

2021

“ Big Enough to Challenge, Small Enough to Care”

2021

Saying Good-Bye

Congratulations and best wishes to seven Ferndale Area School District employees who will be retiring the hive at the end of the 2020-2021 school year.



Susan Pudliner, Elementary Teacher, 35 Years
Lori Beck, Reading Specialist, 28 Years
Daniel Burket, Elementary Teacher, 21 1/2 Years;
Nola Barton, Elementary Librarian, 11 1/2 Years
William Nemeth, Maintenance Technician/Supervisor, 11 1/2 Years
Emily Lohr, Special Education/Math Teacher, 1 Year



Carole Kakabar, Superintendent, 13 1/2 Years

From the Desk of the Superintendent

Mr. Jeffrey R. Boyer

January 1, 2021 marked my first official day on the job with the Ferndale Area School District. I'm truly thankful and honored to serve this amazing community. I have had the opportunity to meet many parents and community members of our school district in a variety of venues such as comprehensive planning, athletic events, school programs, and more. I have learned a great deal about the community and the school district in the short 6 months I have been here. I am proud to report that the common theme from these continued conversations has been about providing the very best for our students. While that might not sound surprising, it was pleasant to hear a consistent theme from so many caring members of our school communities' stakeholder groups.

I cannot say enough good things about the staff and students. The students, at all grade levels, are full of

energy, personable, kind, and friendly. I enjoy talking with them daily and hearing their viewpoints on various matters that pertain to the school. The staff are talented and caring people that go the extra mile for the students. We have many exciting changes coming down the road with regards to instruction, curriculum, assessment, and technology. These professional educators are leading the way to make Ferndale Area the best it can be and embracing new strategies and techniques to meet the needs of our learners.

My first 6 months have been wonderful and exciting. While COVID-19 threw us more curveballs



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Mr. David Gates

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Dr. William Brotz

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Principal

Mr. Travis Robison

Ferndale Area Elementary School

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Principal

Mrs. Rachelle Hrabosky

than we can count, the community of Ferndale Area learned how to be curve ball hitters! I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone for making the best of a bad situation during the global pandemic. I know it was not easy, but we did it!

My hope is that the 21-22 school year will be our first school year back to a new normal. We have created a new Health and Safety Plan using the template provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education to open the school year. I have included it, so you know what to expect at this moment in time.

As I write this short article in June of 2021, I am happy to report that our Elementary STEAM Summer Camp and our Credit Recovery Program are doing really well. Attendance has been phenomenal, and the teachers have been incredible. A big thank you to everyone involved and a big thank you to the parents and guardians for allowing the children to attend these valuable programs and activities.

Please take time to enjoy your summer as we want you relaxed and refreshed! We look forward to seeing you on August 25th!

Health and Safety Plan Summary

Initial Effective Date: July 1, 2021

Date of Last Review: June 23, 2021

Date of Last Revision: June 23, 2021

1. How will the LEA, to the greatest extent practicable, support prevention and mitigation policies in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the CDC for the reopening and operation of school facilities in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning?

The health and safety of the Ferndale Area School District and the staff and students remains, as always, the top priority for the organization. The FASD Leadership Team and Pandemic Team continue to take critical steps making decisions that protect the health and safety of our organization in the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In response to the expiration of statewide mitigation orders, FASD has identified organizational standards and expectations which outline the protocols expected of all staff members as the organization transitions forward. Protocols include the following:

- Self-screening for COVID-19 symptoms
- Following communicable disease reporting procedures
- Practicing hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette
- Optional use of face coverings / adherence to health and safety plans of locations served
- Cleaning and disinfecting one's workspace
- Maintaining physical distancing protocols to the maximum extent feasible
- Staying informed of CDC's guidance relative to travel
- Monitoring communication and confidentiality
- Participating in required training (current employees as well as new hires as part of their onboarding process)
- Staying informed and maintaining best practices

Expectations are based on the latest mandates issued by the Governor's Office, the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH), the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), the Department of Human Services (DHS), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Leadership Team and Pandemic Team will continue to monitor communications. As conditions change related to COVID-19, protocols are subject to change.

2. How will the LEA ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address the students' academic needs, and students' and staff members' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services?

FASD will ensure access to remote learning opportunities for all our students in the following ways, including but not limited to: Live synchronized lessons and demonstrations by our teachers - Additional asynchronized lessons and student assignments via Schoology, Google Classroom and/or other similar platforms. Paper packets will be utilized as a last resort.

3. Use the table below to explain how the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policy on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
a. <i>Universal and correct wearing of masks;</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of June 28, 2021, face coverings are optional for all individuals (staff, students, parents, and visitors), regardless of vaccination status, in FASD offices, classrooms and sponsored events per expiration of PA required mandate. Staff who travel to other locations to provide service must adhere to the Health and Safety Plan of the location of service. Staff are expected to stay informed of the latest information and resources available and visit CDC's website which include, but are not limited to, universal and correct wearing of masks.
b. <i>Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts / podding);</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FASD will adhere to the latest mandates provided by PDE, DOH, and CDC relative to physical distancing. Physical distancing to the maximum extent feasible will continue to be recommended for indoor and outdoor spaces regardless of vaccination status. In anticipation of class sizes returning to full capacity in the fall of 2021 as allowed by program regulations and requirements, PPE safeguards will be available.
c. <i>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expectations related to handwashing and respiratory etiquette are contained in the FASD Organizational Standards + Expectations document which will be emailed, posted on FASD's intranet site, and emailed to each staff member. Protocols include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Washing one's hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds If soap and water are not available, using hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer) Avoid touching one's eyes, nose, and mouth Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or cough or sneeze into one's elbow Increase monitoring to ensure adherence among students

