



THE LION'S ROAR

March, 2020

Fairfield Local Schools
11611 St. Rt. 771
Leesburg, Ohio 45135
937/780-2221

Be a Part of the Pride!



@FairfieldLocalSchools

www.fairfieldlocal.org

DISTRICT UPDATE *Tim Dettwiller, Superintendent*

Hi folks,

School Year 2020 has been a very busy one with the start of many initiatives and the fruition of those started last year.

Our PAX program started last year in the elementary building is working hand in hand with our district's Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports program. Under both programs we have seen a marked decrease in student discipline referrals. On a side note, Denise Mootz was our district PBIS coordinator through the 2019 school year. Denise retired in December 2019 so we thank her for her tireless efforts in improving our school culture. Deanne Miller has taken over this year as the coordinator and is working to improve our program.

The Board of Education approved our new K-12 English Language Arts curriculum with this year being our first year of implementation. I am happy to report the curriculum has been implemented with fidelity. Thank you to our staff and Curriculum Director Kesia McCoy for a smooth roll-out. Currently our district Math department is working on its recommendation for a new math curriculum.

Safety and Security of our students is always our top priority and to that end we have made security enhancements this year. We have added 5 new threat extinguisher units to common areas around the school. Threat extinguisher is a non-lethal pepper spray deterrent that can be accessed by both staff and students to use against an intruder in our school. We have also added several new cameras allowing us to view areas such as the HS parking lot that previously was not electronically monitored.

I am very excited to announce that our Agri-science department will once again have a field test site. The Board of Education approved the change in use of the southernmost practice soccer field and surrounding ground along 771 as a 5 acre test plot. Students and staff will conduct tests of soil content, seed comparisons and plant growth. Also, the Agri-science department will now have a barn lot with animals on site for students to work with and study along Smith Road. Thank you to our teachers Daniel Foster and Kelsey Sheeley as well as those members of the FFA Alumni Association for your input and support of this new program.

Finally, our renewed Strategic Plan has now moved into the input stage. Members of the strategic planning team have drafted a new plan and we need your input before we finalize. Please visit www.fairfieldlocal.org and complete the google survey. This is one way your opinion on what Fairfield Local schools should become is heard. Thank you for participating.



TREASURER'S UPDATE

Mike Morrow, CPA, Treasurer

A quick update on District finances that directly affects each of you.

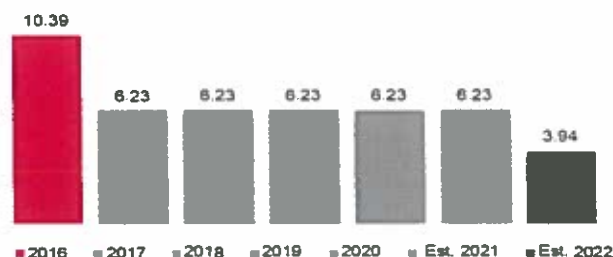
The Administration and Board of Education are working to refinance the 2015 New Wing & Track debt. The refinancing will **save taxpayers approximately \$750,000 in property taxes over the life of the debt payments.**

Taxpayers have saved over \$900,000 in property taxes since 2017 due to the Permanent Improvement levy non-renewal and reductions in debt related collections. This amount will increase in the coming years!

Beginning in 2022, property taxes on the 1998 K-12 Building project will no longer be collected; **saving taxpayers \$190,000 per year. The 1998 K-12 Building will be completely paid off in 2021.**

We are always looking for ways to save money and operate efficiently, while continuing to improve the education provided to our students. Please reach out to me in the District Office with any questions. Also, check out the Treasurer's page of the District website for updates on District finances.

