



SUMMER

“ Big Enough to Challenge, Small Enough to Care”

2017

## Saying Good-Bye



Left to Right: Irene Olson, John Kowal, Belinda Ford.  
Absent: Deborah Meier, Mary Salat, Mary Storer-Clawson

Congratulations and best wishes to six Ferndale Area School District employees who will be leaving the hive at the end of the 2016-2017 school year.

Belinda Ford	Elementary Aide	15 years of service
John Kowal	Business Manager	30 years of service
Deborah Meier	Junior/Senior High School Secretary	18 years of service
Irene Olson	Elementary Special Education Teacher	18 years of service
Mary Salat	K4 Aide	24 years of service
Mary Storer-Clawson	Food Service Director	10 years of service

## Video Announcements Club



The following students participated in the acting, producing, writing, editing, and publishing of this year's video announcements: Jenny Wallace, Curtis Woodlin, Abby Geisel, Shane Chandler-Christie, Nate Pudliner, Lana Maniakhina, River Dorn, Matt Teplica, Ivan Arone, and Haley Bennett. These students worked hard all year to create something new here at Ferndale Area. They were able to participate in some way to the creation of the daily announcements.

## ***Ferndale Area School District***

### ***Board of Education***

#### **President**

Mr. Wayne Meekins - Lorain

#### **Vice-President**

Mrs. Sandra Chobany - Dale

#### **Secretary**

Mrs. Melissa Garman - Ferndale

#### **Treasurer**

Mr. Jason Moschgat - Middle Taylor

#### **Board Members**

Mrs. Susan Boyle - Dale

Mr. Joshua Hyland - Middle Taylor

Mr. Richard Pavic - Ferndale

Mr. Stephen Thompson - Ferndale

Mrs. Patricia Wilson - Dale

### ***Administration***

**Ferndale Area School District**

**100 Dartmouth Avenue**

**Johnstown, PA 15905**

**814-535-1507**

**Superintendent of Schools**

Mrs. Carole M. Kakabar

**Business Manager**

Mr. John Kowal

**Director of Education**

Dr. William Brotz

**Ferndale Area High School**

**600 Harlan Avenue**

**Johnstown, PA 15905**

**814-288-5757**

**High School Principal**

Mr. Travis Robison

**Assistant High School Principal**

Mrs. Molly O'Neil

**Ferndale Area Elementary School**

**100 Dartmouth Avenue**

**Johnstown, PA 15905**

**814-535-6724**

**Elementary Principal**

Mrs. Rachelle Hrabosky



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## **District Adopts 2017-2018 Budget**

The Ferndale Area School Board adopted the 2017-2018 fiscal year budget on June 14, 2017. Real estate millage was set at 81 mills, which was an increase of 3 mills. After review, the Pennsylvania Department of Education approved the tax rate. The increase was less than the 2017-2018 index of 3.9% which was required by Act 1 participating districts.



### **School Board Meetings**

The Ferndale Area School District Board of Directors meets on the third Wednesday of each month in the Elementary School Board Room at 6:00 p.m. except for the months of May and December, unless otherwise advertised. Meetings are not scheduled for the month of July.

## Congratulations Class of 2017

Alec Robert Alt  
Matthew Robert Alt  
Casey Alexandra Bendick  
Taylor Alan Beneke  
Dylan Jacob Berezansky  
Nathan Hunter Berkebile  
Alexis Danaé Berry  
Alexia Jordan Bier  
Eric Matthew Bischof  
April Marie Boyle  
Terrell Thomas Burns  
Chad Alan Christofes  
Hannah Noel Chuha  
Jamie Lynnette Claar  
Zachary Thomas Davis

Jordan Alexander Deffenbaugh  
Madeline Aubrey DeFonzo  
Mercedes Allynn Feathers  
Madison Leann Gartrell  
Drew Thomas Gates  
Brynne Elizabeth Geisel  
Michael James Gerber  
Samuel Alexander Goller  
Terra Eve Holsopple  
Bret Michael Horner  
Kayci Marie Irvin  
Brenae Skyler Kelly  
Sara Marie Kowalewski  
Marshall Edward Kurchak  
Joseph George Locher, Jr.

Kaitlin Marie Louder  
Ariel Marie Mainhart  
Lana Evgenevna Maniakhina  
Jocelyn Blaise McFeaters  
Nicholas Lee Miller  
Sarah Rose Noble  
Dylan Michael Pusinsky  
Kylee Michele Ribblett  
Roemello Jaquan Shirey  
Mikayla Rowena Smith  
Matthew John Teplica  
Julius Joseph Thomas III  
Devin Michael Way  
Curtis Tyrone Woodlin, Jr.



## 2017-2018 K-12 School Calendar



The calendar for the 2017-2018 school year was adopted by the Ferndale Area Board of School Directors on April 11, 2017. The first day of school for students is August 23, 2017; the last day is May 25, 2018.

Teacher In-Service days and Act 80 days are scheduled for August 17, August 21, August 22, October 9, January 15, April 27, and May 29. Scheduled make-up days are February 19 and March 29. 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 17 .....	In-Service Day (No School)
August 21 .....	In-Service Day (No School)
August 22 .....	In-Service Day (No School)
<b>August 23 .....</b>	<b>First Day for Students</b>
September 4 .....	Labor Day (No School)
September 19 .....	Meet the Teacher Night (HS)
September 20 .....	Meet the Teacher Night (Elem)
September 21 .....	Meet the Teacher Night (Elem)
October 9 .....	Act 80 Day (No School)
November 9 ....	Parent/Teacher Conferences (No School)
November 10 .....	Veterans Day (No School)
November 23 - Nov 27 .....	Thanksgiving (No School)
December 25 - January 2 .....	Christmas (No School)
January 15 .....	Act 80 Day (No School)
February 19 .....	Make-Up Day (No School)
March 29 .....	Make-Up Day (No School)
March 30 - April 2 .....	Easter (No School)
April 27 .....	In-Service Day (No School)
May 25 .....	<b>Last Day of School</b>
May 28 .....	Memorial Day (No School)
May 29 .....	In-Service Day (No School)



### Marking Period Ends

October 25	(45)
January 12	(45)
March 16	(44)
May 25	(46)

## New Truancy Law

### Act 138: What Families Need to Know About Attendance!

On November 2, 2016, Act 138, PA's new truancy law was signed into legislation. The purpose of the new law is to improve overall school attendance through "a comprehensive approach to consistently identify and address attendance issues as early as possible through credible interventions."

Act 138 now recognizes TRUANCY as having *unexcused* absences for **3 OR MORE SCHOOL DAYS during the current school year.** The term "**HABITUALLY TRUANT**" was used when students missed 10 days of school. **THIS IS CHANGED TO 6 OR MORE DAYS OF UNEXCUSED ABSENCES FOR THE CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR.**

### What does this mean for families?

The law states that school districts are required to notify the parents or guardians when **3 unexcused absences** have been accumulated.

When **6 or more** UNEXCUSED absences are accumulated, the school **MUST** refer the child to a school based or community based attendance improvement program OR contact Children and Youth Services/Juvenile Probation based upon the age of the child.

Citations may still be filed by the school against the parent/guardian to a magistrate.

The cost of fines is also increasing with Act 138. The first fine is \$300, the second is \$500 and the third and subsequent infractions are \$700.