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u> ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FASD will adhere to the latest mandates provided by PDE, DOH, and CDC related to cleaning and ventilation. • FASD is committed to continuing the best practices developed in response to COVID-19 for keeping the workplace clean, disinfected, and safe for staff, students, and visitors. • The use of universal precautions designed to minimize the transmission of communicable diseases will continue to be implemented. Hand sanitizer and cleaning materials will remain available. • Limiting shared materials and use of toys that cannot be easily cleaned will continue. • Staff will continue to be expected to share in the cleaning and disinfecting of shared equipment and / or furniture / items within one's office / classroom. • Additional cleaning and disinfecting measures / protocols may be required as deemed appropriate or directed by DOH depending on circumstances. • Staff will continue to be expected to adhere to appropriate personal protective equipment guidelines.
e. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u> , in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOH considers COVID-19 a communicable disease. As such, it is among DOH's listing of reportable diseases. • Staff are required to report a suspected or known case of COVID-19 to their supervisor within 24 hours. • Staff must follow the recommendation of their attending physician. • FASD will contact DOH and follow their guidance. Guidance may include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Disease information; ◊ The distribution of appropriate letters and communications; ◊ Identification of high risk individuals; ◊ Appropriate action and treatment; and ◊ Ongoing support and assistance.
f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff are required to follow the recommendation of their attending physician and / or DOH directive(s) as it relates to diagnostic and screening testing.
g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u> ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FASD continues to collaborate with local health care providers and epidemiologist leaders regarding targeted areas of needs and will continue to serve as a vaccination host site if called upon. • FASD continues to communicate local vaccine opportunities available to staff and the community at large.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special accommodations or health care needs of students with disabilities will be addressed through the IEP process. • Accommodations may include but are not limited to adapted service delivery models (i.e., teleintervention, individualized services, when appropriate), and / or other health and safety precautions as outlined in an individualized health plan.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FASD will continue to maintain existing partnerships with local and state agencies. • As with any communicable disease, FASD will contact the DOH to report a suspected or known case of COVID-19 and follow its guidance.

2021-2022 K4-12 School Calendar



The calendar for the 2021-2022 school year was adopted by the Ferndale Area Board of School Directors on June 23, 2021. The first day of school for students is August 25, 2021; the last day is May 27, 2022.

Teacher In-Service days and Act 80 days are scheduled for August 19, August 23, August 24, January 17, February 21, March 4, and May 31

A scheduled snow make-up day is April 13. If additional days are used for emergency reasons, the make-up days will be added at the end of the school term in June.

August 19.....In-Service Day (No School)
 August 23.....In-Service Day (No School)
 August 24..... Act 80 Day (No School)
August 25..... First Day for Students
 September 3 - 6.....Labor Day (No School)
 September 7Meet the Teacher Night (HS)
 September 8 (K4-2) Meet the Teacher Night (Elem)
 September 9 (Gr. 3-6).... Meet the Teacher Night (Elem)
 September 27..... Act 80 Day (No School)
 October 11Parent/Teacher Conferences (No School)
 November 11Veterans' Day (No School)
 November 25 - 29..... Thanksgiving (No School)
 December 24- January 1Christmas (No School)
 January 17.....In-Service Day (No School)
 February 21..... Act 80 Day (No School)
 March 4.....In-Service Day (No School)
 April 13..... Make-Up Day (No School)
 April 14 - 18Easter (No School)
 May 27..... **Last Day of School**
 May 30.....Memorial Day (No School)
 May 31.....In-Service Day (No School)



Marking Period Ends

October 29	(46)
January 14	(45)
March 25	(48)
May 27	(41)

Even Through a Pandemic

Rachelle Hrabosky, Elementary Principal

This was a difficult year. You have heard this phrase over and over again. But the resiliency of our students, faculty and staff was and is amazing. We lost the ability to do a lot of the things that elementary students do in a day's time; working together in small groups, playing as a grade level at recess, talking to each other without a piece of cloth between them, using spaces in the building that are usually assigned for one thing being overtaken for something completely different, the list goes on. Through all of this, we have done our best to bring fun and laughter to our students in many interesting ways. From virtual scavenger hunts, to a live feed of our Halloween parade, to kid created new and exciting learning centers at home, to Zooming with the Mayor of Johnstown, attending a virtual symphony with the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra, a Magic Show assembly from the PTO fundraiser, a NED assembly, and even a virtual Fernstock, we have made some great memories. As we look to the future, we don't know what is in store. But as Yellow Jackets, we are up to whatever comes, and we know that we can do it together!



School Board Meetings

The Ferndale Area School District Board of Directors Board Workshop Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. and Voting Board Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. except for the months of April, November, and December, unless otherwise advertised. Meetings are not scheduled for the month of July. Meetings are held in the Elementary School Board Room.