Voted School Property Tax Rates



* 2017: Permanent Improvement Levy nonrenewal, K-12 Building Levy reduction
* 2022: K-12 Building Levy no longer collected; building paid-off in 2021

HIGH SCHOOL *Steve Hackett, Principal*

The first half of the school year has seen numerous accomplishments both academically and athletically. Our students and faculty strive each day to achieve excellence in education. We are very proud of our student body and appreciate the hard work and respect that is shown each and every day. The High School will continue to work towards the building goals in the following areas:

- Continue to implement Teacher Based Teams
- Continue to implement the Building Leadership Teams
- Continue to use data to drive our instruction
- Increase student growth
- Maintain an excellent learning environment using the PBIS Model



Our teachers are in the second year of participating in our Teacher Based Teams that meet on a regular basis to identify areas of concern as a class and the individual student. We are fortunate to have in place this year two certified tutors. One in the area of English Language Arts and the other in Math. Our students have the opportunity to receive intervention in these subjects to help prepare them for State Testing. Our Building Leadership Team monitors the progress of the Teacher Based Teams and determines that the proper data is used and the determination is correct. The Building Leadership Team ensures that building and district goals are being met.

Our students have been offered a wide variety of additional courses this year as we have utilized some on-line resources to expand our course offerings. Our Juniors will be taking the state funded ACT Test in March. For access to free practice tests and more information, visit www.march2success.com. Faculty and staff continue to do a wonderful job and we cannot say enough about our students and the enjoyment of working with them each and every day. **GO LIONS!**

Recent Graduates - Campus Update:

- University of Kentucky – Lauren Greene (2017 grad.) named to both the Fall and Spring 2019 Dean's List (min. 3.6 GPA).
- Coastal Carolina University – Sarah Buddelmeyer (2016 grad.) named to the Dean's List for Spring 2019 semester (3.5-3.9 GPA) and the President's List for the Fall semester (4.0 GPA).
- Youngstown State University – Matthew Mangus (2018 grad.) named to the Dean's List for the Spring 2019 semester (min. 3.4 GPA).
- Congratulations to Aesa McComb (2015 grad.) as he received his degree from Miami University in May of 2019. Aesa graduated with a degree in Education majoring in Physical Science Education.

Current High School Students:

- Senior Ailean Duffie was the winner of the Red Ribbon Week Essay Contest.
- Sophomore Bella Warner volunteered over 20 hours working with kindergarten students.
- Nathan Travis, junior at Laurel Oaks was named Student of the Month in January.
- Senior Saylor Priest received the Good Citizen Award from the Daughters of the American Revolution at the December meeting.

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

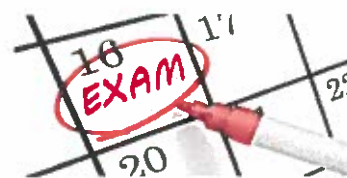
I would like to share with you a little about my family and myself because you have given me the honor of serving on your school board. I have come to love this community since I married into it (Lori Britain Fairfield Class of 1984) several years ago when I found it to be a very welcoming town. I have always felt at home here because I grew up in a very similar rural area in north central Ohio. Lori and I share seven children and fourteen Grand children

Most of my professional career has been in manufacturing management at a variety of automotive parts suppliers around the states of Ohio and Virginia with the last fifteen years spent at the executive level.

I am excited about this opportunity to serve on the Fairfield School Board because God has blessed us both incredibly and we want to give back what we can to the folks that we have come to love. Lori and I contribute much of our professional success and the success of our children to the fact that we all had the opportunity to attend a small farming community school. Lori's children all attended and graduated from the Fairfield School District and my children graduated from the Wynford School District in Crawford County (Bucyrus), Ohio. One of the primary areas that I hope to focus on during the time you allow me to serve you on our board is to keep the school district true to its Christian and community heritage. I want to make sure that our district continues to remain consistent with the beliefs and values of the community it serves and not become distracted by the latest "popular" societal trends.

Thank you, John Welling

**to see Mr. Welling's complete bio, please visit www.fairfieldlocal.org*



YEAR-END TEST SCHEDULE

Date(s)	Tests	Students
April 15, 16	ELA	6th, 7th, 8th
April 16, 17	ELA	High School
April 20, 21	ELA	3rd, 4th, 5th
April 27	Math	3rd, 4th, 5th
April 27, 28	Am. History	HS
April 29	Government	HS
April 30, May 1	Science	5th, 8th
April 30, May 1	Biology	HS
May 4, 5	Math	6th, 7th, 8th
May 4, 5	Algebra & Geometry	HS
May 6, 7	Vo-Ag	HS

SPECIAL EDUCATION *Mendy Hamilton, Director of Special Programs and Psychological Services*

The office of student services has moved spaces for the 2019-2020 school year. Our office is now located at the former middle school office location. This location is the primary entrance for the middle school and high school during the school day. Tisha Ross recently was hired as the student services secretary and also maintains security for our entrance. Directly behind her we have added a conference room to meet with parents in regards to all school student service needs. The best way to reach our office is by contacting 937-780-2988 option #6.

