



BUZZ FROM THE HIVE

A newsletter of the Ferndale Area School District

SUMMER

“ Big Enough to Challenge, Small Enough to Care”

2011

2011-2012 School Budget Overview for Ferndale Area School District

Mrs. Carole M. Kakabar, Superintendent

March 8, 2011 will be a date forever branded in the minds of man, as the date that new Governor Tom Corbett released his proposed budget...a budget that hurts public education and puts the burden for balancing deficits at the state level onto the backs of children across Pennsylvania. State funding for public schools has been cut back to the level of funding received in 2008-2009. For schools that rely on state subsidies for a large portion of their operating expenses, these cuts can be crippling, especially when coupled with other rising costs and added expenses which schools have little control over. The Ferndale Area School District relies on State funding to cover approximately 64% of basic education costs. The district operates on an eleven million dollar annual budget. Cuts to state funding for FASD are approximately \$706,000. Coupled with increases in costs due to other state cuts and actions, the district needs to find approximately one million dollars to educate children in 2011-2012.

Since there is no magic money tree, the district must look to make cuts and also borrow money from the fund balance---which is like a savings account that districts are allowed to have for unexpected expenses, etc.

Listed below are actions being taken to address the one million dollar deficit for 2011-2012:

- Cut part-time nurse position
- Cut AmeriCorps worker program from three workers to one worker (zero workers if no federal funding is provided)
- Cuts to teacher supplies and department supplies
- Minimal professional development outside the district
- Cuts to Athletic Department budget

- Technology Budget—zero new expenses; replacement/troubleshooting only
- No district funding for any student trips/travel beyond defined geographic regions
- All student field trips must be paid for through PTO, Boosters, or Club fundraising
- Revisions to the K4 program (#days, hours, transportation)
- Monetary concessions made by teachers, staff and administrators
- Energy audit and cost saving measures taken to cut physical plant expenses
- Raise taxes to the Act 1 index
- Borrow money from the district fund balance (savings account)

We are extremely grateful for the continued generous assistance to our students from the PTO and the Booster groups. We will necessarily rely even more on them now to provide for the students. With continued cuts expected for public schools in the years to come, and the continued push by the Governor for school vouchers, we will need to continue to be unified in providing the continued best educational experience for our children. We will continue to explore alternate funding sources and private contributors to supplement what we do receive in state aid. In a time where many schools are cutting K4 programs and reducing Kindergarten to half day, cutting sports programs, and cutting teachers, we are proud to say that since we already know how to be frugal, we do not need to take drastic measures like these. Ferndale Area School District is a great place to educate children and will continue to be!

Ferndale Area School District

Board of Education

President

Mr. Ridley Banks—Dale

Vice-President

Mrs. Barbara Penna—Ferndale

Secretary

Mr. Edward Jones—Middle Taylor

Treasurer

Mrs. Sandra Chobany—Dale

Board Members

Mrs. Susan Bailey—Dale

Mr. Greg Blue—Middle Taylor

Mrs. Melissa Garman—Ferndale

Mr. Wayne Meekins—Lorain

Mr. Stephen Thompson—Ferndale

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

Ferndale Area High School

600 Harlan Avenue

Johnstown, PA 15905

814-288-5757

High School Principal

Dr. Brian McDermott

Ferndale Area Elementary School

100 Dartmouth Avenue

Johnstown, PA 15905

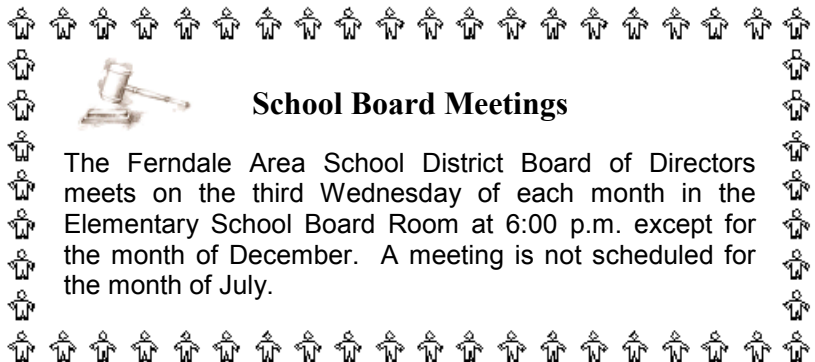
814-535-6724

Elementary Principal

Dr. William Brotz

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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 month of December. A meeting is not scheduled for the month of July.