"The School Year That Would Not End"

Little did we know that we would be living through a pandemic during the entire school 2020-2021 school year. Sometimes it seemed like it would never end. Well, here we are.... we made it!

For those of us in the school day in and day out, it was a continuous reminder to "pull your mask up", "use the hand sanitizer or go wash your hands", and let's not forget to "maintain social distancing".

Our administration, faculty, staff and students all worked together to follow the Covid-19 guidelines to keep everyone safe and well. There were times when the Pandemic did get to a few students and teachers, but we all made it through. I know at times some of our staff and students grew tired of my reminders of safety during the Pandemic, but it was all for everyone's safety and well being.

I do think that our district families need to be thanked for being so conscientious about keeping their children home when they were sick and calling the school when someone in their household tested positive for Covid.

So, whether you were educated by hybrid, cyber, virtual or in-person, this will be a year that we won't soon forget.

Have a safe summer and hoping that the Covid restrictions are all lifted...I will see you in the fall.

Judy Virgin, RN, BSN, CSN FASD School Nurse

A Year of Service for Our Community

As a part of our instruction here at the elementary school, we teach our children to be kind and giving of themselves however big or small the act may be. This year, we held monthly service projects to help our community. These projects included: Christmas cards for nursing homes, boxes of goodies for a few of our military personnel deployed overseas, Valentine cards for nursing homes, collection of donations for the Cambria County Humane Society, Birthday boxes for one of the local food pantries and donations of toys for Cuddles for Kids. These service ideas have been well received. Our students learn a lot about serving others as well as taking pride in a job well done. Thank you to Mrs. Priest, Miss Trenger, Mrs. Pudliner Mr. Harrison, Mrs. Rigby, Miss Uhlig, Mrs. Burkett and Mrs. Riffle for spearheading these projects! #JacketPride



Elementary Honor Roll

Grade 3

Logan Clevenger
Selena Coleman
Annabella Cooper
Mason Davis
Luke Denhard
Benjamin DeWitt
Sidney Horner
Natalya McFeaters
Edward McKendree
Annabella Sanchez
Loralei Thomas
Gracin Wagner
Macie Wagner
Janessa Washington

Grade 4

Cecelia Berkofsky
Landyn Felosky
Danica Leverknight
Alyssa Rager
Lilly Sidor
Ava Stiles
Arianna Usrey

Grade 5

Alyssa Alt
Peyton Bailey
Rdeja Britt
Izabel Chuklochak
Nathaniel Denhard
Emma Halliday
Jurnee Heard
Brynn Hyland
Levi Keith
Lilly Kinsey
Ian McClucas
Teegan McGough
Brody Lepley
Delaney McKendree
Cadence Murray
Keira Nemeth
Jordan Novotny
Jordan Rager
Olivia Tallari

Grade 6

Brenna Beckman
Laylah Beltz
Alexis Blough
Jackson DeWitt
Casmon Gorzelsky
Nathan Hendershot
Hayden Stiles
Julian Usrey
Michael Zahurak

Congratulations Class of 2021

George Robert Ernest Ambroe
 Makala Rose Blasko
 Leslie Lauren Boyle
 Arianah Danae Cassick
 Shane Thomas Chandler-Christie
 McKinley Rae Colgan
 Samantha Nancy Comeford
 Kierra Isabelle Craig
 Quinn Arieana Cummings
 Ryan Matthew Dickert
 Gage Brennan Dom
 Luke Robert Gawel
 Abigail Grace Geisel
 Ceirra Lynn Geiser

Cody Lee Geiser
 Kai Dominic Gorzelsky
 Alexis Ann Graham
 Brianna Catherine Hicks
 Morgan Taylor Hudy
 Libby Rose Kinsey
 Joseph Duane Klucker
 Lakia Jasmine Kriamakbar
 Jalynn Shea McGilvery
 Blake Arron Miller
 Alexander Michael Mills
 Justin Andrew Mitchell
 Kaleb Paul Mitchell
 Tyler Marshall Nixon

Codi Elizabeth Norman
 Justin Richard Pavic
 Nicholas Sebastian Rex
 Kailyn Rae Ribaric
 Tyler Russell Stover
 Tamara Lee-Jean Rozier
 Trey Bryan Saylor
 Quamir Leon Simms
 Brady Davis Tomechak
 Benjamin Elias Vuckovich
 Jade Lynn Wallace
 Destany Marie Werba



Mr. David Gates Receives Professional Certification

David Gates, Business Manager of the Ferndale Area School District, has been approved for initial status as a Pennsylvania Certified School Business Administrator (PCSBA) by the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials (PASBO). Mr. Gates has been employed by the district since 2017.

In order to be granted the professional certification status by PASBO, a school business official must meet high personal, ethical and professional standards established for the certification program. These include formal education, experience and continuing education. Once attained, the certification must be renewed every four years through a program of professional development.

PASBO is the state professional association of school business officials whose responsibilities include the business and service functions of public and non-public schools. PASBO's purposes are to promote the highest standards of ethics and practices in school business administration and to encourage professional development and improvement of individuals engaged in school business management. PASBO is affiliated with the Association of School Business Official International (ASBO). In May, Mr. Gates was elected as Mid-State Regional PASBO Vice President.