In November, Ashley Carruthers, Middle School Intervention Specialist, and Staci Bales, Elementary Intervention Specialist, attended a three day national training in Columbus. OCALICON, the nation's premier Autism and Disabilities conference which included attendees from 41 states and 7 countries to total near 3,000 participants. The focus of this year's conference was Inclusive Education for all students, and targeted meeting the needs of each individual learner. Both Carruthers and Bales were able to attend various sessions including the following focus areas: childhood trauma, executive functioning, designing co-teaching models, inclusive practices, incorporating video teaching centers, and more. Both Intervention Specialists compiled notes and various example strategies in a shared drive to be utilized by all staff, as well as our Autism/Behavioral Team.



Fairfield Local Intervention teachers and Speech and Language Pathologists attended a reading intervention training to learn how to implement Lexia, an intervention program being utilized to provide differentiated literacy instruction for students of all abilities in grades pre-K-5. Lexia's research-proven program provides explicit, systematic, personalized learning in the six areas of reading instruction, targeting skill gaps as they emerge, and providing teachers with the data and student-specific resources they need for individual or small-group instruction. All 3 Elementary Intervention Specialists at Fairfield are trained in Lexia Core 5. The intervention staff have also trained regular education teachers who will be implementing this as a Tier 2 or Tier 3 intervention in the classroom.

Lexia® PowerUp Literacy® is designed to help struggling students in grades 6 and above become proficient readers and confident learners. PowerUp helps educators simultaneously address gaps in fundamental literacy skills while helping students build the higher-order skills they need to comprehend, analyze, evaluate, and compare increasingly complex literary and informational texts. Blending online student-driven explicit instruction with offline teacher-delivered lessons and activities, PowerUp empowers secondary teachers—regardless of their background or expertise in reading—to deliver the exact instruction each student needs to become a proficient reader. Fairfield has implemented this for students with disabilities in grades 6-12.



TRANSPORTATION *Clint Shoemaker, Coordinator*



Thirty-two years in the same job is quite an accomplishment. And when that job is driving a school bus full of children, that accomplishment becomes even more incredible. Kim Long started driving a Fairfield school bus in March of 1988. She started as a substitute, but soon became full time. In the 32 years she has been with Fairfield Schools, she has hauled all ages of students – from kindergarteners to seniors.

She is now hauling the children of some of her first student passengers! For Kim, driving a school bus is more than a job. She loves the kids and takes pride in working for Fairfield Schools.

Fairfield has tentatively been awarded a \$20,000 grant through the United States Environmental Protection Agency to purchase a new bus. This money will provide us over 20% in savings. The plan is to order the bus this spring so it will be ready for operation at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year.

This year, the "Bus Bucks" positive behavior program was implemented on all K-5 buses and in our car rider line. Drivers and staff hand out "bucks" to students who are being PAX leaders and displaying positive behaviors. Students write their first/last name, grade, and bus # on the Bus Buck then place it in the correct labeled bin outside of the Elementary Office. At the end of the week, 1 car rider and 1 student from each bus is randomly drawn to have pizza with Principal Streber and one of our bus drivers. At the end of each nine weeks, the bus that earns the most Bus Bucks earns a donut party for their entire bus and their bus driver!



ATHLETICS

Tony Williams, Athletic Director

I want to start off by thanking everyone who has helped to make my start as Athletic Director at Fairfield so amazing. The tremendous amount of support is what sets our school and community apart from so many others!

The Fairfield Lions have been successful throughout the 2019-2020 School Year. The Boys Cross Country team finished 9th at the State Meet with Cohen Frost and Ethan Davis earning All-Ohio Honors!! Coach Raymond Friend was also named District Coach of the Year.