District Adopts 2011-2012 Budget

The Ferndale Area School Board adopted the 2011-2012 fiscal year budget on June 15, 2011. Real estate millage was set at 67.25 mills, which was an increase of 1.42 mills. After review, the Pennsylvania Department of Education approved the tax rate. The increase was less than the 2011-2012 index of 2.2% which was required by Act 1 participating districts.

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.



Congratulations Graduates

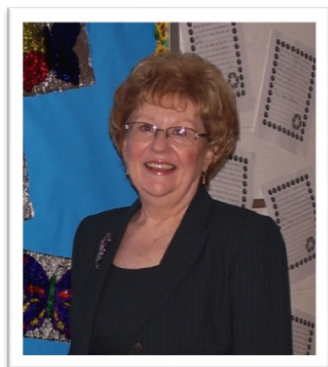
Adam Gregory Allison
Tyler Stephen Alt
Donald Richard Blasko, Jr.
William Thomas Bremer, Jr.
Maria Reneé Carnevali
Joshua Scott Chuha
Kenneth Joseph Colbert, Jr.
Marie Fay Custer
Nathan Robert Davidson
Jeffrey Louis DeBarto
Matthew John Dorchak
Christopher Richard Garman
James Robert Gartrell III
Hannah Rose Genovese
Adam Paul Helm
Robert Alexander Hess
Kara Lynn Hill
Katelynn Marie Hill

Krista Lynn Hiltabidel
Brianna Lynn Hinkledire
Anthony Edward Holcomb
David Patrick Horvath
Taylor Andrew Hrabosky
Zachary Stephen Hrabosky
Edward Jagger Jakab
Cullen James Kozak
Tanner Seth Kulback
Samuel Raymond Mahon
Alyssa Marie Mangus
Jocelyn Marie Mattis
Megan Rochelle McClain
Justin Michael Miller
Devin James Murphy
Zakary Edward Murtha
Nicholas Dane Naylor
Ian Michael Penrod

Joseph Daniel Peters
Nichele Colleen Plummer
Matthew Ryan Porter
Alicia Dawn Rager
Ashley Nicole Roles
Dwayne Warren Rozier, Jr.
Zachary Frank Sanna
Brianna Marie Shawley
Benjamin Cyrus Speicher
Shayna Louise Suter
Ryan Charles Sweeney
Lindsay Marie Thompson
Zachary Nicholas Toth
Dustin David Urban
Brittney Lynne Wiesheier
Allen A. Williams
Devin Bryan Williams

Interim Principal

Antoinette Murphy, a retired principal, has served as the interim principal at Ferndale Area Elementary School from April 14 through the end of the 2010-11 school year.



Antoinette Murphy

Mrs. Murphy had spent the previous 35 years working in the field of education at Forest Hills School District. Her professional experiences have included elementary teacher, primary department chairperson, assistant principal and principal. Antoinette Murphy is appreciative of the opportunity afforded her to act as an administrator in a neighboring school district. She has commented on how welcoming and helpful the Ferndale Area District personnel have been to her. Mrs. Murphy sends out a special thanks to all who participated in making this transitional job both manageable and rewarding.



Saying Good-Bye

A Ferndale Area School District employee will be leaving the hive at the end of the 2010-2011 school year. **Mr. Frank McCleester**, Music Teacher/Band Director, leaves us with 25 years of service. Congratulations and best wishes to Mr. McCleester.



Frank McCleester

2011-2012 School Calendar



The calendar for the 2011-2012 school year was adopted by the Ferndale Area Board of School Directors on March 16, 2011. The first day of school for students is August 29, 2011; the last day is May 31, 2012.

Teacher in-service days and Act 80 Days are scheduled for August 24, August 25, August 26, October 10, January 16, March 5, and March 30.