Congratulations to Mrs. Rachelle Hrabosky for her article being published in the "The PA Administrator"

We all know the story: March of 2020 when the world as we knew it as educators would be turned completely upside down. Administrators were preparing for state assessments, teachers were working double time to get information into the minds of their students, and then BAM! schools across the Commonwealth are closed. And there lies the end of the 2019-20 school year. Teachers were at a loss in the modes of instruction. Administrators were in a mad scramble to make plans and initiate them. Parents were blind-sided with remote/virtual learning that no one was prepared for even in the age of technology. How will we instruct our students? How will we make certain that they have enough food to eat during the week when school meals may be the only ones they eat and monitor those that may be living in conditions that need the attention of the school? How do we as educators go without being able to say good-bye to this year's class?

In the end, our small school district prevailed. Teachers were on the forefront of a virtual world that was foreign to them. In a short amount of time, they learned how to Zoom, use Google Classroom from Kindergarten to Grade 6. Having the opportunity to sit in on a Scavenger Hunt with a kindergarten class was a light to the overbearing fear that we could not make remote learning work. Enthusiastic children were running around their homes looking for the treasure that fit the poetic clues. Amid the 15 students all talking at the same time, a smile was across the face of this teacher as she enjoyed the time together just as much as the children. Other classrooms were filled with eager students wanting to 'just talk', to their teacher.

The Food Service Director and her staff fed our 500+ students daily. Buses roamed the neighborhood to deliver the food, drop off packets of student work or pick-up completed work for teachers. The secretaries spent hours upon hours making copies, organizing mailings, and keeping the building upbeat for those that arrived at our door. Teachers created makeshift classrooms in their homes displaying their creativity in their DIY skills. I will never forget seeing a teacher using her shower walls as a dry erase board!

Fast forward to summer and administrators began preparation and planning for the 2020-2021 school year. Reopening phase plans were written, committees were created, plans A, B, C and D were discussed for those "just in case" scenarios. Everyone was rushing to order devices and to prepare services to Be Ready and to Pivot on a dime. The following questions had to be answered: How will we bring students into the building safely? How do we instruct? How do we make certain that we can follow protocol? How do we care for those students that need our attention? A lot has changed since March. During summer break, teachers and administrators in our district came together as a team. We brainstormed, formed committees and worked TOGETHER for the sake of the profession that we love-educating children.

A troublesome issue for me in this New Age way of educating is the concept of 'how do we engage our students and prepare them for future goals?' Teachers in my building spent the entire summer learning to navigate the following: A new reading series (we did not see a pandemic coming when we adopted it!); becoming familiar with a new learning management system; the ins and outs of Zoom meetings; the proper manner in which to sanitize items; creating "pods" for the children and how to keep themselves safe. Secretaries, the district nurse, and the maintenance team all worked diligently to prepare for whatever would come their way in the months ahead. And now, the classrooms have been transformed to an area that they can learn and enjoy the experience of school even during a pandemic. Rainbow-colored sit spots were placed on the floors of the primary classrooms and colorful tape created "private islands" for students in the upper grades to social distance, while videos were created of proper handwashing and mask wearing. We moved classrooms furniture out of rooms to provide ample space for social distancing and filled two trailers! And yet students, teachers, staff, and administration were determined to make the year a success.

Additionally, students proudly displayed artwork reminding all the rules of staying healthy. Decorations filled the halls just like they do every year and students and teachers donned the most fashionable masks creating an atmosphere of people just going with the flow. My, how resilient children really are compared to the adults.

Fast forward to fall, 2020-2021 where the mode of instruction has continued to change and evolve, so much so, it would make the faint of heart swoon. But my teachers and staff have continued to hold dear our profession of educating children. Administrators constantly cheer on all involved, from janitors to office professionals to cafeteria staff to teachers, paraprofessionals, nurses, school counselors, students and families. They are reminded of their resilience and small victories are met with air fives, parties and Zoom scavenger hunts again (this time it is even the older grades enjoying the hunt).

Even though there are days in the building when the tension is so thick you could cut it with a paper cutter, we never forget to smile, think of the positives and forge forward. Administration is under pressure trying to be the beacon of light, giving hope to everyone that things are going to get easier. Teachers are met with fruit baskets and a "Have a 'Beer' on Me" (root beer soda) party and are listened to when they just need an ear. I enjoy giving them daily reminders of positivity on my Quote of the Day board. I also like being a voice of reassurance to the children, reminding them that things are going to get easier. All educators are hoping that the current situation will become less stressful to everyone involved.

Now there is a new way to educate our students, one that no one saw coming. We must step back and recognize how we, as a community, are rising to this new challenge.

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And we need to look to our students, as they are the future. They continue to show us their resilience. Remote learning has taught them unique ways of problem solving and critical thinking. It has also allowed them to impart this new-found knowledge to their teachers, to administrators and to their families. The attendance of most Zoom classes is at 95%. Why is this so? I believe that it is because of the love and engagement of my teachers and staff. Classrooms that have met their attendance goal celebrated this small victory with an ice cream party.

And lest we forget that we, as educators, have also become resilient. We have become creative in the way that we teach and assess our students. Bitmoji classrooms, virtual field trips, scavenger hunts from home all help to ease the tension for all parties involved in how we educate students today. We have made certain that families have enough food to eat during the week by sending food with the hybrid students and delivering full meals when completely remote. We now have better communication with families and look at education through a very different lens. We are able to monitor those that may be living in conditions that need the attention of the school and reassure the families that it is going to get easier.

