines at County Fair

For a complete listing of FFA & 4H members with their awards, please see the Firelands Blog at <https://ffalcons.wordpress.com/>.

The Lorain County Fair is a culmination of a year of hard work from our Firelands FFA members. From shop to crop to animal projects, the members of our chapter have worked hard to exhibit quality examples of their work as youth in agriculture. With the fair season at a close, we would like to recognize our members for all of their achievements and awards representing the Firelands FFA at this year's Lorain County Junior Fair.

Ag. Shop and Crop awards: Callie Finnegan, Matthew Schnell, Holden Harker, Amy Gerber, Garrett Schlecter, and Jeanette Crawford. **Beef and Dairy awards:** Kyleigh Klingshirn, Callie Finnegan, Paige Foreman, and Abby Sittiger. **Hog awards:** Callie Finnegan and Jocelyn Wyatt.

Fowl awards: Jocelyn Bednar, Amy Gerber, and Lilly Chenoweth. **Sheep awards:** Addison Webb and Jocelyn Wyatt (pictured below left).

Rabbit award: Emma McGrath. **Goat awards:** Olivia Howells and Ruth Howells (pictured below bottom left). **Horse award:** Marshal Ternes. **Sweepstakes Showman of Showman award:** Callie Finnegan.

The Junior Fair is run by a youth government. The fair would not be possible without the hard work of our Junior Fair Board. These members put in countless hours of volunteer work to give the kids of Lorain County an awesome fair experience. Firelands FFA is proud to have the following members serving on the 2023 JFB: Matthew Schnell, President; Holden Harker, Vice-President; Morgan DiCesare, Executive Member; Amy Gerber, Executive Member; Paige Foreman; Parker Frey; Zoe Gifford; Cohl Greene; Olivia Halliwell; Madisyn Jessel; Kyleigh Klingshirn; Jolee Wissinger; Jocelyn Wyatt; Callie Finnegan; and Kale Hamker.

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Four Leaf Clovers are Grade A



The Four Leaf Clovers had a great year at Lorain County Fair. Members showed everything from cooking and sewing to horses and cattle! Some members even showed at Ohio State Fair and in livestock circuits and other county fairs. This year two of our members, Jennifer Keets and Callie Finnegan, represented in Large Animal Sweepstakes, with Callie winning Sweepstakes Showmanship for the second year in a row. We are proud of all of the grade A judging ribbons our club members won!

Club members include Addison Beal, Emerson Beal, Jocelyn Bednar, Callie Finnegan, Julia Finnegan, Daniel Hartung, Ellie Keets (pictured above), Jennifer Keets, T.J. Logan, Finn McMullen, Parker Maurer, and Sam Stephens.

Thank you to the award sponsors and all of our livestock buyers and Breeder's World Final Drive add-on donors: Aarons Horseshoeing, Ag Credit, ACX Service LLC, Born Implement, Brian Kyles Landscapes of Distinction, Callihan Electric, Carol Stephens, Chris Schiefer Insurance & Financial Svc,

CMC Trucking, Cutting Edge Trucking LLC, City Barbeque, Commissioner Michele Hung, Denes Concrete Inc, Deichler Tire Center, Firelands Farm Inc., Friends of Sheriff Stammitti, Heffelfinger Meats, Hickory's Legacy Farms, Holly Schnell, Jenny Andolsek, Joe Miller - State Representative, Keets Herefords, Kelli's Kettle Corn, Kochenour Orthodontics, Schlechter Brothers Farm Market, and Triple M Service.

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

*submitted by Julia Finnegan
reporter of Four Leaf Clovers*



A Big Falcon Welcome to Our New Staff Members

We are happy to introduce many new (and a few returning) staff members this year.

Stephanie Baird, FMS/FHS Assistant Cook, has enjoyed being a stay-at-home mom for the last 10 years. Both her son and daughter are enrolled in the district. For the past 16 years, she has also helped her family care for her mother after a massive stroke and is grateful to still have her with them. She and her family enjoy fishing, deer hunting, and camping. They also have two outdoor cats. Stephanie is looking forward to what the future brings.