The Varsity Volleyball team also earned a SHAC Championship, with junior Layla Hattan earning SHAC Player of the Year Honors.

Our Basketball and Bowling teams had tremendous runs as well. Our Girls and Boys Bowling Teams were both SHAC Champions; Morgan Baker and Jacob Cox both earned SHAC Bowler of the Year honors. The Girls Bowling team continued on, earning District Runners-Up honors. Our Boys Basketball were Sectional Champions, then defeated #2 ranked in the State Glenwood New Boston in the District Semi-Finals. The Lions were District Runners-Up. We are all very proud of the success of our student-athletes.

Please continue to support our student athletes. GO LIONS!!

FOOD SERVICES *Mary Beth Craycraft, Head Cook*



This school year has been exciting thus far. We introduced a coffee/tea cart on January 13 to High School students and all staff. We are excited to offer iced coffee, hot coffee, hot cocoa, iced tea, and a wide variety of sugar free flavors. This cart was donated by our Special Service Department and the equipment and materials were donated by the Class of 2019. We are grateful for these donations.

Our goal in the kitchen is to not only serve our students a healthy meal, but a healthy meal that they will love. Here are some of our new menu items this year that seem to be a big hit for the students: spaghetti & meatballs, Domino's smart slice pizza, homemade chicken fettuccini alfredo, pizza lunchables, pork carnitas, and our newest item chicken & waffles. This school year, we have given the K-5 students more entrée options. The student's like knowing that they can choose something different if they do not want the entrée on the menu for that day.

March 2-6 is National School Breakfast Week. The theme is "Out of This World". We are super excited to plan our menu and activities for that week. We try to do as much as possible to get the kids involved so they can learn how important eating a healthy, balance breakfast is for their bodies.

Thank you for your continued support for the kitchen. We hope to report some more exciting news in the future!

CURRICULUM

Kesia McCoy, Director of Curriculum and Gifted Services

Adoption of curriculum materials is one of the most important decisions a district can make. While state standards describe what students are expected to learn and be able to do, what is taught in classrooms - the implemented curriculum - is heavily influenced by the instructional materials that are provided. This year, the math curriculum adoption team has been undergoing an intensive, evidence-based review process to seek out the most fitting math curriculum for our students.



The year long process includes:

- Content-area teachers to form a curriculum adoption committee
- Reviewing the ODE model curriculum and state standards
- Creating a curriculum adoption evaluation rubric
- Meeting with curriculum experts and specialists
- Field testing of the curriculum materials
- Critiquing the curriculum against the expectations of the evaluation rubric
- Selection of the top choice
- Recommendation to the Superintendent and Board of Education

The math curriculum adoption team is committed to seeking out a math curriculum that meets our criteria of; achievement, vertical alignment, problem based learning, digital access and support. Currently the team is finalizing field testing and critiquing the curriculum against the expectations of the evaluation rubric. The team looks forward to implementing an aligned K-12 math curriculum that meets the needs of all of our students.

ELEMENTARY *Katie Streber, Principal*

It has been a productive start to the first half of the 2019-2020 school year for Fairfield Elementary! Before the students entered the doors we knew we were going to have quite a few big changes for our building at the beginning of the year with grade level realignment (moving K-5) and a new English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum. I am pleased to report that both of these have had a positive impact on our building this school year.



The grade level realignment was a smooth, positive transition. We continue to work together as a K-5 staff to try to meet the needs of our 5th grade students and find ways to better prepare them for the adjustment of moving to middle school. Implementation of our new ELA Curriculum is showing positive impact as the curriculum completely aligns with Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling strategies that our staff has gained through professional development offered through the Ohio Literacy Pilot. Fairfield Elementary is currently in year 3 of the pilot where we will begin increasing parent engagement in order to improve student literacy. More information of the pilot can be found at <https://www.sst14.org/1/Content/early-literacy>



Making positive changes to our elementary building atmosphere was a top priority when the elementary Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) team discussed goals for this school year. By implementing PAX building wide, we have been able to decrease our building and bus discipline incidents by over 50%. We are implementing behavior incentives for school and bus which is helping to keep a positive environment as well as keeping kids excited about the PAX program. To ensure our PBIS is more than just incentives, our 4th and 5th graders have started the Kindness Club. The Elementary Kindness Club meets once a month to plan various activities to show acts of kindness towards others within the community and the school. In the month of December, the students made cards and ornaments to take to local nursing homes. To show themselves as role models in the K-3 setting, they handed out candy canes and read books with our K-3 students.

