



Spring 2021

Fairfield Local Schools
11611 St. Rt. 771
Leesburg, Ohio 45135
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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - Submitted by Tim Dettwiller, Superintendent

Hi folks,

Thank you for taking the time to read this edition of the Lions Roar. It is filled with articles about students and staff and how we are working toward our common goals.

I am happy to report that our COVID quarantines and positive cases have dropped dramatically since the holidays. The Governor has reported that if COVID cases continue to drop statewide he will lift the remaining COVID protocols. Until then we will continue to perform temperature checks each morning on students and guests, masks are still required to enter the building and we continue to try and separate students as much as possible. Thank you goes out to our local health department for vaccinating over 500 Highland county school employees in February.

I reported to you in the last issue of the Lions Roar that we are working towards achieving 14 specific goals for the district. Those goals can be found on the homepage of the website under "District Goals". Several committees have been working diligently towards meeting their goals and I would like to commend them here:

- ◆ High School Building Leadership team - AP course offerings, ACT improvements and internship
- ◆ Middle School Building Leadership Team - PBIS plan and future STEAM course offerings
- ◆ Elementary Building Preschool task force - Fairfield preschool for Fall of 2021.

Over the course of the next 12-15 months you will see many exciting changes occurring to our buildings and our landscape. First, I reported previously that the district had received "Safe Routes to School" funding from the State of Ohio. These funds are to be used to connect sidewalks for bikes and walking to school. You will see work begin in the Spring of 2022 on this project; however, we will begin working with the State to select contractors this summer and fall. Second, we are about to begin working on the control units over our HVAC system. This is a large project that will upgrade our system and will make it much more efficient. It will also add an ionization component for purifying the air our students and staff breathe. We anticipate this project to be completed by the start of school in August 2021.

As always, if you have questions or concerns for me please feel free to call or email me anytime.



BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Submitted by Shawn Willey, Board President

What a great time to be a Lion! 2021 brings with it the hope for COVID to go away and our return to normal life. Rolling into 2021 I was named President of the Board of Education, succeeding Jimmy Craycraft. I would like to extend a big thank you to Mr. Craycraft for his time as Board President. 2020 was a challenging year for our school and Mr. Craycraft was outstanding in leading us through those tough times. I also thank my peers on the Board for their vote of confidence in me to lead the Board in 2021.

As Board president I want to ensure our community that our Board is focused on monitoring our established goals, keeping our students and staff safe and continuing our conservative approach to managing our district.

Please feel free to contact me or any Board member with issues or concerns and we will be happy to relay them on to the appropriate administrator for resolution.



TECHNOLOGY – Submitted by TJ Crowder, Director of Technology

Around the World and Back Again



Good day to all the wonderful individuals in this beautiful place we all call home! Technology is, and will always seem to be, an evolving component of student learning. Some may fear the use of technology, while others embrace the usage. To the contrary, as the world progresses we must continue diligently to stay up to par with the many changes and demands. With many of these changes and demands, Fairfield Local remains committed to ensuring the overall success of your child(ren). In regards to technology, let us discuss a few things we have been doing.

First, we continue to monitor student activity on the Chromebooks. Whether students are at school, or at home, we have software in place that keeps track of things they should be doing, and keep them from doing things they shouldn't be doing. For example, for internet content filtering we are using Securly to ensure students are utilizing school issued devices for school purposes. Securly assists in filtering out any negative items in which students should have limited to no exposure to. In conjunction with Securly, we are also utilizing GoGuardian.

GoGuardian allows staff members to track what students are doing. More importantly, and in conjunction with Securly, along with other embedded software, we also receive email notifications when something is attempted that shouldn't be allowed. The software also detects various different items from profanity, to bullying, to mental health. While not everything is captured, this software gives a great roadmap for us to react and respond within a timely manner.

