



# THE LION'S ROAR

Spring 2022

Fairfield Local Schools  
11611 St. Rt. 771  
Leesburg, Ohio 45135  
937/780-2221  
[www.fairfieldlocal.org](http://www.fairfieldlocal.org)

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Tim Dettwiller

Hi folks,

We are pleased to present to you this latest version of the Lions Roar. Inside you will find many updates and new information about the many changes and accomplishments here at Fairfield.

As you know, I have announced my retirement. I will complete my last day as Fairfield Superintendent on July 31, 2022. It has been a privilege for me to have served the students, staff and Fairfield community over the past 4 years. We have had many successes and made great strides toward fulfilling our strategic plan. I am most proud of the following: full implementation of our internal improvement process, new curriculum adoptions, career readiness/intern program and our facility improvements.

Those accomplishments aside there is much work to be done moving forward. The good news is the Board of Education has been working hard to find the next Superintendent and Treasurer. After many meetings, interviews and discussions, the Board made a great selection in our current Curriculum Director Kesia McCoy to become your next Superintendent. The Board also selected veteran Treasurer Deb Lawwell to fill the position vacated by Mike Morrow. Deb has lived in the Fairfield district for 19 years and will provide the experience needed to keep our Treasurer's office functioning at the high level it has in the past.

Fairfield Local Schools is already known in the area as one of the top school districts. My hope and vision is that this positive image will expand beyond the area to a statewide recognized school. Through our new grading policies, our new and unique student internship program and an amazing new team of administrators I am 100% confident this vision will be fulfilled.

Thank you Fairfield for allowing me to work with a great staff, amazing students and thank you to the Board of Education members I was fortunate to serve.

*It's a Great Day to be a Lion!*

## BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

James Craycraft

There are lots of exciting things happening at Fairfield Local Schools! First of all, the Board would like to thank Shawn Willey for his time on the Board and wish him well. We would also like to thank all of the candidates who applied for the open Board member seat. What a great group we had to choose from! Congratulations to Corey Cockerill on being selected to fill the vacancy.

The Board would like to congratulate Kesia McCoy on being hired as the new Superintendent. Kesia will be a great asset for our district. Her term will begin August 1st. The Board would like to thank Tim Dettwiller for his time as Superintendent. Tim has been outstanding in leading our school through tough times never seen before. The Board feels Tim has done a great job of setting us up for success and we are excited to see where the future leads us. We would like to wish Tim well in his retirement.

At the April Board meeting, we hired Debbie Lawwell as our Treasurer. We are very excited to have Debbie and all the years of experience she brings. She will be a great team member!

Additionally, the Board would like to thank Mike Morrow for his time as Treasurer and wish him the best. And thanks to Susie Deatley for stepping up to be our Interim as we worked to hire a new Treasurer.

Thanks to all our staff and special thanks to this great community that we are all blessed to be a part of.



This school year, Fairfield Local Schools has received over \$37,000 in donations. This includes both money and specific items.

*We are grateful for the generosity our local community shows in support of our students and staff.*



*We are excited to announce that Fairfield Local Schools is now using a web-based platform for student registration!*

FinalForms is an online forms and data management system that guarantees compliance, distributes data and reduces liability within our district. FinalForms saves student data from sport-to-sport, club-to-club and year-to-year, eliminating paperwork from your life! At minimum, parents will log in to update, verify and sign forms once per year, or as often as your information changes.

If you have student athletes at the high school or middle school, you are probably already familiar with FinalForms. Our Athletic Department is extremely satisfied with the simplicity and organization that the program delivers to administrators, coaches and parents.

Parents should visit our website and view the Parent Playbook for step-by-step instructions. Support is available at the bottom of every page within FinalForms. FinalForms can be accessed from a computer, tablet or your smartphone. We are asking that all parents use FinalForms.

## TECHNOLOGY / LIBRARY

TJ Crowder, Director of Tech/Library

### Technology

The technology staff has been busy working on various tasks throughout the district. This year we have finished the roll out of all new SMART flat panels to each of the classrooms. These will now enter a



rotation for updating/replacing as they reach their end of life. We have also added three 3D printers to the district. We have many staff and students working on various projects and printing various items. We

are also exploring widening the coverage of our WiFi access to our exterior/remote learning facilities such as the agricultural building, baseball/softball complex, and strengthening data access at the soccer/track

complex. We have also been maintaining our fleet of Chromebooks and windows devices throughout the district.