### What about excused absences?

District Policy No. 204 cites the following as reasons for **excusable absences**:

- illness
- death in family
- quarantine
- travel with prior approval
- family emergency
- educational trips
- recovery from accident
- court attendance (mandated)

A maximum of **10 days of excused absences are permitted in one school year.** **After 10 days, an excuse from a licensed physician is required or absences become unexcused.**

**YOU HAVE THREE DAYS AFTER THE ABSENCE TO TURN IN AN EXCUSE OR THE ABSENCE IS LEFT IN THE RECORD AS UNEXCUSED.**

If you have any questions about the new law or attendance, please feel free to contact your child's school. With your help, we can continue to make attendance a priority!

## New Immunization Law for the 2017-1018 School Year

Judy Virgin, RN, BSN, CSN  
Certified School Nurse, Ferndale Area School District

The Pennsylvania Department of Health has new regulations regarding immunizations effective August 1, 2017 and must be implemented for the 2017-18 school year. Required immunizations listed below must be complete by the first day of school or your child may risk being excluded from school. The PA Department of Health is allowing for a five-day window to complete except for 7th grade students needing their first Meningococcal (MCV) vaccine (required on the first day of school), but it is highly recommending this be done as soon as possible.

Effective August 1, 2017 the PA Department of Health will **require students in all grades** to have the following immunizations for attendance in school:

- **4 doses of tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (1 dose must be on or after 4th birthday)**
- **4 doses of polio (3 doses if third dose is given on or after 4th birthday and at least 6 months after previous dose given)**
- **2 doses of measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)**
- **3 doses of Hepatitis B**
- **2 doses of varicella (chicken pox) or evidence of immunity**

On the **first day of 7th grade**, the following additional immunizations are required:

- **1 dose of tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (Tdap)**
- **1 dose of meningococcal conjugate (MCV)**

On the **first day of 12th grade**, the following additional immunization is required:

- **1 additional dose of meningococcal conjugate (MCV) If the dose was given at 16 years of age or older, only one dose is required. To be immunized for 12th grade and college, dose must be on or AFTER 16th birthday.**

If a student is missing any of the required vaccine doses, he/she must obtain the next or final dose within the first five days of school beginning in the 2017-18 school year or risk being excluded from school.

- If the next dose is not the final dose or if it is not medically appropriate to receive the immunizations, a medical plan must be completed and signed by your physician outlining the dates scheduled for immunizations. This medical plan will be reviewed every 30 days and must be followed or your child will risk being excluded from school.

Exceptions include:

- If first dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV) was administered when your child was 16 years of age or older.
- Medical exemption that must be signed by a physician.
- Religious/philosophical/moral or ethical convictions that must have a signed exemption by parent/guardian and on file at the Ferndale Area High School.
- Please note that if your child is under exemption status, they are at risk for exclusion if an outbreak occurs.

For more information, you may call the Pennsylvania Department of Health at 814-248-3120 or 877 PA HEALTH. Pennsylvania's school immunization requirements can be found in 28 Pa Code CH.23 (school immunization).

### Summer Food Service Program

Please find information (at any of the methods below) regarding summer food service programs available for students.

- Call 211
- Call 1.866.3Hungry or 1.877.8Hambre
- Text "FOOD" or "COMIDA" to 877877 during the summer months
- Visit the website: [www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks](http://www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks)
- Use the site locator for smartphones - Rangeapp.org



## We Keep on Building!

*Rachelle Hrabosky, Elementary Principal*

The end of another school year has come much too quickly. As the beginning of summer comes for all to enjoy the warm weather, the sun on our faces and a lot of time outside, I want to reflect on what transpired throughout the three seasons spent in our elementary school and the growth that occurred in all aspects of development for our students.

We look at the elementary school as the building block of a child's future. It is here that we help to shape young lives physically, emotionally, academically, socially and morally. When your son and/or daughter walks through the door of Ferndale Area Elementary School, we strive to make certain that they feel safe and loved.

We are vigilant to teach the negative effects of bullying and harassment and why kindness and respect are so important to each and every person that they encounter. One of the ways that we do this is with weekly classroom meetings to discuss being Upstanders and to develop positive methods to interact. Along with the meetings, we held several programs teaching empathy and positive social skills.

We have physical education two times in our six-day rotation and offer morning gym time and Fun Fitness in the afternoons. Our breakfasts and lunches are nutritious and balanced, and we provide fresh fruits and vegetables to our students three times per week. The Johnstown Backpack Project helps our families with weekend meals, and the Power Up Program has taught nutrition and healthy living to our students weekly.

Academically, we continue to strive to meet the needs of all of our students by differentiation, intervention and enrichment. Students are given instruction based upon their own strengths and weaknesses. Group and individual work is conducted to develop independence and higher level thinking. It is with our high standards in providing the best foundation in education; we strive to give our students the best that we can give in instruction. There is no cookie-cutter curriculum, no set schedule of teaching subjects only on the surface and no "hoping that the students will pick it up later in life." Rather, the faculty and staff search for curriculum that will teach concepts based upon their students' needs, to take the time necessary to teach the skills and intervene or enrich to continuously challenge the students. It is with this type of response to our students that I know that we are a quality school with a quality education. It is with admiration of our school that I tell everyone that I am a part of Ferndale Area School District and wear our colors with pride.

## So, What Did You Do at School Today?

*Rachelle Hrabosky, Elementary Principal*

Parents and guardians, this was always my favorite question to ask my children as they rushed in the door from a day at school. Most days, my question was met with, the mumble, "Nuthin". I am here to give you some insight as to what did occur this school year to make it memorable for our students. I know that I had a blast!

### September

Meet the Teacher Nights, Scholastic Book Fair, Book Shares, Spirit Week

### October

Earth Fest, Great Shake-Out, PTO's Trunk or Treat, The Energizer Guyz Assembly, Fall Harvest, Pumpkin Gallery

### November

Positive Behavior Dance, Election Day, Football Pep Rally, County Chorus, Veterans' Luncheon, Cambria County Library Day, Pie the Principal, Too Good for Drugs Program

### December

Santa's Workshop, PTO's North Pole Party, Cuddles for Kids Kick-Off, Winter Band and Chorus Concert, Ugly Sweater Day, Holiday Spa Day, Anti-Bullying Assembly, Movie Day

### January

Scholastic Book Fair

### February

Kickoff for Jump for Heart, Box Tops Basket Raffle

### March

Grade 1 Parent Involvement, Attorney General's Cyberbullying Presentation, Jump for Heart Dance, Spring Band and Chorus Concert, Good Touch, Bad Touch Program, Teach Children to Save Program, Grade 3 Wax Museum, PMEA Band Festival, Positive Behavior Dance, March Madness Campaign

### April

Easter Egg Hunt, K4 trip to the Circus, Grade 5 trip to the Symphony, Writer's Workshop Parent Involvement, Grade 1 Parent Involvement, Science Fair, Family Feud Assembly, PTO's Painting Party

### May

Field trips, Placing of flags at Grandview Cemetery, Assistant District Attorney's Office presentation, First Book Program, Family Feud Championship, 6th grade Transition Trip to the Junior-Senior High School, Teddy Bear Clinic, Power Up Assembly, Grade 5 St. Francis science program, 6th grade Awards Assembly, K4 Graduation, Fernstock, Field Day, 6th Grade Moving Up Party.

## Guidance Department

This has been a very busy and fun year in the Ferndale Area Elementary Guidance Department. Guidance lessons were presented in each classroom once a month for Grades K-5. We discussed topics such as being a good friend, the difference between a buddy and a bully, making good choices, being thankful, kindness and challenging each student to complete random acts of kindness throughout the building. We also made thank you cards for all of our teachers in honor of teacher appreciation week and thanking them for all that they have done for us throughout the school year.