In reflection of the past couple of years, we have replaced staff devices, issued Chromebooks to students, saturated our wifi, moved to a digital curriculum, replaced many SmartBoards, and we are looking forward to replacing the remainder of the boards in the near future. With all of the new learning tools coming in, we now have an excess of items that have reached their end of life. We recycle, or use school authorized companies for buyback of equipment, to ensure the health and safety of our community and to reduce our carbon footprint. As we continue to move around the circle regarding the life of school related equipment, one thing is clear. Devices change, programs change, the way we all learn continues to change, but the one thing remains the same - learning! Whether it be off the beaten path, or a paved road, technology is simply one of the tools to assist in the process.

In the event you have any questions, comments or concerns, please email me at tim.crowder@fairfieldlocal.org.

FOOD SERVICE DEPARTMENT - Mary Beth Craycraft, District Head Cook

What a busy year it has been!! Many families are taking advantage of the free meals and this makes the food service department very happy! So far this school year, we have served more than 30,000 breakfasts and over 47,000 lunches to our students!

The USDA recently announced that FREE MEALS FOR ALL STUDENTS will remain in effect until 9/30/21. This means that all students will continue to receive free breakfast and lunch through the beginning of next school year!

Don't forget that students may still want money on their account for extra milk, ala carte items, or extra entrees. My School Bucks offers an easy and FREE way to do this. If you don't already have an account, see below for more information.

On Friday, March 26th, we will serve Pizza Hut pizza. Of course, we expect this to be a big hit! We asked students to participate in a contest "creating" their own slice of pizza by decorating/coloring a paper drawing of a pizza slice. One winner from each grade was selected. Each winner received either a gift card or free ice cream during lunch.



My School Bucks will continue to be a FREE service for the 2021-22 school year.

We are pleased to announce that there will continue to be NO FEE for using My School Bucks through next school year! This minimizes the amount of cash and checks that need to be handled by our staff. Don't have an account yet? Visit MySchoolBucks.com to sign up today or download the mobile app.



Starting next school year, Free and Reduced-Price Meal applications will be submitted through an on-line portal.

This will provide a quicker and easier way for families to apply. Because the income requirements change each year, all families are encouraged to apply at the beginning of every school year. There is no charge.

More information will be shared soon.

ATHLETICS - Submitted by Tony Williams, Athletic Director

The winter sports season can be summed up in one word...SUCCESS!! Through many trials and tribulations, our Lions continued to fight, finding ways to be successful. As the season started, with all of the COVID regulations and quarantine periods, combined with

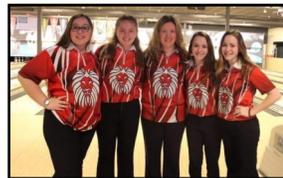


the rough weather towards the end, it was questionable if we would be able to complete our season. However, through it all our student athletes and coaches pushed on to have a great winter season! I personally want to thank all of those who stepped up to help make our season a success. Our ticket scanners, custodian and maintenance staff, bus drivers, volunteers and coaches all did their part to provide a great experience for our student athletes. Our winter sports season was filled with quite a bit of hardware. Our 8th grade girls basketball team completed a SHAC tournament championship along with the regular season championship. Our girls bowling team had 5 players make the All-SHAC team. Senior Madison Miller was named Bowler of the Year by the SHAC and the team finished as District Runners Up once again! The varsity boys basketball team made quite a tournament run, beating higher seeds Ironton St Joe and Federal Hocking, before falling short against Trimble in the district championship game. Our varsity girls basketball team also had a fine season at 17-5, sharing the SHAC Division II championship with Regional finalist Peebles. Overall, it was once again a great season for our Lions and one that I am very thankful for!



We are excited about the start of the spring sports season. Last year was an extremely difficult time with the cancellation of the 2020 spring sports season due to the COVID pandemic. Hope and optimism are here for the start of the baseball, softball, and track teams! Good luck to all of our spring sports athletes!

Winter Sports Top Honors



CONGRATULATIONS to the Fairfield athletes who received top honors for their performance in the winter sports season.