Scheduled make-up days are April 5 and April 9. 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 24	In-Service Day for Faculty
August 25	In-Service Day for Faculty
August 26	In-Service Day for Faculty
August 29.....	First Day for Students
September 5	Labor Day (No School)
September 27	Open House (HS)
September 28	Open House (Elem)
September 29	Open House (Elem)
October 10	Act 80 Day for Faculty
November 10 .	Parent/Teacher Conferences (No School)
November 11	Veterans Day (No School)
November 24 - November 28	Thanksgiving (No School)
December 26 - January 2	Christmas (No School)
January 16	In-Service Day for Faculty
February 20	Parent/Teacher Conferences (No School)
March 5	Act 80 Day for Faculty
April 5	Make-Up Day (No School)
April 6	Easter (No School)
April 9	Make-Up Day (No School)
May 28	Memorial Day (No School)
May 30	In-Service Day (No School)
May 31	Last Day of School



Marking Period Ends

October 28	(44)
January 13	(44)
March 23	(48)
May 31	(44)

Elementary Reading Team

Veronica Shorto, Reading Team Advisor

A great big congratulations goes out to all reading team members who participated this year:

Hannah Bailey
Joseph Chobany
James Cunningham
Madison Gartrell
Brynne Geisel
Noah Lowman
Alexandria McClain
Brady Plaza
Kylee Ribblett
Brianna Richards
Cameron Richards
Noah Sarver-Moschgat
Lilia Soderquist



The “Stingers” had an outstanding three rounds during the fall competition in Altoona. They brought home a 1st place ribbon for their efforts.

During the spring competition in Meyersdale, the team unfortunately fell short of earning a ribbon. The team suffered from the “1st round jitters” and scored low. They followed up with two excellent rounds, but could not make up for the 1st round deficit. With six returning team members for the 2011-2012 season, they’ll be hard to beat!

We’re on the web!

www.fasdk12.org

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.

Ferndale Area's Young Scientists Shine

Nola Barton, Elementary Librarian

This year, students from the second, fourth, fifth, and seventh grades represented Ferndale Area School District at the 2011 Central PA Science Fair, which was held Saturday, April 2, at the Forest Hills Elementary School in Sidman. Congratulations to seventh grader **Grace Bailey**, who won third place in the 6th-8th grade Division for her chemistry based experiment in prolonging the life of cut roses. Students attending the Elementary School's After School Enrichment Program researched a variety of experiments in biology, physics, and human physiology. Elementary students **Hannah Bailey**, **Kaitlyn Strosco**, **Alexi DeVico**, and **Brady Snyder** conducted experiments which were



Grace Bailey

thoroughly researched, with good methodology, and very nice presentations. Ferndale Area can be proud of our young scientists whose excellent work represented our school district.

In addition to the Science Fair, elementary students interested in science also had the opportunity to participate in an after school Science Club coordinated by Ferndale Area school board member Susan Bailey and volunteer teachers Krista Britcher and Elysse Gojmerac. Twelve 5th and 6th grade club members met in the Elementary School Library to mummify carrots and conduct a wide variety of chemistry and science of energy experiments. We had fun learning science and the students were left wanting more. We're hoping that next year even more students will join in the fun at the Central PA Science Fair and the after school Science Club.

French Students to See Etienne

Melissa Henderson, French Teacher

Nearly 1,000 teenagers were jiving, jumping, jamming to music. So what, you say? These adolescents were dancing to songs about grammar and vocabulary. On top of it, the grammar and vocabulary were in French!

Students from Ferndale Area and other Western Pennsylvania schools attended a lively, power-packed concert in the French language. Étienne, a Canadian teacher and award winning rock musician, performed Friday, April 29, 2011 at Franklin Regional School District.

Students from Franklin Regional School District, under the leadership of Melissa Henderson, were actively engaged in singing, dancing and miming out the words to a variety of French songs. This fun, energy-filled concert was the ultimate educational experience. Students used their French in a variety of catchy hip-hop, club dance, rap, rock and reggae melodies.

One wildly popular hit song "Pourquoi Take French?" is a rap song that tells exactly why

students should take French. On the international scene, French is second only to English as the most studied world language and influential language.