When one becomes an educator, it is not for the glory or the money, it is for the love of educating young people. In the book, *Rising Strong: The Reckoning, The Rumble, The Revolution* (Brown, 2015) the author discusses the question: "Are THEY doing their best?" This question can be asked of everyone involved in learning. But truly what is someone's best? Can we be the judge of others or believe that it is in our character that whatever the situation may be each one of us is doing our best.

Resilience is key this year more than ever before in my book. And resilience is what you get when you open the door to all to shine their brightest.

Gym Class

What a year! The Gym was buzzing with activity in new and exciting ways. Our younger students worked hard on movement concepts and finished strong with some cosmic bowling! Our older grades tried their hand at new paddle and racquet sports. Pickleball was a SMASH! I would like to take the time to thank all of our students for having such positive attitudes and working hard both in the gym and at home. I was very impressed with their commitment and effort put forth both in person and virtually. I would also like to thank all of the parents for logging your children on and scrambling to find whatever unconventional materials your child needed during virtual P.E. Ferndale Area ROCKS!

Busy Year for Fifth Grade

For Ferndale Area's 5th Graders, this year has been unlike any other. From being hybrid (attending every other day), to learning how to send emails and submitting work using iPads, these kids have tackled EVERY challenge that they faced. With all COVID precautions in place, we were able to have fun while learning. Zoom scavenger hunts proved to be quite fun for Halloween. Virtual field trips to the NY Macy's Day Parade for Thanksgiving gave students the opportunity to design storefronts and parade balloons. Spirit Days and Weeks were mixed in to generate excitement and school spirit. Tent Cities and forts were built to celebrate the students' great attendance (and these 5th graders did ROCK attendance this year). Instead of going to the symphony, the symphony came to us. All in all, it has been a year of many "pivots", yet these students showed up and handled it with ease. Their teachers could not be more proud of them.



Basketball Programs

The 2020-2021 school year was a busy one for the Jacket and Lady Jacket Basketball Programs. Here are some of our highlights!

- Our elementary program sent one boys' team and two girls' teams to compete at East Hills Recreation. All the players had fun, learned the game, and improved so much!
- While we were not able to have our traditional Drills and Skills program, the 3rd and 4th grade girls have been busy on Saturday mornings learning the game. We are looking forward to seeing them get on the court at EHR next year!
- The Varsity Girls made a lot of progress this year. We are looking forward to building on this year's successes. The future looks bright for the Lady Jackets!
- Libby Kinsey pulled down her 500th career rebound on February 25.
- The Varsity Boys had a successful year and made it to play-offs! We are excited to see their success continue in the years to come.
- Our programs are saying goodbye to three Jacket Seniors this year. We want to wish Libby Kinsey, Quamir Simms, and Justin Mitchell the very best as they move on from Ferndale. Remember, once a Jacket always a Jacket!

While this was certainly not a normal year, we are so glad that our athletes were able to get on the court.



Hello Ferndale Area families! My name is Miss Potasnik, and I have been your child/children's library teacher. It has been such a great experience working at the Hive this year!

Our resilient students have had such a busy year thus far! While library class was definitely different this year than in the past, we still were able to learn a lot through reading various genres of books. In addition to that, students were also challenged through many research and STEAM activities along the way.

We kicked off the 2020-2021 school year researching the Monarch Butterfly Migration. Students in K4-6th grade learned various facts about this remarkable event that occurs every fall and spring. We even had a monarch migration right here in the library hallway with many K4-2nd grade student-made butterflies displayed! Our upper-leveled elementary students made their own flip books to showcase their knowledge.

When we went virtual a few times, students learned all about our great state of Pennsylvania through engaging activities revolving around our wildlife, a study on Pennsylvanian authors, and a neat virtual road trip to the Crayola Factory. We read "The Crayon Man: The True Story of the Invention of Crayola Crayons" and "K is for Keystone: A Pennsylvania Alphabet."

During the winter months, our K4 and Kindergarten students dove into a penguin research unit. First Grade students learned all about the polar bear. Older elementary students learned all about biographies and even selected an influential individual to learn about his/her life. Various grade-level biography projects were proudly displayed down the library hallway.

March kicked off Read Across America where students took part in a March Madness Bracket to reveal what

Ferndale Area Elementary's favorite book is. We spent from March-April reading all of the contenders and voting along the way. We are getting close to revealing the overall winner after weeks of voting!

Currently, our younger yellow jackets are participating in spring read alouds followed by creating a spring display for the library hallway. Our older yellow jackets are working on problem solving by using prior knowledge and applying it to their grade level STEAM challenge. Third Grade's challenge is to build a house for the three little pigs using only toothpicks. Fourth Grade is learning all about worms in order to help to Save Fred. Fifth Grade students are using teamwork to design a contraption to house an egg for an egg drop contest. Lastly, Sixth Grade students are using teamwork to design and build a load-bearing bridge out of toothpicks and marshmallows. We are going to be testing to see who's bridge is the strongest. All of these challenges are of course based on a book that we have read together.