We have had many outside agencies present programs to our students in various grade levels. Grades 3-6 participated in an internet safety course presented by the PA Attorney General's office. They encouraged students to be mindful of what they see and post on the internet as well as potential consequences. The presentation also touched on cyberbullying and its effects on students. Grades 3, 4, 5 participated in the Too Good For Drugs Program presented by the Learning Lamp. This program encouraged the students not to use drugs, and focused on making good choices and decisions throughout their lives.

Grade 6 has also been very busy. The sixth graders participated in the Botvin LifeSkills Program which is a 15 week program designed to encourage them to make good choices and decisions. The Learning Lamp also presented a gambling prevention program titled "Wanna Bet?" This gives the students an opportunity to learn the probability and mathematics involved in gambling, as well as to encourage prevention. The sixth graders participated in an assembly which was conducted through the District Attorney's Office on drug prevention. This was presented to all sixth grade students throughout Cambria County. Finally, the sixth graders were excited to take a trip to the Junior/Senior High School. A great presentation was given on what to expect, the clubs and activities they can participate in, as well as a tour of the building. The students were excited to meet some of their upcoming teachers for next year and are looking forward to the transition to the Junior/Senior High School. All in all it was a great year!

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## Published Authors

Students across various grade levels worked hard throughout the year to create books. The books were then sent to a company, and our students became published authors! On Wednesday, April 19, we hosted our Young Authors' Night. We had a wonderful turn-out to support and congratulate these young authors. We would like to thank the parents, guardians, families, and friends for a great evening!



## Flags at Grandview Cemetery

Fourth grade looked forward to placing flags on veterans' graves at Grandview Cemetery once again this year. This was our fifth year doing this. It is such a moving experience for us to honor our veterans in this way. Each child placed at least a dozen flags this year.

Our students learn so much through this experience. Many of them take the time to look at the veteran's name, birthdate, date of death, and what years he or she served. We discussed proper behavior in the cemetery, and the children also showed proper respect if there was a burial taking place or someone was visiting the grave of a loved one. It also gave us the opportunity to discuss the different wars that our country has fought. A highlight was when we placed flags on the graves of Civil War Veterans.

We want to thank Mr. and Mrs. Vuckovich for including us in this VFW project for all these years. It is truly an honor.

## Elementary Unified Arts

Unified Arts is made up of the Library, Art, Music, Physical Education and Computer & Technology Departments. While we have our own curriculum, we also work closely together to provide cross-curricular activities for all students in grades K4-6. Here are some highlights of our year.

### LIBRARY EDUCATION

Library classes are built around nurturing the love of reading. To help support this at home, we continued our free book give-away. Third Grade even started a Reading Club. Reading is essential to everything we ever do, so we encourage YOU to keep reading every day!

Other Library sponsored events included the fall Artsy Smartsy Maker Faire and the spring Science Fair.

### MUSIC EDUCATION

Music classes are designed to be hands-on learning experiences. Students created music, sang, and played a variety of musical instruments. Students were exposed to different genres of music, learned about the evolution of music through the years, and discussed the impact historical and cultural events have on music. The culmination of all we've learned is the Fernstock Festival, where students create, produce, and perform a work for peers, families, and friends.

Band and Chorus made beautiful music all year long! Fernstock 2017 was held on Thursday, May 25.

This year we had a good number of fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students involved in Beginning Band, Band, and/or Chorus. Five sixth grade Ferndale Area students participated in the PMEA District 6 Band Festival; Mychael Bier and Jaedyn Hoffman on clarinet, Jullian Novotny on trumpet, and Gavin Arone and Ethan Chandler-Christie on Percussion.

We also had ten students participate and perform in the PMEA District 6 County Chorus Festival: Gavin Arone, MycKayla Barley, Mychael Bier, Leah Grassa, Jaedyn Hoffman, Leah Grassa, Alexis McKendree, Ja'Kiyrah Simms, Sahmara Tillman, and Irelin Urban.

Another yearly tradition for the Music Department is our annual "Salute to Our Veterans" unit. Each grade level is given a patriotic/military song to learn. This means not only learning the lyrics and melody of the song, but its origin and place in history; the circumstances under which it was written. The students are then filmed singing their song, and it is played for our military friends and family during the annual Veterans Day luncheon event.

### ART EDUCATION

Mrs. Sendek welcomed her second child, Carter Allen Sendek this year! Mrs. Marley was in for Art for the first part of the year. Upon Mrs. Sendek's return, Art classes learned about various artists, and created a work based on

that artist's style. We also used our Library's resources by using illustrators' works to inspire our own art projects. The Art Department also started implementing STEAM related projects into the curriculum this year.

Next year, the Art and Music Department will return with its second Annual Talent/Art Show! Stay tuned for details!

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Health and Physical Education Department continued its commitment to providing more activity time during the school day. Students had the opportunity to participate in before-school activities such as running club (participants collectively ran 1,257 miles this year!!) volleyball, soccer, hockey, and 3v3 basketball. This year the Fun Fitness after-school program had more participants than ever before! Students ran, lifted, and played their way to healthier lifestyles. FAES students also had an opportunity to participate in the American Heart Association's Jump Rope for Heart Campaign. This year the community raised \$5,581.40 to fight heart disease! To celebrate, Chief Rigby brought in lights, and he and Officer Krupa jumped and danced to the sweet mixes Mrs. Babik spun. We are not done yet! On Friday, May 26, the students participated in Field Day. Field Day is an all day event where students get to participate in fun relay games and team challenges. Ferndale Area Elementary "likes to move it, move it!"

### COMPUTER EDUCATION

Computer class curriculum is designed to meet the needs of all elementary students from kindergarten through sixth grade. The curriculum covers up-to-date important topics of today's constantly changing technology driven world. This school year, students have learned about Internet Safety issues, explored gaming with ABCMouse and ABCYA, researched different countries and cultures during Ethnic Fest, and Completed Coding puzzles and the Hour of Coding Challenge using the [code.org](http://code.org) website. The Computer and Art Departments were instrumental in helping to develop the Lego League Team. This was our second year competing in the Lego League Robotics Challenge. This is Mr. Burket's second year as computer instructor in the elementary school and believes that he is lucky to be able to have the support from so many fine individuals. Mr. Burket has always believed that learning is continued growth during a lifetime of effort.

### UNIFIED EDUCATION

Collectively, the Unified Arts Department held its third annual Ethnic Fest. Ethnic Fest is a cross-curricular social studies unit. Students learned songs, singing games (in the culture's native language!) and dances. They also created cultural art projects, participated in national sports of each country studied, and learned about folktales from

*(Continued Elementary Unified Arts)*

each culture. Some highlights include a sixth grade Native American Pow Wow, third grade's Japanese Cherry Blossom Festival, second grade's Scotland Highland Games, the fourth grade's English Renaissance Faire, and much more.

The Unified Arts also continued with its annual Earth Fest education unit. This unit allowed students to learn about the different biomes, habitats, and animals of Pennsylvania. They also learned about human habits and behaviors that negatively and positively impact our state's flora and fauna! This interdisciplinary/cross-curricular approach included songs, singing games, art, audio-visual collaborations, PowerPoint presentations,

and hands-on activities, as well as presentations by guest environmental specialists.

Other events scheduled included the annual Field Day, celebrating the end of a successful school year, and the annual Fernstock Festival.

Finally, to all of our graduating sixth grade students, we wish you success, joy, fulfillment, and continued growth both educationally, and personally. We are so proud of the fine young ladies and gentlemen you are becoming, and we look forward to hearing more about you as you continue on life's amazing journey! It has been our honor to have this time with you all!

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## Elementary Ethnic Fest



*Spanish 2 students helping fifth graders with a Mexican sunset art project.*



*Serena Allison and Emily Buksa teaching the history of Mexican Chocolate.*



*Students making their art unique.*



*Devon Hill and DJ Chatman teaching students the Salsa, a Caribbean dance.*

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## From the Desk of the Jr/Sr HS Principal...