French, after English, is the key language for business, technology and research. France is second in the world for telecommunications; third in aeronautics. It is a leader in petrochemical research, and promotes ecological research and application. France is one of the leaders in oceanography, nuclear research, automotive technology, and computer software and services industry (it is second only to the United States worldwide). France is also in the forefront of medical research, including projects involving AIDS, cystic fibrosis and other diseases.

This concert provided Ferndale Area students the opportunity to increase their knowledge of the language and the world. As citizens of the United States, they will need this knowledge as they make decisions that will impact their lives and futures.

Career Linking Academy 2011

Loraine Dodson, Guidance Counselor

During the week of March 14 through March 18, the Ferndale Area High School's senior class participated in the school's Fifth Annual Career Linking Academy in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Career Link and Goodwill Industries. Thanks to a combined effort on the part of the school, Career Link, Goodwill Industries and local businesses and colleges, the seniors were exposed to career awareness activities, presentations, tours, teambuilding exercises, and assessments throughout the week.



Left to Right: Aimee Garay, Goodwill Industries, Senior Maria Carnevali and Senior Brittney Weisheier

The Career Linking Academy 2011 started off with keynote speaker Shawn Kaufman, Human Resource Director for Riggs Industries, Boswell. Riggs Industries is one of the largest and most diverse family-owned businesses in Somerset County. The company employs several hundred people and is engaged in a variety of industries including manufacturing (mining equipment and specialty transportation solutions), construction, retail (distributor of industrial, agricultural machinery, and truck equipment), and custom welding and fabrication. Shawn's presentation, "It Takes a Plan," motivated the students to apply themselves, take initiatives in their careers and how to overcome life's obstacles in a successful, appropriate manner.

Later during the Academy, the seniors took part in budgeting activities as designed and presented by Ferndale Area's own mathematics expert, Marsha Williams with the assistance of Dan Wray, PHEAA Higher Education Access Partner and Anna Frank, First Commonwealth Bank. Other presentations focused on interviewing tips, resume writing guidelines, business ethics, appropriate business dress and leadership skills and qualities. Seniors also participated in mock interviews and job shadow experiences with the aid of many community representatives.

One of the key features of this year's Academy was a presentation and tour conducted by Rachel Allen of Windber Medical Center. At Windber Medical Center, students gained a broader understanding of atypical careers that can be found within a hospital setting. Students were also exposed to holistic medicine and the career opportunities that exist in such a field. As a special treat, Rachel also conducted a presentation on stress management techniques and self-care which included student participation in a drum circle and yoga tips and benefits.

Another key feature of this year's Academy was a presentation conducted by District Attorney Kelly Callihan, Michelle Tokarksy, Esquire, and Ryan Gleason, Esquire. This presentation, entitled "Stepping Out," focused on the responsibilities students face when considered an adult versus a child. These topics included contracts such as lease agreements, investments, and crimes. The local attorneys attempted to get the following message across to the students: "Decisions come with consequences and, as adults, we suffer the consequences of our actions."

Lastly, students also had the opportunity to tour the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown as well as Penn Highlands Community College and to meet with several college representatives during the Academy. Representatives included Amy Horvath, Career Director of Cambria Rowe Business College, and Allison Felix from Saint Francis University's Science Outreach Center.



A group of students listening to Jeff Maul, Admissions Director of Penn Highlands

In all, the weeklong 2011 Career Linking Academy proved extremely beneficial and enjoyable for all those seniors involved! Ferndale Area's Class of 2011 would like to thank all those sponsors, businesses, organizations and educational institutions in the region that assisted us in making this year's Academy such a wondrous event!

Seniors Hold Fundraiser to Help Former Classmate

Joshua Mottillo, Teacher

On February 4, the Ferndale Area Hockey Team defeated Westmont 4-1. To the general public, this was just another hockey game. For members of the Ferndale community, this game was much more. Led by two seniors, **Donny Blasko and Devin Murphy**, the hockey team hosted an event that will be remembered for a long time.