As we get ready to close out the 2020-2021 school year, I want to thank my hard-working students for handling change in such a positive manner. As I told them many times, this is the year of pivot. I know it wasn't easy, and special activities were missed out on. They were rock stars! Thank you families for coming together to try to make virtual learning work for your child/children. It takes a village to raise a child, and I think we did the best we could this year around every challenge thrown at us. Lastly, thank you to FAES staff and administration for giving me this opportunity to be able to teach our young learners. I had a blast being able to incorporate my passion for project-based learning and Library. FASD is a special place to "bee."

Every Bottle Back

After reading about the negative effects of plastics in the environment, the sixth grade has decided to support the American Beverage Association's "Every Bottle Back" initiative. They have placed collection boxes at several locations throughout the Elementary school, and are encouraging people to deposit their #1 and #2 plastic items, in an effort to keep them out of landfills, oceans, and waterways. To date, we have recycled over 1,400 plastic bottles! We learned that these bottles are used to make common everyday items, such as park benches, T-shirts, yarn, and even shoes! We hope to continue to inspire everyone in our district to reduce, reuse, and recycle!





This year has sure been a crazy one! Our students have endured a lot and have still managed to amaze me in all that they accomplished!

K4-1st graders have been working hard on Earth Day Projects and even a little surprise for Mother's Day.

2nd graders have been busy watercolor painting and creating spring bird pictures. We will be starting our STEAM Area Robots soon.

3rd graders learned about the artist Henri Rousseau and created a toucan drawing that they are working hard on finishing with watercolor paints.

4th graders finished up their optical illusions using concentric circles and alternating patterns. They then worked on a 3-dimensional sculpture project in which they used model magic to create a pencil topper and painted them with watercolor paints.

5th graders are working on a pencil sculpture. They created an armature and used plaster to cover it. They will be finishing them off with metal tooling and tempera paint. They are so excited about these!

6th graders finished up their Optical Illusions in which they used shading and alternating patterns to create the illusion. These turned out so nice and have gotten so many compliments when hung in the hallway! They are now working on a spring flower painting. Students are busy drawing all types of flowers and they will be using watercolors to paint them.

I would like to thank the students for their hard work and wonderful attitudes throughout the year as well as the homeroom teachers for sharing their rooms with me as I travel from room to room. I also want to extend a huge thank you to the parents and guardians of the students. I know it wasn't always easy having them Zoom with us, but we made it through together!

Many thanks,

Mrs. Sendek

Art/Gifted Teacher, ESL Instructor, Yearbook Editor



Music Notes

The great thing about music is that you can make it anywhere, anytime. Although we couldn't sing and dance in our usual way, we definitely honed up the rhythm skills this year making lots of percussion music! Sounds of BoomWhackers, rhythm sticks, drums, maracas, tambourines, and more, filled the halls of the elementary schools. Students became masters of performing body percussion along to some of their favorite songs.

Grades K4, K, and 1 took this time to learn about solfege, how to read it on a scale, and play along to songs with color-coded Boomwhackers. They also used animated rhythm play-a-longs to begin reading, counting, and playing basic rhythm patterns. Grades 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 continued to build upon those rhythm skills and used a variety of percussion play-alongs to read, count, and perform music.

All students were able to develop their tech skills by playing interactive Kahoot, Quizizz, Musication, and Jeopardy music games. There were also interactive Powerpoint and Classkick activities.

FERNSTOCK 2021: All classes are practicing a variety of percussion pieces for this year's virtual Fernstock! Filming will be taking place in class for the next two weeks. Once the performances are compiled, edited, and put in a movie format, they will be uploaded to the district website and/or other formats for our Ferndale Area families to watch and enjoy! The students are doing an awesome job on their performances!

BAND/CHORUS: Unfortunately, we weren't able to hold regular Band and Chorus rehearsals. Here's hoping we will in the 2021-2022 school year! However, we did just finally start back up with the 6th grade Band members meeting with Mrs. Vuckovich and Mr. Rainey after school. The Band members are working on their playing skills and reading through music they will play at the JR/SR High School next year. Exciting!

One thing is for certain, our Yellow Jackets ROCK! Thank you to our families for your continued support and encouraging your children to persevere through it all.



Manie Musicale

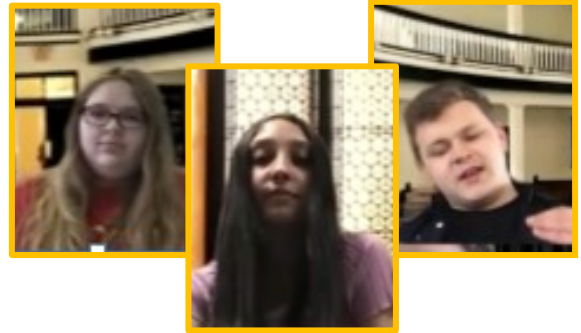
The French students participated in a contest of sorts called the Manie Musicale. The contest has been organized by two French teachers in Maine since 2017. Over 2000 schools worldwide participated, including: all 50 states, Australia, Bermuda, Canada, Egypt, England, France Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, and the United Arab Emirates. The students filled out a bracket to represent who they thought would win the contest. During the voting days the students would re-listen to the songs and cast their votes. It was very exciting because some of the matches were so close! The students were even sent video messages from some of the musicians! It was so exciting and such a memorable experience. The big winner this year was "La Vie", by Ichon. Click this link if you would like to listen to the playlist of songs from this year's contest: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uidVxAnfRWY&t=7s>

Noah Hendershot, Alexis McKendree, Lucas Hammers, and Parker Dailey were the bracket winners this year! With Parker taking first place. Génial!