Fairfield Elementary continues to strive towards academic excellence by monitoring student growth through our building implementation of the Ohio Improvement Process. Teachers hold formal data driven Teacher-Based Team (TBT) meetings (by grade level or by subject) twice a month at our early release and professional day and informal check-in meetings weekly. During formal TBT meetings, the teachers are looking at data to identify strengths and areas for growth. They are able to collaborate, discuss strategies to implement, then come back and check the progress of implementation. The Building Leadership Team (BLT) meets monthly to monitor the progress of each of the TBTs, discuss building level data, and ensure we are providing teachers with the resources needed. The BLT reviewed Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) data to establish goals in reading, math, and science, aiming to increase student achievement by 15% in math and science and 10% in reading.

Fairfield Elementary students and staff work hard every day and make it a great place to be! There has been so much accomplished in the first half of the year and we cannot wait to see what more we can do in the next half!

MIDDLE SCHOOL *Deanne Miller, Principal*



Fairfield Middle School has had a fabulous first semester of the 2019-2020 school year! The staff and students have worked diligently on our Building Goals of implementing Fairfield's Path to Excellence with the creation of the Building Leadership Team and Teacher-based Teams that are focused on students' academic growth and curriculum alignment and needs. The English Language Arts teachers have introduced our new ELA curriculum: My Perspectives. Also, FMS has also continued implementation of Positive Behavior and Intervention Supports!

In December, the 8th grade students took their annual field trip to the Statehouse in Columbus as a part of their Social Studies curriculum. The students were able to take a tour of the Statehouse and were even invited on the Statehouse floor for a picture with Representative Shane Wilkin.

Robotics Club: The After-school and 6th grade Robotics Clubs are up and running! These students have been working on learning the basics of robotics and mechanical engineering. More importantly, these students are learning how to work together as a team to be successful. The teams are working diligently to be readily prepared for upcoming competitions and look forward to showing off their new skills.

Drama Club: Drama club is going well! Before Christmas, the drama club split into 6 groups and each acted out a children's Christmas book. They performed these plays for the kindergarten classes. There are approximately 30-35 sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students attending each Wednesday after school. The students practice improvisation activities, act out skits, and other fun activities to get the students comfortable working together and performing in front of people.



Congratulations to Sydney Hooper, 1st place; Ava Hooper, 2nd place; and Addison Bales, 3rd place for their performance in the FMS Spelling Bee held in December.

Strategic Plan Community Survey

A strategic plan is the vehicle that allows an organization to look to the future.
How can you help with this process?

In this survey, we have outlined our goals and initiatives in 5 Areas of Focus - Student Achievement, Climate & Culture, Communication, Resources and Partnerships. Please provide your comments, ideas and feedback.

To take the survey, go to our website and click the link! If you do not have internet access, please call 937-780-2221 and we will provide you with a paper copy.

www.fairfieldlocal.org

FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Hello neighbors and community members,

I was recently elected as the President of the Board of Education. I am excited to take on this new role. It is my hope to continue the great work of outgoing Board president Dr. Rindy Matthews.

As the new Board President I am always available to hearing your ideas and concerns related to improving our great school. I will always relay your concerns and ideas to those folks at the school who can address them the quickest.

I am excited about all the improvements we have made and look forward to the many positive changes ahead.

Thank you, Jimmy Craycraft

TECHNOLOGY *T.J. Crowder, Director of Technology & Library Services*

Technology usage within the district is growing! Currently the district utilizes over 680 Chromebooks, as well as over 200 Windows devices for educational purposes. Fairfield is continuing in our plan to update/renew devices throughout the building. In year one, we updated all devices in the tested subject areas. Year two, we focused on the elementary building. Year three, this summer, we are focusing our attention on the high school. Along with updating many of the end user devices, we have updated several SMART boards, installed additional security cameras, updated servers, updated entrances with keyless entry systems, and much more!