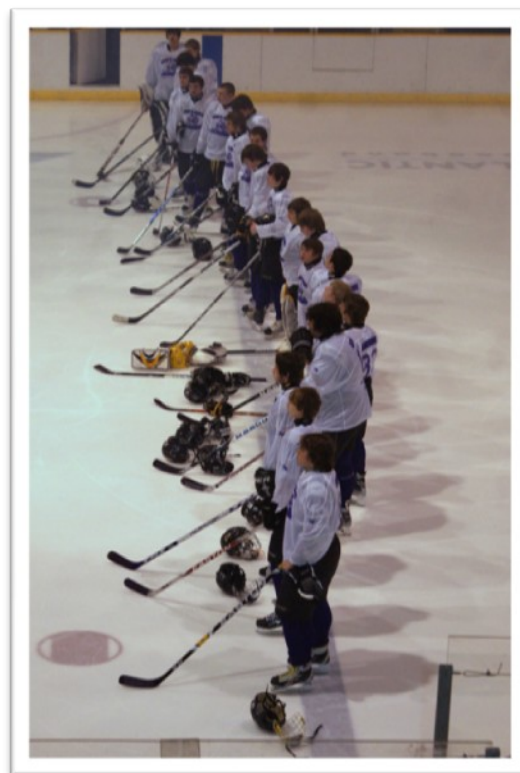
The two seniors, as their senior project, turned a regular season game into a benefit night for Chelsea's Hope to help Lafora Research. **Jessica Ambroe**, a junior at Ferndale Area, was diagnosed with Lafora in 2009. While there is currently no known cure, Chelsea's Hope helps sponsor funding for research to make a cure possible.

Led by the two seniors, with the help of their advisor, Mr. Mottillo, their parents, the hockey boosters, the hockey team, and many others, the game became known as "Hockey for Hope." As part of the event, the students also organized a basket raffle and many other activities to raise money. Over 800 fans

packed into the War Memorial to watch the game.

To help draw more attention, the boys encouraged all fans in attendance to wear purple, which signifies the fight against Lafora. The team even took it one step further and even wore special purple and white uniforms for the game, straying away from the school's colors of black and gold. All of the jerseys featured the name "Ambroe" on the back to show they were all united together in the fight. The Westmont team wore purple arm bands and stickers on their helmets. Both teams used purple tape on their sticks and Jess served as honorary team captain and dropped a ceremonial puck before the game.

To date, the game has raised over \$6,000 for Lafora research. This game is going to become a tradition in the Ferndale Area School District for years to come and the league even wants to get involved to make it the premier event for the league to help raise money for this great cause.



Elementary School Special Recognition Awards

American Citizenship Award

K4

**Kennedy Brassell
Emily Schrengost**

Kindergarten

**Marqual Myers
Nicholas Reynolds
Hanna Ribaric**

Grade 1

**Allie Gray
Hunter Hanson
Anastasia Sidor**

Grade 2

**Abigayle Geisel
Morgan Hudy
Grayson Mied**

Grade 3

**Morgan Bennett
Andrew Christofes
Hugh Grant Jeanjaquet**

Grade 4

**Makenna Klucker
Madison Lowman
Kera McCullough**

Grade 5

**Adam Blasko
Izabella Hauger
Elizabeth Robertson
Madison Smith**

Grade 6

**Nathan Berkebile
Jocelyn McFeaters
Devin Way**

Outstanding Peer Tutor Award

**Jocelyn McFeaters
Sarah Noble**

Presidential Gold Award Outstanding Academic Excellence

**Brenae Kelly
Madison Gartrell
Brynne Geisel
Nicholas Miller
Julius Thomas**

Presidential Silver Award Outstanding Academic Achievement

**Nathan Berkebile
Jordan Deffenbaugh
Drew Gates
Lillian Lux
Ariel Mainhart
Jocelyn McFeaters
Sarah Noble
Brady Plaza
Kylee Ribblett**