All-SHAC

Boys Basketball - Connor Priest
Girls Basketball - Emma Fouch, Ella Newkirk
Girls Bowling - Hannah Ferguson, Kara Gleadle, Sadie Knisley, Sara Knisley, Madison Miller
SHAC Girls Bowler of the Year - Madison Miller
SHAC Girls Bowling Coach of the Year - Dennis Mosny

District 14 Coaches' Association All-District

Girls Basketball

1st Team - Emma Fouch
Honorable Mention - Braylynn Haines

Boys Basketball

2nd Team - Connor Priest
Honorable Mention - Reese Teeters

Ohio Sportswriters' All-Southeast District

Girls Basketball

1st Team - Emma Fouch
3rd Team - Ella Newkirk
Special Mention - Braylynn Haines

Boys Basketball

3rd Team - Connor Priest
Special Mention - Tytis Cannon, Reese Teeters

2020-21 YEAR-END CALENDAR

Mar 22 Begin 4th Quarter
Mar 24 1 Hour Early Release
Mar 26 Grade Cards - 3rd Quarter
Apr 1 NO SCHOOL - P/T Comp Day
Apr 2 NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
Apr 5 NO SCHOOL - Professional Day
Apr 7 & 8 ... 2021-2022 Kindergarten Registration
Apr 20 Interims - Grades 6-12
Apr 23 Interims - Grades K-5
May 1 Junior/Senior Prom
May 4 HS Spring Concert (Band/Choir)
May 6 MS Spring Concert (Band/Choir)
May 10 HS Scholastic Achievement/Art Show
May 13 MS/HS Music Banquet
May 14 FFA Awards Ceremony
May 20 Last Day - Students (1 Hr Early Release)
May 21 Graduation

Schedule changes will be posted to the website and/or Facebook page.



SPECIAL EDUCATION

Submitted by Jennie Pierson, Director of Special Education

Our department is dedicated to our students and continues to provide the most recent interventions. In October, our middle school intervention specialists were trained in the Orton-Gillingham Approach. We now have elementary and middle school intervention specialists trained in this research-based reading process for struggling readers. We are all super excited to see the growth in our students these specialized, multi-sensory reading techniques provide.



The Orton-Gillingham Approach

is a teaching approach specifically designed to help struggling readers by teaching the connections between letters and sounds.

Instructors use sight, hearing, touch, and movement to help students connect language with letters and words.

We are happy to welcome Becky Cannon as a long-term substitute to our Elementary Intervention Specialists team.

As always, please feel free to call my office or email me at jennie.pierson@fairfieldlocal.org.



TRANSPORTATION

Submitted by Clint Shoemaker, Transportation Coordinator

It's been a very busy school year in the Transportation Department. In October we purchased a new diesel, 84-passenger bus. Bus #2 replaced an outdated bus and is driven every day by Jenny Hunter. Full-time driver Eric Hughes resigned in November. Part-time employee, Chad Brandenburg was hired as a full-time bus driver to replace Eric. Clayton Tolle was hired to help in the transportation, maintenance, custodial and food service departments. We welcome both Chad and Clayton and wish Eric the best!



This winter, we saw many challenges in transporting our students to school.

I would like to thank all of the parents for being flexible and understanding when the buses were not on schedule. Additionally, there were days when some roads were very difficult for a bus to travel, or turnarounds that were impossible. A special thank you to those parents for helping get their students either to meet the bus or bring them into school.



SUBSTITUTE BUS DRIVERS NEEDED!

We are always looking for sub bus drivers! Sub bus drivers fill-in for regular routes, take teams to athletic contests and transport students to field trips. Call the Transportation Director for more info at 937-780-2221.