2016-2017 was a year of adjusting and reflecting. I began my first full school year at Ferndale Area Junior/Senior High School, having begun my tenure the previous school year in April. I was adjusting to some new tasks and events, but I was also reflecting on some familiar tasks and events that I encountered in the previous school year.

As a school, we were adjusting to some changes implemented previously, such as our One-to-World initiative that put an iPad in each student's hands again this year. We adjusted to some course changes, and we reflected upon previous courses and how we could improve and implement additional components to enhance and add real-world value to our curriculum. The staff at the Jr/Sr High School had worked diligently on aligning their curriculum to the recently implemented Common Core Academic Standards, and now the goal was to improve and reflect on past years to drive our curriculum and classes to new levels to engage students and increase their knowledge.

Additionally, we added a new staff member this school year, a School Social Worker, Mrs. Monica McIntyre, while we officially "lost" a staff member in Mrs. Laryssa Bremer, Guidance Counselor, who transferred to the Elementary School. Mrs. McIntyre worked with the Jr/Sr High School Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Lori Dodson, to provide the necessary guidance and support to enhance our students' experiences in and out of school. We also reflected on past practices and utilized that knowledge and skills to add new features and components to better serve our students.

This year our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Team of staff and students utilized the positive Buzz around the Hive to add incentive days and

rewards for students who display positive behaviors throughout the school day. Students earn a Bee Note from their teachers who catch them doing the right thing. Those Bee Notes could be traded in for rewards, such as items from our school store, or attendance at an incentive event such as Homecoming Activity Day, Quads, or the Dodge Ball Tournaments.

Lastly, we have adjusted to being in the spotlight for numerous activities; athletics, extracurricular activities, clubs, organizations, and vocational showcases. We are reflecting on what we did to bring the spotlight upon ourselves, and we are adjusting our programs objectives and goals to remain in the spotlight to continue to receive accolades from community and educational organizations.

As the building principal, I work closely with the entire staff and faculty at the Jr/Sr High School. I am impressed with the amount of talent and effort that all of our faculty inputs to enrich and enhance the school, the students' educational placements, and the extracurricular activities that we are a part of during the school year. I see many people going above and beyond to give our students that extra effort that they deserve. As a new-ish Yellow Jacket, I certainly have Pride in the Hive, and I am living what it means to be Big Enough to Challenge, Small Enough to Care.

If for any reason you have a need to contact the Jr/Sr High School administration, please feel free to call our office at (814) 288-5757 or email at [trobison@fasdk12.org](mailto:trobison@fasdk12.org).

Travis Robison, Principal  
Ferndale Area Junior/Senior High School  
Pride in the Hive!

## Drama Club

"*Chaos in Camelot*" was a magical, farcical comedy filled with one-liners! This year, 30 cast and crew members of the Ferndale Area Drama Club transported audience members to the kingdom of Camelot. An ogre was threatening to eat everyone unless he got what he wanted, King Arthur had lost *Excalibur*, and Sir Lancelot was under a Love Spell! This is a talented group of students, and they had fun transforming into a magician, a witch, an ogre, a minstrel, jesters, and knights and ladies of Medieval Times, not to mention a king and queen. We also had some first-timers in the department who really took to the stage. I look forward to future productions with them.



## Spanish Class

What's better than reading the most famous piece of Spanish literature? Of course the answer, if you are a high school student, is seeing it live on stage. In November, a group of Spanish students was able to experience the story of Don Quijote during a field trip to Pittsburgh. The students really enjoyed the show and were inspired to do a little acting of their own by filming a mannequin challenge on the way home.

In February, Señora

Gaviola and a group of students traveled over to the elementary school to help the fifth graders celebrate Ethnic Fest. With art supplies, cocoa, cinnamon and some speakers in tow, members of Spanish Club taught the fifth graders to dance, make art, read Spanish and make Mexican Hot Chocolate. It was tough to tell who was having more fun, the fifth graders or the high schoolers. The energizing morning came to a close with a highly competitive group freeze dance and the big (exhausted) kids sticking around to eat lunch and feel the nostalgia in their old cafeteria.

In April, the Spanish Club traveled to Pittsburgh for its third annual lunch at Chicken Latino, a Peruvian rotisserie in the Strip District. On the menu: chicken, rice, beans, fried plantains, Peruvian drinks and tres leches cake. This trip also included our second annual tour of the Roberto Clemente Museum. The students seemed to leave the



*Spanish students learning about Clemente's impressive statistics as well as the mistreatment he endured while in the major leagues.*

museum with an even greater interest in Clemente, whose life was full of challenges yet provided him the opportunity to excel and more than prove himself. The members of Spanish Club highly recommend taking a tour of this museum! It is located on Penn Avenue in Pittsburgh in an old firehouse.

On the evening of May 11, Madame Henderson and Señora Gaviola got lost in translation as they took a group of French and Spanish students on a cultural cruise on board the Gateway Clipper in Pittsburgh. To celebrate their accomplishment of completing another year of World Language, students enjoyed a relaxing ride, ethnic food and dancing. Only time will tell if these students decide to brave another year of being lost in linguistic limbo.

This June, an adventurous group of students (and a brave group of chaperones) headed to South America for a 9 day excursion during which they will not only sight-see but also help a local community.

The group will be seeing Machu Picchu in person. For anyone traveling to Perú, hiking to these ancient ruins is a must. What is *not* a "must": trying the staple Peruvian dish; guinea pig. (Ferndale Area students traveling to Perú:

Alexia and Kayla Bier, Derrick Chandler-Christie, Joseph Chobany, Chad Christofes, Gabi Dodson, Madi Gartrell, Sidney Kakabar, Kaitlyn Stroschio.)



*Students looking at Clemente's awards, including multiple Golden Gloves, and other Pirates memorabilia.*

### Ferndale Area School District is a Smoke-Free District

**It is the policy of the Ferndale Area School District that all buildings, property (including sidewalks and parking areas), outdoor fixed seating areas, vehicles owned or contracted and other designated areas of the Ferndale Area School District are designated to be tobacco free environments. Your cooperation is appreciated.**

## SWPBIS

The Ferndale Area Junior/Senior High School has completed its second year of the School-Wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Support initiative (SWPBIS), which encourages students to “bee” ready [to learn], “bee” responsible, and “bee” respectful. This year, twelve members of the faculty/staff and twenty-one junior/senior high school students made up the Ferndale Area SWPBIS team.

The year began in September with the student kick-off, featuring carpool karaoke by Ferndale Area’s finest staff members and minute-to-win-it style games played by the students. That positive energy carried all the way to the end of September, wrapping up the busy month with the Community Spirit Day held at the jubilee grounds. Students enjoyed an afternoon of fun, food, and school pride before heading to the football field to cheer on the Yellow Jackets in their homecoming victory over the Windber Ramblers.

In continuing with our positive behavior initiative, the Ferndale Area Junior/Senior High School developed a ticket reward system for students who display constructive behaviors. “Bee-Notes” and “Hive-Fives” have been awarded to students by staff members in recognition of the

students’ respect towards others, responsibility, and overall readiness in the school environment. Students were then given the opportunity to use these tickets to purchase items at the school store or a snack in the cafeteria. The SWPBIS student team also helped to plan and organize incentive activities throughout the year to continue spreading the positive vibe. Students were able to participate in these incentive activities by using their bee-notes or hive-fives to pay the price of admission. Weekly prize drawings were also held to recognize students and staff members for participating in the reward system.