35th Senatorial District Good Citizenship Award

**April Boyle
Brenae Kelly
Sarah Noble
Kylee Ribblett
Cameron Richards
Roemello Shirey**



Scholarships and Awards

CBW Schools Federal Credit Union Scholarship	David Horvath	Drama Club.....	Jocelyn Mattis
Community Foundation for the Alleghenies Zahorchak Education Economic Endowment .	Christopher Garman	Forensics Appreciation	Jocelyn Mattis Christine Weaver
Delta Kappa Gamma Scholarship	Brittney Wiesheier	Forensics Outstanding Speaker.....	Hannah Genovese Brittany Wiesheier
FAEA Scholarship	Brittney Wiesheier	National Honor Society	Joshua Chuha Marie Custer Hannah Genovese Megan McClain Zachary Sanna Ryan Sweeney Zachary Toth Brittney Weisheier
Drs. William and Nancy Grove Scholarship	Zachary Toth	Newspaper	Ryan Sweeney
Michael Francis Carey Memorial Scholarship to Penn State University	Hannah Genovese	NOCTI.....	Anthony Holcomb Lucas Levergood Joseph Peters
Red Cross Scholarship	Megan McClain	Outstanding Band Member	Hannah Genovese Brittney Weisheier
UPJ REB Commuter Scholarship	Joshua Chuha	Director's Award	Marie Custer Jocelyn Mattis Megan McClain
Johnstown Rotary Club Excellence Awards Academic Excellence	Joshua Chuha Hannah Genovese Zachary Toth Brittney Wiesheier	District and *Regional Band.....	*Elizabeth Chobany Hannah Genovese *Ryan Sweeney Brittney Wiesheier
Service Above Self.....	Donald Blasko Kara Hill Zachary Toth	State Band.....	Ryan Sweeney
U.S. Army Reserve Scholar-Athletes.....	Michael Dorchak Ashlee Grow	District Jazz Band.....	Hannah Genovese
U.S. Army Reserve Scholarship.....	Jocelyn Mattis	John Phillip Sousa Award.....	Ryan Sweeney
U.S. Marine Corps Distinguished Athletes	Brianna Shawley Zachary Toth	Biological Sciences.....	Ryan Sweeney
U.S. Marine Corps Scholastic Excellence.....	Hannah Genovese	Chemistry.....	Zachary Toth
U.S. Marine Corps Musical Excellence	Ryan Sweeney	English.....	Hannah Genovese
District VI Sportsmanship Awards	Elizabeth Chobany David Horvath	Mathematics.....	Joshua Chuha Zachary Toth
Challenge Program Awards Academic Excellence	Hannah Genovese	Outstanding Achievement in Computers	David Horvath
Community Service.....	Zachary Toth	Social Studies	Zachary Sanna
Most Improved GPA	Dwayne Rozier	Spanish	Hannah Genovese Ryan Sweeney
Perfect Attendance	Adam Allison	Citizenship.....	David Horvath Zachary Toth
Speicher Award.....	David Horvath	Valedictorian	Joshua Chuha
Hamer Award.....	Zachary Toth	Salutatorian.....	Hannah Genovese
Outstanding Male Athlete	David Horvath		
Outstanding Female Athlete.....	Brianna Shawley		



Ferndale Area School District
100 Dartmouth Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15905

Phone: 814-535-1507
Fax: 814-535-8527

Athletic Highlights

Anthony Penna, Sr., Athletic Director

Winter Sports

- Varsity Boys' Basketball
Record 3 - 19 **Nate Davidson** was named the WestPAC MVP.
- Varsity Girls' Basketball
Record 2 - 19 **Elizabeth Chobany** was named the WestPAC MVP.
- Junior High Boys' Basketball
Record 2 - 12

Spring Sports

- Varsity Boys' Baseball
The boys' baseball team ended up 14-4 for the season and in 2nd place in the WestPAC south division. They were seeded 3rd in the district playoffs going into the state playoffs. They received a 1st round bye in the playoffs and then beat Penns Manor High School in the quarter finals. That set up a semifinal match with Bishop Carroll High School with the winner going into the finals vs. Bishop McCort. The entire student body attended the game but unfortunately we lost. **Ian Helsel** and **Chad Eisenhuth** were selected MVPs for the 2011 year in the WestPAC Conference. **Matt Dorchak** will attend Clarion University and **Tanner Kulback** will attend University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown to continue their education and baseball careers.
- Varsity Girls' Softball
The softball team had a difficult season this year. MVPs for softball were **Brianna Shawley and Carly Bumbaugh.**
- Junior High Girls' Volleyball
The Junior High girls were 7-9 this year. They were very competitive and improved greatly during the year.