### Library

We continue to get new titles for both libraries, as well as continuing to maintain/replace many of the well read series books. Throughout both libraries, digital included, we have well surpassed over 10,000 check-outs for the year! It should also be noted after many years in the Elementary Library, Mrs. Butler will be retiring at the end of 2021-2022 school year. We appreciate her service and dedication to the staff and students of Fairfield Local Schools!

## COMMUNICATION

With today's technology, the majority of our communication with our students, parents and community is on-line.

For this to be effective, it is imperative that we have accurate information.

Please be sure your current email addresses and phone numbers are on file with the building secretaries and in your FinalForms account.

Remember to make necessary changes if any of this information changes.

In addition to this newsletter and our website, we use SendIt, a broadcast messaging system to communicate important information to our students and their families.

We also have several social media platforms. Be sure to like them to stay current with all of our events and news!



### Facebook:

Fairfield Local Schools  
Fairfield Local Elementary  
Fairfield Local Middle School  
Fairfield High School, Leesburg, OH  
Fairfield PTO  
Fairfield Local FFA Alumni  
Fairfield Local Schools Food and Nutrition

Twitter: fairfield\_lions (Athletics)

Instagram: fairfieldlocalffa (FFA)  
fhs.studentambassadors

YouTube: Fairfield Local Events (Athletics)

## HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Hackett, Principal & Ms. Rhonemus, Guidance Counselor

We seem to be getting back to normal and normal activities. It has been a long two years with the pandemic but we fought through it and it has made us stronger. We enjoyed a very successful winter sports season. Both girls and boys basketball teams had great seasons and we are very proud of their accomplishments. Bowling also achieved a fine season.

Fairfield High School and Middle School are piloting a new program called the Alliance of Community Connections for Employer and Student Success or **A.C.C.E.S.S.** This program will align the efforts of community partners such as local businesses, volunteers, Ohio Means Jobs, Ohio Department of Education, the Highland County Workforce Think Tank, GRIT, local officials and local colleges. These partners are committed to coordinating their efforts to assist the Highland county schools in preparing our students to make an informed career decision upon graduating high school. The following programs at Fairfield are a part of the new **A.C.C.E.S.S.** pilot program for the county:



### Fairfield High School Partners with the Grit Project and Shawnee State

Fairfield Administration is excited to announce a unique partnership with The Grit Project (Growing Rural Independence Together) and Shawnee State University to offer seniors credential programs. Currently, seven Fairfield seniors are enrolled in three different credential programs through Shawnee State University that will allow the students to enter their respective career field choice upon graduation. Students involved in the program include: Makala Espericueta (Human Resources), Mariah Arick, Emerald Hodge, Alexis Evans-Page and Morgan Wiget (Medical Assistant), Morgan Cramer (Webpage Development), Logan Cutright (Webpage Development). Students enrolled in the program at the end of February. All coursework is independently based and online. All programs are funded by The Grit Project.



Current Junior and Seniors have the opportunity to apply for the Bear Tracks Program. Bear tracks is sponsored by The Grit Project and is a three week residential program through Shawnee State University. In order to take advantage of this free, unique opportunity students must apply for the program. Bear Tracks will take place June 6-24, 2022 at Shawnee State U university. Students will choose their educational track and earn a credential upon completion of the program. These programs are hands-on and taught by highly qualified representatives within their respective industries. The programs that are being offered include: Healthcare (Electrocardiography (EKG) and Phlebotomy); Business (Human Resource Specialist); Education (Child Development Associate); Technology (Cybersecurity). Students are eligible for full scholarships through The GRIT Project. For more information, please contact Stacie Rhonemus, HS Guidance Counselor.



### Career Exploration Education

Next year, our freshmen and sophomores will be placed in a Careers Class. While in the Careers Class, students will follow a curriculum co-written by our community partners focused on soft skill development for future employment. Once they become juniors they will have the option of participating in an Internship. As an intern the student will be paired with a local business in the career they are interested in pursuing. This will allow our students to decide whether or not that career is suited for them. They will also have the opportunity to take an Internship II Class that will allow them to focus solely on that specific career choice and spend numerous hours with a business partner. This program will provide many opportunities such as a student possibly landing employment upon graduation. Also, for a student planning a career that requires additional education, the student should be able to decide if that career is for them after an internship and before a significant amount of money is spent on college.