Leslie Beckwith, FMS/FHS Assistant Cook is a 2004 Firelands graduate. She moved to the district in 5th grade. Her son is in 3rd grade at FES and her daughter is in 1st grade at FES. So she has been a Falcon as a student, a parent and now is very excited to join the staff! She has been primarily a stay-at-home mom raising her children and is very excited to start this next chapter.

Michael Braddock, FES 5th Grade Math Teacher, has spent the last 13 years in Wellington teaching math in grades 6-9. He lives in Amherst with his wife and daughter, who will be starting kindergarten this year, and his two cats. He loves comic books, cartoons, and is obsessed with pickleball. All the staff he has met have been very friendly and helpful. He is very excited about meeting the students and their families. Michael says he would like to do my part to help

continue Firelands history of excellence.

Vincent DeCesare, FES 4th Grade Teacher, is starting his teaching career at Firelands Elementary School in the areas of Language Arts and Social Studies. He graduated from Ashland University in December of 2023. He is originally from Medina but moved to Lorain County this year. He hopes to connect with families, students, and the Firelands community and is very excited to be a Falcon. Vincent enjoys playing video games, golfing, mountain biking, fishing, disc golfing, and pretty much anything outdoors.

Laura Deitz, FMS Aide, is a graduate of South Amherst High School and comes to Firelands with many years of paraprofessional experience in a local school district. She lives in Amherst and is married with two children and three grandchildren. Laura is excited to start the new school year at Firelands High School.

Desiree Feigi, FMS/FHS Secretary, is thrilled to start her permanent position at Firelands. She is a past student and a longtime resident of the district. A graduate of Bowling Green State University, she has spent the last 10 years as a mother, secretary, and substitute teacher. During her free time, she loves being with her family and their two dogs. As a Girl Scout leader, she loves investing time mentoring kids and going on new adventures. She is looking forward to getting to know and

assisting Firelands families this coming year!

Jill Kelley, FES Title 1 Tutor, has been married to her husband Chris for 32 years and they live in Amherst. They have four children ages 29, 25, 20, and 17. Jill worked in the Firelands District for 32 years teaching in multiple positions and retired in 2019, but is now back with us at FES as the Title 1 Tutor.

Rachel Lee, FES Intervention Specialist, teaches in the 2nd-5th grade cross categorical classroom. After teaching early in her career, she has spent the last 15 years at home raising her own 4 Falcons and volunteering. She is excited to be officially joining the Firelands team!

Onyx Lopez, FES 2nd Grade Teacher, is also the Varsity Girls Basketball coach at FHS. She started coaching for us last year while teaching in Lorain. She has four years of experience in education in various positions and is excited to be a Falcon!

Kendra Nemeth, FES Paraprofessional, is a Firelands graduate and is proud to have her 4 children call Firelands their home. She has previous experience subbing for and working as a paraprofessional, and is excited for the opportunity to return to Firelands Elementary School and is looking forward to a wonderful year!

Tarrie Opaliski, Bus Driver, started subbing at Firelands last year. She moved into the district 21 years ago and currently has a son who is a junior at FHS. She has been a stay-at-home mom

and is excited to start a new chapter in life.

Nicole Pozega, FES 2nd Grade Teacher, is excited to join the 2nd Grade team after teaching at St. Peter School in North Ridgeville for 11 years and one year at Lorain City Schools. She earned her bachelor's degree from Ashland University and master's degree from Cleveland State University. She loves spending spare time with family, friends, and her fiancé. She also enjoys traveling (mostly to the beach), reading, swimming, and being outdoors. Nicole is looking forward to helping students reach their full potential and is grateful for this new opportunity!

Lucy-Jane Rector, FHS Student Services Secretary, is the new Student Services secretary at Firelands High School. After her husband changed jobs, she and her family relocated to Ohio from Kentucky, where she lived for many years. She is originally from Warren, PA and earned a bachelor's degree from St. Bonaventure University in New York. She spent the last 7 years as the registrar and attendance specialist at North Park Elementary, an early learning center for 700 students in Hardin County Schools, KY. She loved helping the tiny students there, so she is hoping to find some similarities between kindergarteners and high schoolers in her new position,