We look forward to expanding Ferndale Area’s SWPBIS program by including parent and community involvement in the upcoming year. Gathering support from outside school walls is essential to our mission of creating a safe and positive environment for our students. If you are interested in helping with the SWPBIS program at the Junior/Senior High School, please contact Mrs. Molly O’Neil, Assistant Principal, at [MOneil@fasdk12.org](mailto:MOneil@fasdk12.org) or 814-288-5757, ext. 233 for more information!



Front Row: Nathan Beckman, Makenzie Jerin, Morgan Hudy, Ellie Puryear, Jada Bifano, Madison Esposito, Emily Buksa. Back Row: Kai Gorzelsky, Jordan Deffenbaugh, Curtis Woodlin, River Dorn, Joseph Chobany, Ivan Arone, Gavin Olshewsky, Brenae Kelly, Izabella Hauger, Carrigan Koontz, Gabrielle Dodson. Not Pictured: Derrick Chandler-Christie, DJ Chatman, Michael Gerber

## Art Club

Art club is around the town! In the fall, several students from art club went downtown to paint holiday windows at Suppes Ford, just in time for the Christmas Parade. In the spring, other art club members got the opportunity to go out and paint windows in the community. Emily Buksa, Makenna



Chuha, Serena Allison and Alexis Short went to the Cambria County Library to paint windows for the library's Night of Music event.

Many students submitted entries, but only four were chosen for the nationwide Vans Custom Culture contest. Vans sent us 4 pairs of plain white Vans shoes. Our mission was to design the shoes in four specific categories; local flavor, action sports, art and music. This is a nationwide high school shoe design

art contest. Jenny Wallace, grade 11, was the designer for the music shoes; she even used ear buds as shoelaces! Nate Pudliner, grade 11, was the creator of the action sports shoes. He added a 3D printed element to enhance his design. Hannah Anderson, grade 11, was the artist for the art shoes. Kainat Quriashy was the designer for the local flavor

shoe. She gave us her interpretation of Johnstown's Stone Bridge and it even lights up!! This contest also had a poster element. Makenna Klucker, grade 10, created the poster in the theme "Technology in Design". Although our entries did not make the top 50 in the country, we are so proud of our Student Artists. They did a fantastic job!



## Quebec 2017

In March, nine French students bundled up and made a quest to Quebec. They spent three days touring, eating local foods, and learning about the history of Quebec. Students spent time exploring the old city and seeing many amazing sites. Some of the more popular sites were le Chateau Frontenac, the St. Lawrence River, the Plains of Abraham, Place Laurier, Atalier Paré, Pont de Québec, Ste-Anne Shrine, Montmorency Falls, and the Hotel de Glace. The



students spent time at a Cabane à Sucre, where they learned about harvesting and the process of making maple

syrup. Students were able to try some samples and some of the more adventurous students participated in dog sledding. At the Huron Village, they were able to learn about the lives of the Indians, past and present. The students made medicine wheels and learned why they are used. A student favorite was sledding at Village des Sports.



At the Sports Village, they inner tubed and saw how the Canadians enjoy the snow and cold! Everyone had a memorable trip.



## Student Council

2016-2017 proved to be a very active year for Ferndale Area High School Student Council as they planned and prepared for various events while fundraising periodically to make such things possible.

In the fall, Student Council hosted the annual Homecoming Dance as its biggest, most elaborate project of the year. The theme this year was "The 20's in Times Square." With decorations like old-fashioned cars and skyscraper cutouts, the dance came to life. On the Friday before the dance, Yellow Jacket fans cheered on their football team as they played under the lights. At halftime, spectators also watched the coronation of homecoming King Chad Christofes and Queen Brenae Kelly. Ferndale Area played against Windber and took the win with a final score of 26-21. The following night, 180 FAHS students attended the Homecoming dance.

During the fall, the school also participated in the 23rd annual Easter Seals Penny Drive. A total of \$171.75 was raised with Mrs. Gaviola's homeroom, comprised of juniors, raising the most. This was their third win in a row. For their efforts, they were treated to a breakfast pizza party. Student Council also held a Fall Blood Drive, collecting a total of 21 units.

In the winter, Student Council sold Christmas Candy Grams. Students could purchase a Candy Gram and write a personal message, which would be delivered, along with a treat, by Student Council members. Those who received a Candy Gram were surprised when they found the Candy Gram on their lockers. For the remainder of the winter, Student Council planned for the upcoming activities of the spring and following fall.

In the spring, Student Council again became very active in the community, holding a second Blood Drive during which 30 units were donated. This number exceeded the school's goal of 27 units, providing one senior, Brenae Kelly, a \$250 American Red Cross Blood Services High School Scholarship. Brenae received this award for donating the most units of blood during her high school career. Student Council also hosted a Food Drive from April 18 to May 12. The grades competed against each other to see who could raise the most. 7th grade was versus 8th grade, 9th grade was versus 10th grade, and 11th grade was versus 12th grade. The three winning grades were awarded an ice cream sundae party.

Also planned at the beginning of June was Student Council's participation in "The Walk of Hope." The walk took place on June 3 at Trojan Stadium from 9 am to 9 pm. The district walked as a team in honor of senior Hannah Chuha, a beloved and dearly missed Class of 2017 student. The team name is "Hannah's Hive" and the Hive was in attendance in large numbers. Many school and community members walked alongside of us during the event.

Homecoming Festivities for the upcoming school year will take place the weekend of September 29 with a game under the lights and coronation happening Friday and the dance taking place Saturday. Student Council has voted for next year's homecoming theme to be "Autumn Harvest."

In August Student Council will distribute 2017-2018 Back to School Clothing flyers. Please consider purchasing from this sale. Profit from these sales makes Student Council events possible.



## Blood Drive

*Left:* Senior Roemello Shirey makes sure that Jacklyn Himes is feeling alright while she donates blood.

*Right:* Katie McGough, Julius Thomas, Jacklyn Himes and Taylor Beneke replenishing after donating blood.



## Archery

The archery team competed in the 2017 Pennsylvania State Archery Tournament on March 10. This was the team's first competition as a team. The team took 20 participants to the tournament (top 12 scores were used for team score). The archery team placed 16th out of 19 teams. The team score was 3065 out of a possible 3600. Nate Berkebile and Matt Teplica led the team by each shooting 273 (out of a possible 300). The rest of the archers and their scores: Devin Way (266), Danelle Rhodes (263), Nate Pudliner (258), Alex Barrett and Sydney Helsel (253) Saheed Simms (251), Serena Cohn (250), and Katie McGough (240).



This year has been a great success for the Ferndale Area High School Music Department. This season, the marching band grew to 65 students from grades seven through twelve, which is 20% of the entire Junior/Senior High School population. These talented students performed the challenging halftime show, "The Music of Nintendo" and represented our school in five different Johnstown parades.

This was also the most successful PMEA festival season ever at Ferndale Area. After a lot of hard work and audition preparation, twenty students qualified for County Band, the most representation Ferndale Area has ever had at this festival. Six students also qualified for District Band and five advanced to Region Band, another record-setting number for each festival. We also had two students qualify for the District Chorus festival. These students should be proud of their achievements!

The students also performed in a winter and a spring concert, preparing and rehearsing a very challenging program for months. Members of the Junior High Chorus, Senior High Chorus, Jazz Band and Concert Band wowed their audiences with a high-level of musicianship at both concerts that was truly impressive. It was a great year for the FAHS Music Department and we are looking forward to continuing the trend next year!