**Preparation for State Testing** - We are finishing up several weeks of intense intervention that helps to prepare our students for state testing. The students and teachers have been working hard to ensure all students are successful.

**Fairfield High School FFA/VoAg** - Our students have been busy with many competitions throughout the winter months. Please visit our website and click on FFA/VoAg to see the results and other news.

### Baccalaureate and Graduation

Baccalaureate will be held on Thursday, May 19th at 6:00 p.m. in the high school gym.  
Graduation will be held Friday, May 20th at 6:00 p.m. in the high school gym.



***Congratulations to the graduating class of 2022!***

## FOOD SERVICES

MaryBeth Craycraft, Head Cook & Amy Buddelmeyer, Coordinator

This year has been very successful here in the kitchen. We are serving over 1,000 meals a day which makes us very happy. We are still not able to obtain some of our common menu items, therefore we have had the opportunity to be creative in our daily meals. Some of you may have seen our posts on our Facebook page of the new grab & go options we have added for staff and students in grades 6-12.

Charcuteries have been a big hit, along with cheeseburgers, chicken patty sandwiches, and pretzel bread with a cheese cup. We also brought back our baked potato bar - a favorite with our students and staff!

All of us here in the kitchen are very grateful to have the opportunity to serve our Fairfield Local students and staff.

Thank you for all of your continued support and have a great summer!

### DISCONTINUATION OF FREE SCHOOL MEALS

***The federal funding for free school meals is ending in June. Next school year, our meals will return to regular price. One thing you can do to help with the cost of meals next year is to submit the Free/Reduced-Price Meal Application for this year!! If your family qualifies, this status will carry over to the first 30 days of next school year.***

Please check the Food Services page of our website for a link to **MySchoolApps** to complete the application online or you can print a paper copy to submit.

The application for next school year is not yet available. But by filling out this year's application, you can receive these benefits to start next year. This summer, check our website and FB page for availability of the 2022-23 application.

Meal prices for next school year are listed below. We will continue to offer ala-carte items at additional cost.

| Meal           | Reg. Price | Reduced | Extra Entrée            |
|----------------|------------|---------|-------------------------|
| Breakfast K-12 | \$1.50     | \$.30   | \$.75                   |
| Lunch K-5      | \$2.50     | \$.30   | \$1.50<br>(grades 4-12) |
| Lunch 6-12     | \$3.00     | \$.30   |                         |



### Free/Reduced-Price Meal Application

Because meals are no longer free for our students, we encourage every family to submit an application to determine if they qualify for free or reduced-priced meals. The income requirements change every year, so even if you did not qualify in the past, you may qualify now.

Applying is easy through MySchoolApps. All applications are confidential and only shared with food service staff. There is no charge to you for completing the application.

Visit our website's Food Service page for a link to the app.



**MySchoolBucks will now be permanently free for our parents and staff!**

There will continue to be no transaction fees associated with MySchoolBucks. This is the most convenient way to add money to your student's meal account and to pay their school fees! If you don't have an account, visit MySchoolBucks.com to sign up today or download the mobile app.

## END OF SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

April 27.....6:30pm..... Preschool Graduation  
April 30.....6pm ..... Prom Grand March / Prom  
May 4 ..... 7pm ..... HS Band/Choir Concert  
May 6 ..... 7pm ..... MS Band/Choir Concert  
May 7 ..... 5pm ..... Alumni Banquet  
May 10 ..... 6:30pm ..... HS Scholastic Achievement/Art Show  
May 12 ..... 5:30pm ..... FFA Banquet  
May 13 ..... 7pm ..... Music Banquet  
May 17 ..... 6:30pm ..... Laurel Oaks Graduation

May 18.....6:30pm.....Kindergarten Program  
May 19..... Student's Last Day of School  
(1 hr early release)  
May 19..... 6pm .....Baccalaureate  
May 20..... 6pm .....Graduation  
May 31..... 7pm .....Spring Sports Awards

**Enjoy Summer Break!**





## ATHLETICS

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 our teams battled through quarantine periods and combined with the rough weather towards the end, our Fairfield Lions fought to reach high levels of accomplishment. At the middle school level, our 7th grade boys basketball team completed an undefeated season, winning the SHAC Regular Season and Tournament Championship!