continued on p. 10



Stephanie Baird



Leslie Beckwith



Michael Braddock



Vincent DeCesare



Laura Deitz



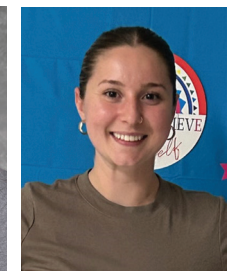
Desiree Feigi



Jill Kelley



Rachel Lee



Onyx Lopez

THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

Statewide Handle With Care Program Implemented

We are excited to announce that Lorain County is in the process of launching the Ohio Handle With Care initiative! Firelands school system, along with several other Lorain County school systems are scheduled to launch this year. We wanted to give you a little more information about the Handle With Care initiative. **Handle With Care** or **HWC** is a trauma-informed, collaborative, cross-systems response to Adverse Childhood Experiences promoting resilience through positive relationships with school staff and first responders.



HANDLE WITH CARE: OHIO
PROTECT • HEAL • THRIVE

What this means for you and your family is: if your child encounters a first responder or is present when an emergency event occurs, the first responders are now trained to support your child by communicating through a confidential reporting system to specific school staff that there may be additional support needed upon that child's return to school. **The school will ONLY be notified of your child's**

NAME, AGE, and SCHOOL.

The school will never receive any details about the event, only that the child should be **"handled with care"**. This could look like increasing patience and empathy with students when they need it most.

Another important element of the HWC initiative is that first responders visit the school regularly to familiarize students with our police, fire,

and EMS. These visits serve to form positive connections between first responders, the school system, and students. We hope that this community and countywide initiative helps remove barriers to quality care for your Firelands students. If you'd like any further information or have any questions, please feel free to reach out to your child's school counselor, social worker, or school administrator.

For additional information, please go to handlewithcareoh.org.

*Submitted by Mrs. Jennifer Butchko
Public Relations Coordinator*

Food Service News & Information

Be sure to check out the daily menus on www.myschool-menus.org or download The Falcons app!

GOOD NEWS

Students that qualify for reduced meals will now be free for this year and possibly next. The State of Ohio biennial budget includes funding to cover the cost of meals for students qualifying for reduced-price meals. The .30 cost for breakfast and .40 cost for lunch will be covered by the State of Ohio.

Annual Meal Application

An updated meal application must be submitted **every year** for those in need. Go to the online portal www.payschoolscentral.com. Paper applications will be available in each school office. List all household members, including income. Students are only listed in the student section.

Carryover Meal Status

If your child qualified for meal assistance last year, that status will continue until October 16th or until a new application is received or Direct Cert approval

prior to October 16. This does not include students that attended another school district. Each district is a separate entity. **If an updated application or approval has not been received, your child's meal status will change to denied after October 16th.**

Direct Certification

If you receive a Direct Certification letter, you must sign and return it to get the instructional school fees waived. Fees are only waived for students that qualify for free meals and return the signed form.

FHS / FMS Cafeteria Monitors and Offerings

Check out the 3 monitors hanging above the serving line inside the High School kitchen. The daily menu will be on the middle display so students can see which of the 5 stations they would like to select from. From left to right when walking into the kitchen is the Main line, Grille line, Deli line, Garden Fresh line and the Pizzeria. At the deli line you can also get a yogurt parfait meal bundle or a peanut butter and jelly bundle meal. A meal

can be bundled at each station. This is for ALL students regardless of meal status. We make fresh salads daily along with homemade pizza on Wednesday and Thursday.

Account Information

Money can be added to accounts through the online portal at www.payschoolscentral.com, or by cash or check. Please make sure you add the students name to the memo line on the check. Elementary Students: if sending cash or a check, please put it in a zip lock baggie or an envelope and clearly mark with the students' name. This is given to the homeroom teacher which is then given to the cashier.

Meal Requirement

A meal must contain a serving of fruit or vegetables. If a fruit or vegetable is not taken the items will be charged at the a la carte pricing.

**BUNDLE A MEAL =
SAVE \$ MONEY**

**Please contact Mrs. Baumann if you have any questions.
440-965-4255 ext. 3097
Jbaumann@firelandsschools.org**

Students 6-digit ID

Each student at Firelands receives a 6-digit student ID#. This number is used for different logins, including the log in for purchasing meals. **PLEASE** teach your children this number. The lines get very backed up when students do not know their student number. Below is a picture of what the pin pad looks like, you can use this as a practice template.



Enter the PIN and then press the green ENTER button.