## Computer Fair

The following students competed and placed in the top three for their respective categories at the Regional Level Computer Fair: (Starting from the left in the picture): Brandon Anderson 1st place – Graphic Design; Michael Ferut 3rd place – Web Page Design; Brady Snyder 2nd place – Computer Fair Logo. These students worked hard for several months to create their projects. Students had to follow specifications set by the Intermediate Unit. The Pennsylvania High School Computer Fair is an annual event that highlights Pennsylvania high school students' application skills and computer knowledge. Students are able to unleash their creativity, learn how to convey information more dynamically, and enhance the learning process.



## SADD

SADD had a slow start but has quickly picked up steam! In February, presentations on the history and mission of SADD were given to the 7th grade classrooms by our upper classmen and women, and happily many more students pledged not to make destructive decisions. In February, Jim Gregg from the Pennsylvania State Police and the PA DUI Association presented "What Do You Consider Lethal" to the student body. The presentation focused on distracted and reckless driving, the number one killer of teens. Sophomore Gabi Dodson said, "The dots on the T-shirt representing lives lost really opened my eyes. I am more than a dot. I don't want to be just a statistic." In March, we participated in CVS's Campaign Against Tobacco - Free Kids. This campaign is dedicated to delivering the first tobacco-free generation. Students pledge to be tobacco-free. Members presented information on the chemicals found in

cigarettes to the students body during lunch periods. In April, SADD members joined hundreds of students from 10 surrounding districts attending the Healthy Community

Series Awareness Program at UPJ. The focus was the drug epidemic in our community and how to prevent further use. The speakers included Dr. Robyn King, an emergency room physician, and Jeffery Lees, the Cambria County Coroner. In May, we "Chalked the Walk!" Reminding everyone to wear their seat belts.....every time! We constructed a PROMise banner that hung in the cafeteria. Students signed it and pledged to be safe,

bee sober, and have fun during the prom season! We held a Mario Cart tournament at Post Prom using "Drunk Goggles". The students wore the goggles while playing the game and experienced how impairment affected their diving skills.



## Senior Exit Survey Results

During graduation practice, seniors take an exit survey. Questions on the survey are meant to provide information about services, programs, and preparedness for life after graduation. Following are some results of this year's survey:

- 31% will continue schooling at a 2 year college or trade school
- 38% will continue schooling at a 4 year college
- 24% will enter the job market
- 7% are entering the military
- 69% report getting their 1st choice in what they want to do after graduation
- 85% felt supported and respected by their teachers and principals
- 88% felt safe and secure at school
- 88% felt their time at school was well spent
- 26% said if we could get rid of just a few people (bullies), our school climate would be much better
- 26% felt the discipline policy needs updated/some revisions.

## Post Prom

On Friday, May 12, 2017, National Honor Society (NHS), Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), and Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) hosted a post prom celebration for approximately 70 sophomores, juniors, and seniors at Slinky Action Zone in Duncansville. From 10:45 pm until 5:00 am, students participated in a number of activities including laser tag, bumper cars, arcade games, and a soft play obstacle course. SADD offered a simulation utilizing Fatal Vision Goggles that reminded the students of the dangers associated with driving under the influence. They ate. They won (28) prizes. They laughed. But most importantly, they chose to celebrate in a drug-free and alcohol-free environment where they could make memories that will last a lifetime.

A special thank you goes out to the Office of the Attorney General Community Drug Abuse Prevention Program and the Cambria County Drug and Alcohol Program for awarding grants that largely funded the post prom event. NHS, PBIS, and SADD would also like to express its gratitude to donations from the Ferndale Area Band Boosters, Ferndale Area Board Treasurer, Ferndale Area

Education Association, and Ferndale Area Parents. In addition, the following community organizations and businesses sponsored the event through monies or prizes: Asiago's, B&B Floral Country Basket, Brownstown Volunteer Fire Company, Chili's, Dr. Amy Reynolds Family Practice, DRS Technologies, Eat'n Park, Family Hair Care, Family Video, Galliker's Dairy, GlowGolf, Herbert CPA & Associates, P.C., Hershberger Insurance Agency, JATS Transmissions, Inc., Mlaker, LLC, Polish National Alliance Lodge #1327, Richland Lanes, Riek's Country Story, U.S. Foods, and Zepka Harley-Davidson. Organizing Advisers (Lauren Bell, Rachel Livesey, and Linda Pepley) also appreciate the dedication and support of the Ferndale Borough Police Department, Superintendent Carole Kakabar, Principal Travis Robison, Vice Principal Molly O'Neil, and faculty chaperones (Latrice Dixon, Christa Haire, Ron Lasko, Janine McClelland, Lesley Miller, Michael Molchan, and Lisa Rivard). Thank you for going above and beyond to make certain that our students enjoyed a safe, fun-filled post prom that promoted positive behavior while unifying the student body.



## National Honor Society

The National Honor Society was founded in 1921 by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. It was the first National Honor Society of its kind and has over one million students participating today.

On Wednesday, May 3, 2017, it was with honor that the following students were inducted into the Ferndale Area High School Chapter of the National Honor Society. Juniors: Kayla Bier, Matthew Clawson, Alexis Glana,

Madison Hanson, and Jared Ohler. Sophomores: Brandon Anderson, Emily Buksa, Makenna Chuha, Gabrielle Dodson, Erica McCombie, Katie McGough, Michael Page, Alexis Short, Jenna Stancombe, Kaitlyn Stroschio, and Hunter Thomas. These students were selected by a faculty council because they exemplify scholarship, service, leadership, and character.



Front Row: Kayla Bier, Gabrielle Dodson, Kaitlyn Stroschio, Alexis Glana, Makenna Chuha, Emily Buksa, Alexis Short, and Jenna Stancombe Back Row: Madison Hanson, Matthew Clawson, Brandon Anderson, Hunter Thomas, Michael Page, Jared Ohler, Katie McGough, and Erica McCombie

### Mission Statement

The mission of the Ferndale Area School District is to be **“Big Enough To Challenge”** all students, but **“Small Enough to Care”** about each student. To accomplish this mission, the Ferndale Area School District will strive to provide a safe and nurturing environment for excellent teaching and learning experiences where students prepare for a life of continual learning, and acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to solve problems, communicate effectively and be a responsible citizen.

## The Challenge Program

The Challenge Program, Inc. distributed financial incentive awards to the seniors at Ferndale Area Junior/Senior High School for excelling in the areas of Attendance, STEM, Community Service, Academic Improvement, and Academic Excellence. Martin-Baker America is the sponsor of The Challenge Program, Inc. at Ferndale Area Junior/Senior High School.

Pictured left to right: Mike Santoro, Martin-Baker; Mercedes Feathers - Attendance; Jocelyn McFeathers - STEM; Kayci Irvin - Academic Improvement; Brynne Geisel - Academic Excellence and Community Service.



2015-2016 Sophomore and Junior Winners

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## Peer Mentoring

Peer Mentoring has been put in motion to connect our older students (mentors) with our younger students (mentees) in order to help them transition into the Junior/Senior High School. The mentors meet and discuss areas of concerns the mentees might have: academics, social issues, self-esteem, lack of interest or school involvement, etc. It has been a very practical yet highly impactful addition for improving our school culture. The younger students have definitely enjoyed having a role model to look up to and talk to.