GRADING POLICY and PROCEDURES

Submitted by Kesia McCoy, Director of Curriculum and Gifted Services

One goal the District Leadership Team (DLT) is focusing on this year is completing an analysis and evaluation of our current grading practices and policies. Last October, the team, which is composed of teachers, administrators, a board member and Fairfield Local parents, started having conversations about what grades should mean and how they should be measured. The team divided into subcommittees and began researching our current grading policies, similar and surrounding districts' grading policies, the "power of zero", weighted grades, high school requirements and standard-based grading. Additionally, a community survey was conducted asking for feedback on grading policies and procedures. Thank you to the 780 community members who responded. Based on the results, each Building Leadership Team (BLT) will present a recommendation on the following:

- Adjusting the Grading Scale
- How to Calculate the Percentage of a Grade
- Make-up and Redo Policies
- The Weight of the Letter Grade F
- Communication Plan of the Grading Policy



Using this information, the DLT will propose district-wide grading practices and policies that are simple to understand, clearly communicated and appropriately aligned to student achievement.

HIGH SCHOOL - Submitted by Steve Hackett, Principal

Our students and teachers have performed quite well during this school year as we continue to work under the conditions of Covid. Our district has proceeded to keep education at the forefront of our day to day operations and we continue to provide our students with the best possible education.

As we have been moving forward we have been able to keep some of our traditions in place. We were able to select a Homecoming Court and have them recognized at one of our basketball games and also had it available online to view. Although we were not able to have the Homecoming Dance this year we were able to have a court for the students.



Art Club

The students made Valentines for our local elderly community members.

We have also continued to have our Club Days this year. Students are able to join and participate in a variety of clubs here at school. (See photos)

We are looking into adding some new options for students in the future. Some of the new items may include the following: AP Courses, ACT Preparation Classes, and Career Exploration Classes. We are researching the best possible way to provide these to our students for the 2021-2022 school year and are currently in discussions and researching which direction will be most advantageous for us to pursue. AP Courses would provide a great opportunity for our college bound students. Career Exploration would provide opportunities for students that are looking to enter the workplace after graduation while also benefiting those students continuing their education.

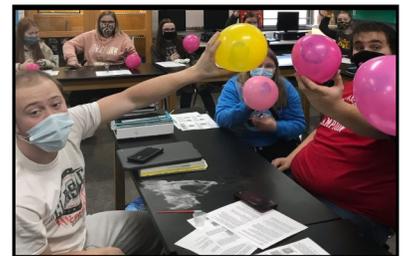
There have been a number of successes so far this school year. We have seen many of our students sign with a college to continue their education and some that will continue with their athletic pursuits. Our students are doing quite well academically as they continue to be successful with many of the assessments they have taken this year.

We are proceeding with our Prom this year as long as we are able to follow all the guidelines set forth by the Health Department. We will do our best to accomplish this task and let our kids experience the prom once again.

Our juniors will be participating in an upcoming Career Day where they will connect with companies. This will take place online and provide our students the opportunity to talk with many companies concerning careers.

We continue to prepare our students for state testing each and every day. Teachers are continuing to monitor the progress of all students and ensuring all information is learned prior to the test. Teachers do an excellent job of revisiting information with students that is needed to prepare them for the state tests.

This has been a crazy winter with the weather. Hopefully, we will be back full time in the classroom and have a normal spring. Best wishes to all!!



Science Club

The students identified fingerprint types and used forensic techniques to lift fingerprints off of different surface types.

CUSTODIAL/MAINTENANCE

Submitted by John Wisecup, Custodial Coordinator and Wyatt Sowders, Maintenance Coordinator

Thank you to the Village of Highland for their donation of two hand-held electrostatic sprayers and cleaning supplies. The sprayers are currently being used to disinfect our buses between routes.



As the winter sports season comes to a close, the custodial department is preparing for outdoors spring sports. Hand sanitizer dispensers will be installed in the dugouts and throughout the baseball/softball complex for the players and fans.

With the ongoing pandemic, the custodial department continues to be diligent in keeping our facilities clean.