At the high school Level, we had many great accomplishments. Junior Kara Gleadle led our Lady Lions bowling team to a District Runners-Up season; Individually, Kara earned SHAC Girls Bowler of the Year honors as well as competing at the State Bowling Tournament as the lone individual qualifier from the Southeast District! Kara finished 17th overall at the State Tournament. For Girls Basketball, our Lady Lions, led by first-year coach Jeremy McGraw, had a wonderful season as well, finishing in 2nd place in the SHAC Big School Division, a 20-4 record overall, a Sectional



Championship and finishing as District Runners-Up. Our Boys Basketball Team finished in similar style: 15-6 overall, 2nd place in SHAC Big School Division, a Sectional Championship, and District Runners-Up. We should be extremely proud of the season all of our Winter Sports Programs had during the 2021-2022 season!!



We are now turning our attention to Spring Sports. Our Baseball and softball teams are expected to be near the top of the SHAC this season and we are looking forward to the tough non-conference schedule that we have set up for our teams. Our Track and Field program is going strong with a large number of student athletes participating and many school records that could be broken. We hope to see many of you at one of our home athletic events during the spring. Come out and support our Lions!

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

Jennie Pierson, Special Education Director

The Special Education department is dedicated to providing the best possible support for our students. We continue to grow and offer more options for our students with disabilities. From preschool through 12th grade we are striving to offer a continuum of services to meet all students' needs. This year, both our high school and elementary have piloted a Resource Room for our students.

A Resource Room is for students who qualify for special education instruction in an individualized or small group setting for a portion of the day. Individual needs are supported in Resource Rooms as defined by the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP). Students come into the Resource Room for a variety of reasons. Most commonly, they come there to access the educational materials in a manner that better suits their learning styles and capabilities. Sometimes, the regular classroom can be noisy and full of distractions, and the students come to the Resource Room to be better able to focus on the materials, especially when new information is being introduced. At other times, the material taught in the general education classroom is at a different level or pace than the student's level and the Resource Room serves as a more serene place where the student can go over the material at a slower pace.

Our teacher's in the resource room are continuing to go to professional development to enhance their skills and knowledge. The elementary Intervention Specialists have been trained in the TEACCH program. It is a 'whole-of-life' program. It looks at the skills and strengths children already have, and it aims to build on these to promote development. We are also looking into Orton Gillingham training for them.

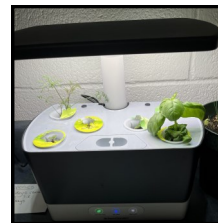
Fairfield students have done very well with the Resource Room as an option. It has proven to be beneficial for our students' growth in all areas. We will continue to add opportunities in the future to help benefit our students!

## CURRICULUM

Kesia McCoy, Director of Curriculum

### New Instructional Strategies at Fairfield Local

Project Based Learning (PBL) is an instructional strategy in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to a complex question, problem, or challenge. Over the past year, a cohort of Fairfield teachers participated in over 60 hours of professional development on project based learning, shared their learning with our district-wide staff and implemented the project based learning strategy in their classrooms.



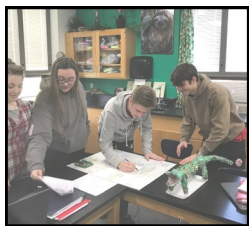
In 7th grade Math and Science, Mrs. Martin and Mrs. Faulconer had students investigate the question, “How can we as hydrologists keep our water safe and plentiful”? These students participated in a field trip to the local water plant in Leesburg. During the field trip, the Mayor, an engineer and a council member gave a tour of the water plant, explained about PSI in pipes, explained how water gets transported to the tower in town and answered the students’ questions. Seventh grade student Secret Harvey shared, “I really enjoy doing PBL. I like the hands on learning and getting to go on a field trip and work with other people”.