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## Elementary School Special Recognition Awards

### American Citizenship Award

#### K4

Delaney Henry  
Natalya McFeaters

#### Kindergarten

Lay'la Berkey  
Jalynn Hern  
Danica Leverknight

#### Grade 1

Brady Ferenchik  
Lilly Kinsey  
Micah McGilvery

#### Grade 2

Casmon Gorzelsky  
Kendal Wiesheier  
Michael Zahurak

#### Grade 3

Lukas Davis  
Eliot Deskevich  
Lexia Sanders

#### Grade 4

Loryn Geisel  
Joshua Mitchell  
Caci Polenik

#### Grade 5

Alex Deskevich  
Mattie Luskho

#### Grade 6

Jullian Novotny  
Matthew Page  
Irelin Urban

### Perfect Attendance

#### K4

Serenity Ronk

#### Grade 3

Ethan Prisk

#### Kindergarten

Noah Sharp

#### Grade 4

Madison Hofecker

#### Grade 1

Payton Bailey  
Patience Ronk  
Sabrina Sharp

#### Grade 5

Jacob Morack

#### Grade 2

Aidan Conway  
Michael Zahurak

#### Grade 6

Thaddeus Collins  
Hanna Ribaric

### Presidential Award for Educational Excellence

Michael Fesko  
Alexis McKendree

Emma O'Neil

### Presidential Award for Educational Achievement

Gavin Arone  
Mychael Bier  
Alexis Britt  
Ian Conway  
Parker Daily  
Dakota Deutsch  
Leah Grassa  
Jaedyn Hoffman  
Jovi Jeski

Jullian Novotny  
Matthew Page  
Hanna Ribaric  
Gabrielle Riffle  
Ja'Kiyra Simms  
Ryan Stancombe  
Sahmara Tillman  
Angelina Wagner

### 35th Senatorial District "Good Citizenship Award"

Gavin Arone  
Emily Borischak  
Ian Conway

Noah Hendershot  
Elleyana Johnson  
Jullian Novotny

### Peer Leaders

Alexis Britt  
Dakota Deutsch  
Michael Fesko  
Noah Hendershot  
Tranise Hill

Alexis McKendree  
Emma O'Neil  
Gabrielle Riffle  
Ryan Stancombe  
Irelin Urban

## Certificate of Merit

Miss Livesey, Reading teacher, presented the Pennsylvania Council of Teachers of English and Language Arts "Certificate of Merit" to eighth grader, Jalynn McGilvery, and seventh grader, Nathan Beckman. These students demonstrate outstanding work in ELA and continued dedication to learning.



## Scholarships and Awards

Class of 1973 Scholarship.....	Lana Maniakhina
Hannah Noel Chuha Memorial Scholarship.....	Devin Way
FAEA Scholarship.....	Kaitlin Louder
The American Red Cross	
High School Scholarship.....	Brenae Kelly
Mount Aloysius College Merit Scholarship.....	Lana Maniakhina
IUP Sutton Scholarship.....	Kaitlin Louder
UPJ Mountain Cat Scholarship.....	Terra Holsopple
Journey Award Scholarships.....	Jordan Deffenbaugh
	Kaitlin Louder
Polish National Alliance	
Citizenship Scholarship.....	Jordan Deffenbaugh
Drs. William and Nancy Grove Scholarship.....	Terra Holsopple
Shippensburg Board of Governors' Scholarship.....	Zachary Davis
Juniata College Elizabeth Baker	
Merit Scholarship.....	Julius Thomas III
Franklin & Marshall Trustee Award.....	Brynne Geisel
Speicher Award.....	Roemello Shirey
Hamer Award.....	Devin Way
District VI Sportsmanship Awards.....	Brenae Kelly
	Julius Thomas III
WestPAC All-Conference Teams	
Varsity Golf.....	Marshall Kurchak
Varsity Volleyball.....	Lana Maniakhina
Varsity Football.....	Hunter Kinsey
	Roemello Shirey
Varsity Boys' Basketball.....	DJ Chatman
	Bruce Shaffer
Varsity Girls' Basketball.....	Izabella Hauger
Varsity Baseball.....	Hunter Kinsey
	Nate Pudliner
Varsity Softball.....	Lexi Glenda
	Jenny Wallace
Outstanding Male Athlete.....	Julius Thomas III
Outstanding Female Athlete.....	Lana Maniakhina
US Army Scholar Athletes.....	Joseph Chobany, Jr.
	Izabella Hauger

National Honor Society Awards .....	<i>President Brenae Kelly</i> <i>Vice President Kaitlin Louder</i> <i>Secretary Alexia Bier</i> <i>Treasurer Jocelyn McFeaters</i> <i>Brynne Geisel</i> <i>Terra Holsopple</i> <i>Ariel Mainhart</i> <i>Lana Maniakina</i>
Drama Award .....	<i>Curtis Woodlin</i>
District VI Band Award.....	<i>Kaitlin Stroschio</i>
District VI and Regional II Band .....	<i>Haley Bennett</i> <i>Paige Leftwich</i> <i>Alexandria McClain</i> <i>Carly Mihalaki</i> <i>Nicole Pellow</i>
District VI Chorus.....	<i>Matthew Clawson</i> <i>Curtis Woodlin</i>
Outstanding Band Member .....	<i>Taylor Beneke</i>
Outstanding Chorus Member .....	<i>Curtis Woodlin</i>
Drama Award .....	<i>Curtis Woodlin</i>
Accounting Award.....	<i>Matthew Teplica</i>
Biological Science Award .....	<i>Jocelyn McFeaters</i>
Chemistry Award.....	<i>Lana Maniakina</i>
Computer Programming Award.....	<i>Zachary Davis</i>
Computer Science Award .....	<i>Matthew Teplica</i>
Mathematics Awards .....	<i>Brynne Geisel</i> <i>Lana Maniakina</i>
Social Studies Award.....	<i>Brynne Geisel</i>
Citizenship Awards.....	<i>Nathan Berkebile</i> <i>Jordan Deffenbaugh</i> <i>Ariel Mainhart</i> <i>Curtis Woodlin</i>
Valedictorian .....	<i>Brynne Geisel</i>
Salutatorian .....	<i>Jocelyn McFeaters</i>

# Senior High Forensics

Congratulations to Juniors Hannah Bailey and Haley Bennett for their ribbons in the Laurel Highlands High School Speech League. Hannah won a 3rd Place in the Prose Category and Haley won 2nd Place in the Poetry Category. Haley also won a 5th Place position in the State qualifier.



## Athletic Highlights

*Written by Head Coaches*

### FALL SPORTS

The Varsity Football team had a much-improved season from previous years finishing the regular season with a record of 4-6. The team qualified for District 6 playoffs as the #12 seed. This was their first playoff appearance since the 1995-96 school year. In the first round, they defeated #5 seeded Williamsburg on the road by the score of 21-12. The following week in the District Quarterfinals, the Yellow Jackets lost to #4 seeded Northern Cambria by the score of 47-14, making the final record for the Yellow Jackets 5-7. Individually, Hunter Kinsey led the team in rushing with 276 yards and also in passing with 2056 yards, averaging 12.1 yards per completion. Nate Pudliner and Roemello Shirey led the team in receiving with 726 and 669 yards respectively. Roemello Shirey and Hunter Kinsey led the team in tackles with 127 (90 solo) and 126 (78 solo) respectively. Only losing 4 Seniors and returning 19 letterman, we are looking forward to an exciting season again next school year. (Written by Mr. Clawson)

The Junior High Football team had many moral and team victories this year, even though their record did not reflect it. They were able to overcome adversity and work as a team to get better throughout the season. Justin Mitchell and the other eighth graders showed their mental and physical toughness every game, despite the outcome. They will make an immediate impact next year and help the varsity program continue its success. The seventh graders showed a lot of promise when they played in the games. Dave Herring (seventh grader) stepped in and made an immediate impact with his toughness. All of the seventh graders had significant playing time, so next year's team will be ready to start the season off running and help continue the Ferndale Area Football Program's recent success.