ELEMENTARY - Submitted by Katie Streber, Principal

2020 Ohio PBIS Recognition Award Winner



Fairfield Local Elementary School has been recognized for their success with Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). PBIS involves teaching students expected behaviors in a consistent and positive way, modeling and acknowledging those behaviors, and helping all students meet expectations and be successful. In 2020, Fairfield Local Elementary School applied and earned the bronze level. They are one of 215 award winning schools to be recognized at the Bronze level. Fairfield Local Elementary School was honored at the 2020 Ohio PBIS Showcase in conjunction with the Ohio Leadership Advisory Council (OLAC) virtual conference on December 15, 2020. Congratulations to Fairfield Local Elementary School students and staff! A special thanks to the 2019-2020 PBIS team members and all of their hard work! Team members included: Paige Sinclair, Pajj Aber, Stephanie Ortlieb, Michelle VanWinkle, Jordan Rhude, Lorrie Russell, Amber Corcoran, James Knisley, Jennie Pierson and Katie Streber.



Fairfield Elementary Preschool Research Committee

Fairfield Elementary Preschool Research Committee was created at the start of this school year to begin researching and evaluating preschool options for our district. Committee members include: Dr. Rindy Matthews (Board Member), Katie Streber (Elementary Principal), Kesia McCoy (Director of Curriculum and Gifted Services), Jennie Pierson (Student Services Director), Jana Hodson (Literacy Coach), Julia Clouse (Speech/Language Pathologist), Jennifer Zins (Kindergarten Teacher) and Emily Moore (4th Grade ELA Teacher).

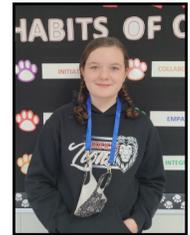
Recent community survey results indicated that 83.5% of our families do not believe there is access to adequate preschool programs with only 18.9% of families feeling that children in our community are kindergarten ready upon entry. This is a concern for our district, especially our elementary school, as preschool can be considered a foundational year that provides a great opportunity to get kids off on the right foot. In addition to discussions around the overall importance, our committee researched the following:

- District based vs. partnership with Community Action
- Half day vs whole day programs
- Age bands
- Curriculum
- Licensing and Step Up to Quality Requirements
- Transportation
- Financial aspects (cost of operation, tuition, grant possibilities etc.)

As the school year comes to an end, research that has been collected will be presented to the Fairfield Local Board of Education in order to gather input towards future planning. Our committee would like to give a special thanks to numerous Clinton/Fayette/Highland County administrators and Southern Ohio Education Service Center employees, Debbie Mickey and Alexis Kirk, for all of their guidance and support during our research.

Ross, Pickaway, Highland, Fayette (RPHF) Solid Waste District Recycling Billboard Contest Winner

Congratulations to Khloe Welling on becoming the Highland County recipient of the 5th Grade RPHF Solid Waste District Recycling Billboard Contest. Khloe was asked to create a design for a billboard that would remind people in Highland County to be Earth friendly. Be on the lookout for her artwork to be displayed on a billboard in Highland County!



COMMUNICATION

www.fairfieldlocal.org

Fairfield Local Schools uses many platforms to communicate with our students, parents, staff and community members. In addition to e-mail and School Messenger, check our website and social media pages for the most up-to-date information.

Twitter

@fairfield_lions
@fairfieldFFA



Facebook Pages

Fairfield Local Schools
Fairfield Local Elementary
Fairfield Local Middle School
Fairfield Local High School
Fairfield PTO
Fairfield Local Schools Food and Nutrition



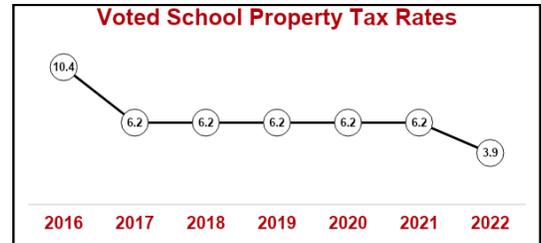
TREASURER'S REPORT - Submitted by Mike Morrow, Treasurer

A piece of good news for the Fairfield Community... It's official! Fairfield taxpayers will no longer pay property taxes on the 1998 K-12 Building beginning in 2022. Also, the original K-12 building will be completely paid off in December of 2021.