In 7th grade ELA, students explored how to grow a greener future. Students began the project based learning unit by exploiting a photo gallery in their curriculum on Urban farming. They were introduced to new ideas in farming such as; vertical gardens, rooftop gardens and hydroponics. After gathering background information, students planted herbs to compare two different methods of growing: traditional and hydroponics. Students are patiently waiting to harvest the herbs to create a pesto sauce.



Reflecting on the project, Mrs. Hooper stated, “It is encouraging to hear students say they want to try this at home. Isn’t that the ultimate goal - to take learning outside the classroom”?



In the high school, the college-prep Biology classes engaged in a long-term project based learning assignment by designing “alien animals” to learn about biomes, adaptations, food webs and how genes in DNA give organisms traits that will be beneficial. Mrs. Martinez enjoyed watching how the students learned all of the topics through one project and applied the information to their animal. Mrs. Martinez shared,



“During the project I felt like everyday was exciting because the students wanted to know what we were learning next and how they could apply it to the alien animal. The final products have exceeded my expectations and we all learned numerous skills this year through the project”.

This summer our cohort of trained teachers is growing! Mrs. Black is participating in two project based learning professional development opportunities, the Ohio Rural Educator Program and the Manufacturing Engineering Externship Program. We look forward to the more project based learning opportunities for the students at Fairfield Local.

## UPCOMING PROJECTS

Looking to:

- finish the paving and lighting projects at the soccer stadium
- expand the bus barn for additional storage
- pave areas of our driveways and thoroughfares
- implement the student internship program
- adopt a new Science curriculum
- add 3 new buses to our fleet - we received \$180,000 in grants





## MIDDLE SCHOOL

Deanne Miller, Principal

The Fairfield Middle School students and teachers have had a great school year and have balanced the pandemic very well! The students have persevered through and are stronger because of the challenges they have faced. We are looking forward to new additions to the curriculum next school year with the addition of Career Exploration classes and a partnership with Great Oaks expanding our Robotics program. Great things are on the horizon for Fairfield Schools!



### Student Recognitions

- FMS Spelling Bee was held on December 14, 2021. Katie Tolle Richards placed 1st and Emma Shoemaker placed 2nd. Congratulations ladies!
- The Highland County Red Ribbon Essay Contest, Write in Red, was held in October of 2021. Congratulations to Jaeden Drury for being selected as the top writer for Fairfield Middle School.



### Student Assembly:

The Fairfield High School Student Ambassadors led our first 8th grade Leadership Assembly in March. The Ambassadors discussed the qualities needed to be successful in high school, had the students participate in an activity to get to know each other better, and set a high standard for success regardless of their path after high school. A big thank you to the Fairfield High School Student Ambassadors.

### Middle/High School Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports

The PBIS Team worked diligently this school year revamping the incentive program for students. Students have received recognition for Leadership, Integrity, Optimism, Noteworthy, and Scholarship - L.I.O.N.S. A big thank you to the high school art students for drawing the image on the cards!



## ELEMENTARY

Katie Streber, Principal

### **Fairfield Local Elementary-Lancaster City Schools Professional Partnership**

This school year, our elementary school has had the opportunity to develop some wonderful professional partnerships with other Ohio school districts. During the month of March, we had the pleasure of hosting numerous educators from Lancaster City Schools. Lancaster City Schools was a member of Cohort 2 with Fairfield Elementary in Ohio's Early Literacy Pilot. The pilot provided support to educators and leaders in implementing evidence-based language and literacy instruction and intervention. After participating in the pilot and receiving training in LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling), both districts chose to replace their previous language arts curriculum with EL Education, a curriculum that aligned more closely



to the Science of Reading research. Fairfield chose to go with full implementation while Lancaster only adopted a portion of the curriculum. The purpose of their visit was to allow their educators the opportunity to observe all pieces of the curriculum while having professional conversations with our staff about our curriculum, coaching and MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports). Our students, staff, facilities and operations received an abundance of praise! I am incredibly thankful for a staff that values the importance of professional growth opportunities, sometimes pushing them out of their comfort zones by being observed. Fairfield plans to go visit Lancaster in the fall. We are excited to see where this professional partnership leads!



**Fairfield Local Schools**  
11611 St. Rt. 771  
Leesburg, OH 45135

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**Hillsboro, OH 45133**

## Postal Patron Local Box Holder

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



### ***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.*

### **SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION**

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