The JV and Varsity Volleyball teams finished with a record of 4 wins and 14 losses (Varsity) and 3 wins and 14 losses (JV). Even though the scores are not reflective of a winning season, I am very satisfied with the outcome considering some limitations we were facing again including low numbers, some non-returning players, and lack of experience. Despite the defeats, the girls stayed focused and worked hard every game and practice. The team consisted of 13 girls, 2 being Seniors (Lana Maniakhina and Brenae Kelly) 2 Juniors, 6 Sophomores and 3 Freshmen. Leading in stats were: Bella Hauger 195 digs, Lana Maniakhina 72 Kills and 79 Blocks, and McKenna Chuha 199 Serves (92.5%). I'm looking forward to next season and anticipating an increase in the number of players.

The 2016 Varsity Golf team finished the season with a record of 7-9. The team continued to make improvements throughout the season, and we are excited

to compete this coming fall for a WestPAC championship. Jacket Golf will lose Seniors Alec Alt, Drew Gates, Marshall Kurchak and Julius Thomas, but are excited about the return of Joseph Chobany, Drew Berkebile and Brandon Anderson. The Varsity Golf team is a co-ed team and several girls have signed up for the 2017 team. The members of the team enjoy the sport and have a great admiration and respect for the game. We would like to thank the School Board and members of the Ferndale Area community for their commitment to this "lifetime" sport as we continue to make our school and community proud of the accomplishments of our student athletes.

The Varsity Cheerleaders had a great time cheering on the football team and boys' basketball team through playoffs. They also cheered for girls' basketball games. The girls participated in the Sheetz Family Christmas community service project as well. The Junior High squad, although small, was mighty loud when cheering on the Junior High football team, and the girls' and boys' basketball teams. Both Squads put together and cheered the Pink-Out Game where they raised money for breast cancer research. All squads participated in pep rallies and the community pep rally.

### WINTER SPORTS

The 2016-2017 Varsity Boys Basketball season was another successful one. The Yellow Jackets ended the season with a 20-6 record, including 12-0 in WestPAC North play. The season started out with a bang, as the team captured the Northern Cambria Tip-Off Tournament, with victories over Bishop Carroll and Harmony. We entered the WestPAC title game, for the second straight year, with a 19-3 record; however, once again fell just short, falling to Shanksville 44-36. As the 2nd seed, we then hosted Bishop Carroll in the Quarterfinals of the PIAA District 6 Playoffs. Thanks to great offensive play and a loud crowd, we were able to win 75-63. In the semi-finals, we fell to Williamsburg and then Juniata Valley, to finish 4th in D6. The team will lose Seniors Julius Thomas, Bruce Shaffer, and Roemello Shirey. Following the season, Bruce Shaffer represented Ferndale Area in the AmeriServ All-Star Game at UPJ. We are looking forward to next season and the challenge of trying to repeat as WestPAC North champs.

The 2016-2017 season was a step forward for the Lady Jacket Varsity Basketball Team. After two consecutive seasons with zero wins, the girls finished with three wins! This is just the start of the turn-around for our program! We are very proud of the girls' hard work and determination this season. Junior Bella Hauger was named to the WestPac All-Conference Team. We would like to wish our two seniors, Sarah Noble and Jamie

Claar, the best of luck as they move on from Ferndale Area.

The 2016-2017 Boys' Junior High Basketball team played 22 games, participating in 18 West PAC games, and two tournaments that counted towards their record of 11 wins and 11 losses. The team played through many changes in the roster with injuries and personnel moving out of the area. On the offensive end, the team was led by 8th grader Seth Coleman with 243 points in 11 games played (543 points in 29 games played in 7th and 8th grade) and 9th grader Rasheed McCrae with 121 points. The Somerset Junior High Tournament provided great excitement with a close loss to Somerset and a win against Ligonier Valley, the first win in this tournament in the four years participating. Many players demonstrated their skills with Bruce Moore and David Herring participating in the foul shooting contest, Evan McGilvery and Rasheed McCrae participating in the 3pt shooting contest, Ivan Arone and Justin Mitchell participating in the Hot Shot Contest, and Quamir Simms and Zack Bell participating in the Dribbling/Layup contest. Justin Mitchell was the recipient of the Hustle award in the Shade tournament. The players will be participating in off season workouts and look to rebound from the record last year. The makeup of the team was one of the most talented teams since the current junior class with promising guards and post players for the future years.

The 2016-2017 season for the Junior High Girls' Basketball team was a season for starting over. We welcomed a new Assistant Coach, Samantha Lavan, and said good luck to several girls that were moving up to Varsity. Low numbers and a lack of experience made it difficult on the girls. The final two games of the season were played with five healthy players. Through it all, the girls never gave up. Coaches and referees both commented to us about the girls having heart. Coach Sam and I are looking forward to seeing the girls that are coming back. The rough road from last year will make them better this year. We would also like to welcome the new girls moving up from sixth grade. With hard work, together we can make 2017-2018 a season to enjoy.

The competitive cheerleaders had an excellent second season. This small coed squad represented Ferndale Area at the PIAA State Competitive Spirit Championships in Hershey in January. These girls earned this spot at states by placing 5th in District 6 overall and 2nd in the District 6 Co-ed division. The squad hopes to win the District Co-ed division as well make it to states and nationals next season.

### SPRING SPORTS

This year's Varsity Baseball team finished the season with an 11-8 record. After starting the season 10-2, the

team lost some very close games down the stretch. We finished the season with a 3-1 loss in 11 innings in the District 6 Quarterfinals. As a team, the efforts of the players were fantastic throughout the year. Matt Teplica led the team in batting average at 0.431. Hunter Kinsey led the team in hits with 26. Nate Pudliner was a threat on the base pads stealing 20 bases on the season. We would like to wish our three graduating Seniors (Matt Teplica, Julius Thomas, Marshall Kurchak) the best of luck in the future.

The Lady Yellow Jackets softball team used the 2017 season to grow current players. Junior Jenny Wallace led the team in batting average with .476 and she also led in on-base percentage with .656. Sophomore Corrine Custer led the team in extra base hits with two homeruns and a double. She also led the team in slugging percentage with .654. Junior Lexi Glena had a batting average of .308 and had no errors in 68 innings in Center Field. With only six returning starters and no seniors, the team was very young this year. This was a rebuilding year for the program, and since we are not losing any seniors, we look forward to moving forward next year!

The 2016-2017 Junior High Baseball team played a total of 9 games out of the 12 scheduled, Eight out of the twelve players were able to gain valuable pitching experience from the distance of 60 feet, and all improved from the start to the end of the season with Tyler Cenko leading the team in victories, Seth Coleman in batting average and runs scored, and Justin Mitchell right behind in those categories. All of the players received valuable playing time throughout the season with Ivan Arone and Tyler Cenko leading the 9th graders and Hunter Hanson and David Herring leading the 7th graders. Kaileb Ghezzi performed the catching duties as a 7th grader and did extremely well in that spot. All but one of the players was able to reach base by getting a hit throughout the season.

The Junior High Volleyball team finished with the record of JV 14-1 and Varsity of 4-10. As the season went on, they showed improvement in their skills and knowledge of the game. The girls are going to play in the Roxbury Volleyball League this summer, and we are looking forward to the 2017-2018 season. We would like to thank our scorekeeper Abbey.

### VOLLEYBALL CLUB

This year Volleyball Club consists of 4 teams of 35 students grades 9-12. They meet and play once a week. The club provides an opportunity for them to work on advanced skills and develop a better understanding of the game. This prepares them for our 2 QUADS volleyball tournaments and the summer volleyball league at Roxbury.

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A yellow oval with a black border, containing text about the district's website.

We 're on the web!  
[www.fasdk12.org](http://www.fasdk12.org)