Fairfield has also installed a camera in the high school gym which allows events/games to be displayed within the auditoria. We want to hear your feedback! Please see Mr. Williams (or any staff member) to let us know your thoughts! Other projects in the works include mounting informational displays at the building offices.

Regarding the libraries, we continue to purchase new books for students. Recently we purchased several books for our elementary and we have plans to update several of the books for high school as well. For this school year (to date), we have surpassed over 10,000 checkouts to our student body! Mrs. Butler and Mrs. Haines work diligently to ensure that we have the most up-to-date texts/new releases of the in-demand titles. I would like to thank Mrs. Butler and Mrs. Haines, for providing me a greater understanding of the library, each of them are very passionate in their role. More importantly, I would like to thank them for their patience, as much of my time has been devoted to technology issues. They do a wonderful job! Thank you!

Mrs. Smallridge, along with myself have also started a robotics program. Mrs. Smallridge has sixth graders during the school day, and I have a group of 7th and 8th graders after school. These groups have been busy constructing and programming VEX EDR materials the past several weeks.

Finally, I want to thank the staff and students for their patience and perseverance. Their adaptations through many of the technology changes has been quite amazing! I would also like to thank Mr. Wigginton for assisting in my transition to this position. It has been great moving into a position where there is a valuable resource to gain information. In the event you have any questions regarding technology and/or libraries, please give us a call or send us a message. Thank you and GO LIONS!



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MISSION STATEMENT *As a part of a rural community rich in traditional values, our mission is to enable each individual to reach his/her highest potential to succeed in an ever-changing global society by providing the highest level of academic instruction in a safe, positive learning environment.*

MAINTENANCE

Wyatt Sowders, Maintenance Coordinator

The maintenance department has been busy both inside and outside of the building. You will notice several changes around our facility, including the following:

- Counseling Offices reconfiguration
- Add wall in Sp. Ed. area to create conference room
- Re-lamped and painted school road sign
- Removed pine trees at road front and by building
- Makeover of varsity baseball field, including in-field, pitchers mound and batters box

CUSTODIAL

John Wisecup, Custodial Coordinator

The custodial staff are taking extra steps to keep the students and staff in a safe, healthy environment. We have consulted a hygiene specialist for guidance and recommendations on how to best sanitize and clean our building. We are currently using commercial grade Clorox products that kill cold and flu viruses, bacteria, MRSA, staph, E-Coli and the organism that can cause whooping cough. Our custodians, administrators, school nurse and the Health Department are all working together to ensure we do what's best to get through this flu season.



2020 SCHOOL BOARD

Front: Superintendent Tim Dettwiller,
President James Craycraft, Treasurer Mike Morrov

Back: Dr. Rindy Matthews, Vice-President
Shawn Willey, Ron Friend, John Welling

UPCOMING EVENTS

2/14No School - Staff PD Day	4/10No School - Spring Break
2/17No School - Presidents' Day	4/13No School - Staff PD Day
2/20P/T Conferences	4/15Kindergarten Registration
2/261-Hour Early Release	4/17PTO Family Fitness Night
2/27P/T Conferences	5/6High School Concert
3/4Elementary LOL Night	5/7Middle School Concert
3/5High School Concert	5/9Alumni Banquet
3/6Middle School Dance	5/11HS Art Show/Scholastic Awards
3/111-Hour Early Release	5/14Music Banquet
3/13High School Musical	5/15Elementary Grandparents' Day
3/14High School Musical	5/15FFA Banquet
3/234th Quarter Begins	5/19Elementary Super Games
3/251-Hour Early Release	5/20Elementary Awards
3/27Report Cards Sent Home	5/20Kindergarten Program
4/2Middle School Awards	5/21Last Day for Students
4/3Elementary Awards1-Hour Early Release
4/9No School - Spring Break	5/22Graduation