Drama Club

Law and Order it wasn't, instead there was a lot of "Objection, Disorder in the Court"! The Ferndale Area Drama Club's first ever virtual play aired May 21st through May 23rd. It was a different setting for the actors, but they rose to the challenge. Thank you for your diligence and hard work. We say, "break a leg", to seniors Abigayle Geisel, Morgan Hudy, and Alex Mills as they move on to a grander stage.



Prom

The Junior Class Officers and Prom Committee presented "Red Carpet and Roses" the 2021 Ferndale Area Prom. The event was held at The Masonic Temple, Friday, May 14th. Those who attended enjoyed good food, good friends, a good time, and a chance to say farewell to our Seniors!



A Pandemic Won't Stop NHS!

Despite facing the hardships during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ferndale Area High School National Honor Society Chapter had lots of success this year. We hosted an array of events such as Inductions, Post Prom, Teacher Appreciation Day, a Road Clean-Up and helped the elementary host the Book Walk. The new inductees in our chapter include Amya Brougher, Isabelle Buska, Mikaylah Bailey, Ian Conway, Michael Fesko, Noah Hendershot, Alexis McKendree, Matt Page, and Ryan Stancombe. The current members spent months planning and raising money for Post Prom at 814 Lanes and Games on May 15 from 11pm-5am. There, they had the opportunity to bowl, try the escape rooms, play in the massive arcade, and had a laser tag tournament. Prizes were dispensed and every person in attendance received a custom coffee cup and a personalized t-shirt by our own member Leslie Boyle. This 2021 Post Prom was the highest attendance Mrs. Siverd has had and was a major success. Our road clean-up event had all members surrounding the high school and filling up entire garbage bags with litter and any found trash. At the end of the day, we ended up filling a garbage dumpster. Student council and NHS have teamed up to host a Staff Appreciation day, all high school staff were invited to a catered lunch in the cafeteria June 2nd. We're so excited to see the turn out and let everyone in the high school know how thankful we are for their dedication to the students.



Students at post prom, from left to right Matt Page, Leah Grassa, Emily Borischak, Sahmara Tillman.



NHS Members during road cleanup, from left to right McKinley Colgan, Libby Kinsey, Jalynn McGilvery, Kailyn Ribaric, Samantha Himes, Selena Bier, Leslie Boyle, Morgan Hudry, Abigayle Geisel, Makenzie Jerin, Allie Gray, Ana Sidor, Nathan Beckman, Brianna Hicks, Liana Mitchell

Elementary School Special Recognition Awards

Presidential Academic Excellence Award

Brenna Beckman	Nathan Hendershot	Julian Usrey
Alexis Blough	Hayden Stiles	Michael Zahurak

Presidential Academic Achievement Award

Laylah Beltz	Ronald Felosky	Zarley Zonin
Aidan Conway	Casmon Gorzelsky	
Jackson DeWitt	Asher Kosakowski	

The American Citizenship Award

<u>K4</u> Lillian Duell	<u>Grade 2</u> Miles Drahos Ariana Mackey Sophia Meyer	<u>Grade 4</u> Cecelia Berkofsky Danica Leverknight Ava Stiles
<u>K5</u> Danika Anderson Emery Blue Ashton Hern Gracelynn Schlosser	<u>Grade 3</u> Lily Rex Gracin Wagner Macie Wagner	<u>Grade 5</u> Peyton Bailey Nathaniel Denhard Delaney McKendree
<u>Grade 1</u> Kenzie Callahan Caroline Drahos Mymecca Taylor		

Principal Award

Hayden Burkett Logan Clevenger Reagan Conway Zaike Corson Ariana Davis Mason Davis Luke Denhard Jaiceon DiCastanado Miles Drahos Francesca Gross Ryder Hale Scarlett Hale	Amelia Hammer Malaina Heaton Sidney Horner Laney Jacobs Layton Jacobs-Helsel Isabella Jones Zayden Keith Skylar Lavash Ethan Lenhart Wyatt Leverknight Raiden Merberger Kate Orris	Spencer Rager Lily Rex Daniel Rhoades Annabella Sanchez Dylan Schonvisky DeVaughn Smith Elijah Smith Oliver Smith Alaina Tallari Gracin Wagner Julius Wagner Mya Zungali
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Senator Langerholc Citizenship Award

Brenna Beckman	Nathan Hendershot	Julian Usrey
Ronald Felosky	Miasia Morris	Zarley Zonin

Highest Honor

Brenna Beckman
Alexis Blough
Michael Zahurak

High Honor

Nathan Hendershot
Hayden Stiles
Julian Usrey

Honor

Laylah Beltz
Jackson Dewitt
Casmon Gorzelsky

Special Recognition Award

Jackson Dewitt - *high academic performance and good character*
Liam Geyer - *presenting the recycling program for the Tribune Democrat Reporters*
Nathan Hendershot - *100% perfect attendance*

Sixth Grade Award

Leadership

Brenna Beckman
Aaron Gelet
Liam Geyer
Emma Regan
Justin Robine
Zarley Zonin

Service

Nathan Hendershot
Miasia Morris
Geonna Riffle
Mason Smith
Julian Usrey
Zarley Zonin