If you need to start over or if you press the wrong button, press the red CLEAR button.

THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS



Kendra Nemeth



Tarrie Opaliski



Nicole Pozega



Lucy-Jane Rector



Melony Sibert



Gabbrialla Smith



Cheryl Swierz



Megan Tomlinson



Molly Townsend

New Staff, continued from p.7 even though the students are a couple feet taller. Lucy-Jane's three children began attending Firelands last semester and are now in 6th, 9th, and 12th grade, so she is excited to be joining them.

Melony Sibert, FHS Aide, grew up in the district and graduated from Firelands. She did move away for a while but came back here with her husband and 2 children. Her oldest recently graduated from FHS. Melony came back to the work force as a sub at FES during the last school year, after being a stay-at-home mom for 18 years. In her free time she likes

to do activities with her family such as card games and going to Cedar Point in the summer. She also really likes going on shopping trips with her family and friends.

Gabbrialla Smith, FES Cleaner, recently graduated from Firelands High School and is excited to still be in the district. She is working as a cleaner for Firelands Elementary School while also attending Lorain County Community College to earn her associates degree in nursing.

Cheryl Swierz, FES Intervention Specialist for grades 4 and 5, has 17 years of teaching experience with the last 15

years at Murray Ridge School. She graduated from Ashland University with a Bachelor of Science in Middle Childhood Education and a Master of Education in Intervention. Cheryl lives in Amherst with her 5-year-old daughter, Claire. Cheryl couldn't be more excited about servicing the students and families of Firelands!

Megan Tomlinson, FES 3rd Grade Teacher, is a lifelong resident of Amherst and lives there with her husband, 2 daughters, and Goldendoodle. She has been in education for 15 years and has taught 2nd, 3rd, and 5th grade. She is very excited to

join the Firelands School District teaching 3rd grade ELA and Social Studies. In her spare time, Megan likes to travel and boat on Lake Erie with her family.

Molly Townsend, FES Aide, is a proud Firelands graduate. She moved to Michigan 7 years ago and started her career in education as a special education paraprofessional and lunch aide. Molly, her husband, and daughter Pippa, moved back to Ohio just over a year and a half ago. They are happy to be back home and excited to be part of the Firelands community once again.

Welcome to all of our new Falcoln staff and best wishes for an awesome school year!

FFA from page 7

A huge thank you to everyone who bought our FFA members' animals!

Absolute Machine Tools, ACX Services LLC, Animal Clinic Northview, Beth & Shayne Clegg, Born Implement, Bremke Law, Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers, Cairns Shorthorns, Chris Schiefer Insurance & Financial Svc, City Barbeque LLC,

Clifford Farms, Cutting Edge Trucking LLC, Dave Mohler, Denes Concrete, Dostall Farms, DRC Construction, Farkas Farms, Grills Family Farm, Gwen Clifford Slone,

Harry Rowland Jr. Inc, Hickory's Legacy Farms, Howells Maple Grove Farm, Kalt Mfg. - Mark Novak, Keets Herefords, Keller Meats, KMU Trucking & Excavating, Knoble Brothers Farm Joseph and John Knoble, Lloyd & Lori Lindsey, Mitchell's

Mechanical, M & J Building & Excavating, Nationwide Insurance-Chris Schiefer, Oberlin Family Dental, Opaliski Farm, Ortner Farms, Partners Brand Seed-Mike Buchs "BOOKS", Ross Environmental Services Inc, Schafer Excavating, Schlechter Brothers Country Harvest, Sunrise Cooperative Inc, The Child Garden, Triple L Enterprise, Triple M Service, Vector Surveying Services LLC, Whitehouse Artesian Springs, Wild Frontier Farm, and Woods Family Farm.