In other news... Every 3 years, County Auditors across Ohio reappraise or update the value of your property and modify the tax rates. Highland County will be updating property values in 2021. This could have a big impact on the property taxes that you pay in 2022 and beyond.

Reach out to the County Auditor or myself with any questions. I encourage you to take a look at the updated Treasurer's page of the Fairfield Local website. New information about what we do and finance updates can be found there.

Take a look at how the school's voted property tax rates have declined over the past seven years.



COUNSELING SERVICES - Submitted by Erin Goddard and Vickey Leasure



Covid and Counseling

Many Fairfield families are experiencing high stress levels due to ongoing Covid restrictions and worries. "We are seeing a record level of referrals for counseling," said Dr. Leasure, counselor, "and that is okay. We are here to help!" Some worrisome traits to look for in your child may include shorter temper, less investment in academics, poor sleep, and changes in appetite. Fairfield offers both school and intensive counseling services. Call your grade level office for more information and assistance with counseling issues.

Anger Monsters!

Art therapy allows a student to explore emotions, relieve stress and ease anxiety. Students at Fairfield recently participated in an art therapy session that Dr. Leasure, counselor, titled "Anger Monsters". The counselor and students discussed what anger feels like and transposed those feelings to a painting. Students agreed that the outcomes of anger can be dark and ugly. "Though it was a lot of hard work to set up," said Dr. Leasure, "the pictures turned an abstract concept to a concrete reminder that anger issues should be addressed. The sessions ended with a discussion of the various techniques to diffuse angry feelings." One student commented "That was cool!"



MIDDLE SCHOOL - Submitted by Deanne Miller, Principal

FMS Club Days

Fairfield Middle School introduced club days to all students in October. Students have the opportunity to participate in their selected club on scheduled one-hour early release days. In January, we held our second club day with great success! Students were permitted to select to attend



one of the following clubs: kindness and cooking club, sports club, adventure club, book club, hunting/fishing club, trivia club, game club, and chess club. The Robotics club continues to meet each morning during our intervention and enrichment period and drama club meets twice a month after school.



Spelling Bee

The annual FMS Spelling Bee was held on December 15, 2020. Students were able to complete following COVID protocols and their classmates viewed the Spelling Bee in their classrooms utilizing the camera system in the high school gym. The students' parents were permitted to attend. Congratulations to the winners: Claire Newkirk, 1st place; Maxine Ludwick, 2nd place; and Ava Hooper, 3rd place.





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It's a great day to be a Lion!!

<p>DISTRICT OFFICE 937-780-2221 Tim Dettwiller, Superintendent Amy Buddelmeyer, Secretary</p>	<p>MIDDLE SCHOOL 937-780-2977 Deanne Miller, Principal Natalie Willey, Secretary</p>	<p>SPECIAL EDUCATION 937-780-2977 Jennie Pierson, Director Tisha Ross, Secretary</p>
<p>HIGH SCHOOL 937-780-2966 Stephen Hackett, Principal Kevy Jones, Secretary</p>	<p>ELEMENTARY 937-780-2988 Katie Streber, Principal Amy Meddock, Secretary</p>	<p>ATHLETICS 937-780-2977 Tony Williams, Director Natalie Willey, Secretary</p>

THANK YOU for respecting the policies and procedures set forth by the Fairfield Local Schools Board of Education.

- ◆ FACE COVERINGS are required to enter our buildings and vehicles.
- ◆ All visitors must check in at offices.
- ◆ Tobacco products are prohibited on school grounds.
- ◆ Do not park on the grass.
- ◆ Main Entrances are to be used for all public events.
- ◆ Main Entrance circles are for drop-off/pick-up only; not parking.

**Respectful
Responsible
Kind
Lion Pride!**



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.