Good Character

Ronald Felosky
Casmon Gorzelsky
Julian Usrey
Tessa Wenban

Most Improved

Laylah Beltz
Donovin Corson
Asher Kosakowski
Aaron Lenhart
Miasia Morris
Ryan Pfeil
Brianna Rex
Kendal Weisheier

Reading

Alexis Blough
Jackson DeWitt
Angel Hoffman
Ryan Pfeil
Emma Regan
Hayden Stiles
Tessa Wenban

Writing

Brenna Beckman
Nathan Hendershot
Issabella McGregor

Computer & Tech

Kayleigh Dietz
Asher Kosakowski

Math

Brenna Beckman
Ronald Felosky
Tanner Glass
Baylie Moschgat
Emma Regan
Julian Usrey
Michael Zahurak

Social Studies

Brenna Beckman
Michael Zahurak

Science

Brenna Beckman
Julian Usrey

Art

Brenna Beckman
Aidan Conway

Music

Casmon Gorzelsky
Michael Zahurak

Band

Brenna Beckman
Aidan Conway
Donovin Corson
Liam Geyer
Casmon Gorzelsky
Ronald Felosky
Asher Kosakowski
Miasia Morris
Hayden Stiles
Julian Usrey
Abigail Walters
Michael Zahurak

Library/Research

Laylah Beltz
Julian Usrey

Physical Ed

Geonna Riffle
Justin Robine

Scholarships and Awards

SCHOLARSHIPS AND MONETARY AWARDS

The Challenge Program	
Academic Excellence.....	Trey Saylor
Academic Improvement.....	Makala Blasko
Attendance.....	Brianna Hicks
Community Service.....	Codi Norman
S.T.E.M.....	Morgan Hudy
PA College of Art and Design	Leslie Boyle
	Brianna Hicks
Point Park University.....	Kai Gorzelsky
Robert Morris University.....	Codi Norman
Shippensburg University.....	Trey Saylor
Slippery Rock University.....	McKinley Colgan
University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown	Justin Pavic
	Kailyn Ribaric
Washington and Jefferson College	Libby Kinsey
Waynesburg University	Makala Blasko
	Abigayle Geisel

COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS

American Red Cross Blood Scholarship.....	Morgan Hudy
Hannah Noel Chuha Memorial Scholarship	Codi Norman
Drs. William and Nancy Grove Scholarship	
.....	Jalynn McGilvery
Agnes McConaughy Musician's Scholarship	
.....	Abigayle Geisel
Polish National Alliance Citizenship Scholarship	
.....	Libby Kinsey
Leora G. Rager Scholarship	Morgan Hudy

ATHLETIC AWARDS

Hamer Award.....	Kai Gorzelsky
Speicher Award	Justin Mitchell
District 6 Sportsmanship Awards	Kai Gorzelsky
	Libby Kinsey
WestPAC All-Conference Teams	
Varsity Golf	Brady Tomechak
Varsity Volleyball.....	Libby Kinsey
Varsity Football	Justin Mitchell
Soccer (LHAC).....	Nathan Beckman
Varsity Boys' Basketball	Justin Mitchell
Varsity Girls' Basketball	Libby Kinsey
Varsity Baseball.....	Hunter Hanson
	Justin Mitchell
Varsity Softball.....	Samantha Himes
	Angelina Wagner
Outstanding Male Athlete.....	Justin Mitchell
Outstanding Female Athlete	Libby Kinsey

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATION AWARDS

Drama Award	Abigayle Geisel
National Honor Society	Morgan Hurdy, President
	Trey Saylor, Vice President
	McKinley Colgan, Secretary
	Libby Kinsey, Treasurer
	Jalynn McGilvery, Historian
	Leslie Boyle
	Abigayle Geisel
	Brianna Hicks
	Justin Pavic
	Kailyn Ribaric
Student Council Award	Abigayle Geisel

DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

Art Award.....	Leslie Boyle
Senior Band Award	Abigayle Geisel
District VI Band	Abigayle Geisel
	Allie Gray
	Morgan Hudy
	Makenzie Jerin
	Jordon Morack
	Justin Pavic
	Anastasia Sidor
Senior Chorus Award	Brianna Hicks
District VI Chorus	Jordon Morack
	Anastasia Sidor
Biological Sciences Award.....	Morgan Hudy
Chemistry Award.....	Trey Saylor
English Award	Abigayle Geisel
	Trey Saylor
Family and Consumer Science	"Top Chef"
	Brianna Hicks
Mathematics Award.....	Trey Saylor
Social Studies Award.....	Abigayle Geisel
Citizenship Awards.....	Abigayle Geisel
	Brianna Hicks
	Libby Kinsey
Valedictorian	Trey Saylor
Salutatorian.....	Morgan Hudy



Ferndale Area School District
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Fax: 814-535-8527

We're on the web!
www.fasdk12.org



Ferndale Area School District

Five Boroughs ~ Two Schools ~ One District Working Together

Mission Statement

Partnering with students, families, and the community in order to provide an exceptional education within a safe and inclusive environment that empowers our learners to achieve individual aspirations resulting in meaningful contributions to society.

Vision Statement

Every child known, safe, inspired, challenged and empowered.