Thank you also to everyone who added on to our members' projects through the BW Final Drive Add-On Program:

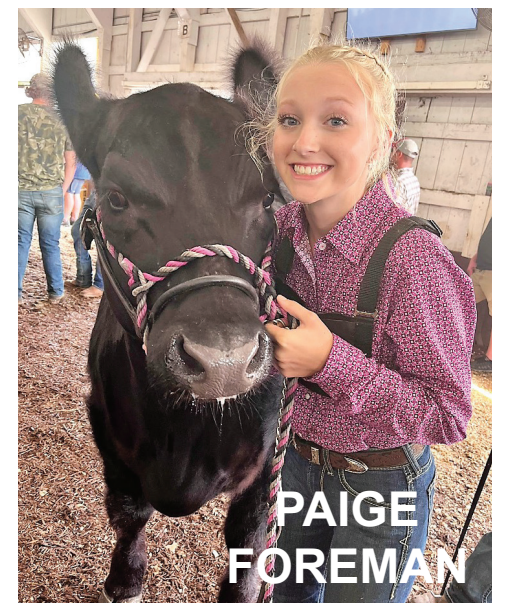
Adam Beckler, Amanda Brown, Amy Reaser, Andrew Fowl, Avon Lake Animal Clinic - Dr. Frank Krupka, Becky Chicella, Born Farms, Born Implement, Brad Chenoweth, Brian Kyle's

Landscape of Distinction, Campana Insurance, Charles and Janet Alferio, City BBQ, Clegg Family, CMC Trucking, CSI Insurance LLC, Cutting Edge Excavating, C & L Shoes, Dave Rothgery, Fabritech Solutions, Firelands Farms Inc., Frances Kremer, Hickory Grove Farms Inc., Holly & Ed Schnell, John Toman, Joyce Beckler, Judy Hartung, Julie Jackson, Kelly Hankins, Klingshirn Farms, Kylie Ross, Laura Borkowski, Laurie Ross, Lee Tansey, Lewis Farms Ohio LLC, Lisa Beckler, Lisa Corwon, Lorain-Medina Rural Electric Cooperative, Lori Light, Marcie White, Melanie Broud, Michelle Westover, Milton Sayler, Monica Deitz, Nicholas Kochenour DMD MSD LLC, Parola Ranch, Paul Nixon, Rebecca Kois, Roger Reid, Sam and Patti Pastorial, Savannah Engelman, Susan Schillig,

Susan Owens, Tanya Thomas, The Wood Shop Oberlin, Trevor Simpson, Tyler Vargo, Wensink Farm Seeds, and 511 Feed Seed & Supply.

Thank you to all that support youth in agriculture.

Submitted by FFA Reporter Jocelyn Bednar edited by Lilly Chenoweth



PAIGE FOREMAN

THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

Athletic News & Schedules

With so many athletic events going on each week, it's hard to get up to date coverage in this monthly publication. Most teams have social media accounts like Facebook, Instagram, X (Twitter), where schedules, scores, and photos are posted.

To get schedules, go to the Firelands website, and click on "Calendar" to go to the Athletic Calendar. We are using a new athletic platform this year, but it has all of the games, schedules and locations.

On X (Twitter), you can follow our athletic director, Ty Stillman, @FirelandsFalcon. He often posts updates during games!

GO FALCONS!



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3 Generations of Firelands Graduates

Local Food Pantries

Listed below are some local Food Pantries. It is advised that you call first to make sure you can be served. You can dial 211 to get a list of all the upcoming available pantries in the county.

Good Shepherd Baptist Church

Amherst residents can utilize the pantry for no charge by calling the church office for more info. The food pantry is open on weekdays by appointment. Please call the church office to schedule a time at 440-988-4506. 1100 Cleveland Avenue, Amherst OH 44001.

First United Methodist Church

First United serves Firelands school district residents and Amherst mailing addresses. Please call the church at 440-986-2461 on weekdays to ensure someone is there before arriving. Generally open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., but call first. 201 West Main Street, South Amherst OH 44001.

St. Jude Helping Hands

A DRIVE-THRU food pantry is held twice a month, the third Saturday of each month from 11 am to 1 pm, and the Tuesday following the third Saturday from 5 PM to 6:30 PM. Please do not arrive until 30 minutes before the start time. Call 440-366-0118 for more info. 590 Poplar St., Elyria OH 44035.

Kinship Network Brunch Scheduled for October 5

RSVPs appreciated by October 2nd

You are cordially invited

CALLING ALL GRANDPARENTS, UNCLES,
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CAREGIVERS OF STUDENTS AND THEIR
SIBLINGS



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 440-965-2400,
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Next Board of Education meetings:
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 Dec. 11
 Jan. 8
 Feb. 12
 Mar. 11

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