



BUZZ FROM THE HIVE

A newsletter of the Ferndale Area School District

FALL

“Big Enough to Challenge, Small Enough to Care”

2007

Welcome New Staff

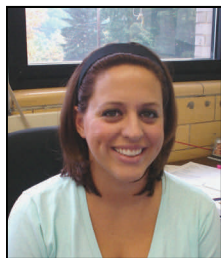
We would like to extend a warm welcome to four new staff members.

First, we welcome **Brandon Manack** to the position of **technology education teacher** (previously known as industrial arts) at the junior/senior high school. Mr. Manack, a graduate of California University, holds a bachelor of science degree in technology education. Previously a teacher at Highlands High School, Mr. Manack brings with him a wealth of knowledge that will support Ferndale Area School District in its endeavor to enhance and integrate its use of technological resources.



Brandon Manack

Lauren Shank, of Richland, also joins the staff at the junior/senior high school. Mrs. Shank, has been hired to teach **family and consumer sciences** (previously home economics) to students in grades 7-12. Mrs. Shank brings with her two years of



Lauren Shank

teaching experience. She holds a bachelor of arts degree in family and consumer sciences education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

The district has also hired two familiar faces as **instructional aides**. Mr. **Scott Beckner** will work at the elementary school, and Mrs. **Deborah Pearce** will work at the junior/senior high school. Mr. Beckner has worked as a substitute for a number of years, and was assigned to the elementary school as an AmeriCorp worker for the 2006-07 school year. Mr. Beckner is certified as an elementary



Scott Beckner



Deborah Pearce

education teacher, having completed his degree at IUP. Mrs. Pearce has also substituted in the district. She has two bachelor's degrees from UPJ, one in sociology, and one in elementary education.

Strategic Planning Submitted to PDE

On September 19, 2007, the Ferndale Area Board of Directors voted to submit the district's new strategic plan which will be in effect from 2007-2013. The plan, which currently includes five sub plans (Chapter 4: Standards and Assessments, Professional Education, Teacher Induction, Educational Technology, and Special Education (submitted May 30, 2007) focuses on four main goals:

- Meet or exceed the academic thresholds as defined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.
- Meet or exceed the participation, attendance, and graduation rate thresholds as defined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.
- Differentiate learning for all students.
- Identify and integrate technology standards.

As you will be able to see through the contents of this newsletter, we are well on our way to continuing to meet the standards we have set for ourselves.

A variety of subcommittee meetings, data collection, and analysis efforts assisted us in identifying district wide goals.

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

Mr. Robert Vamos—Brownstown

Board Members

Mr. Greg Blue—Middle Taylor

Mrs. Sandra Chobany—Dale

Mr. Gary Eisenhuth—Ferndale

Mr. Richard Lucas—Ferndale

Mr. Jeffrey Stewart—Dale

Administration

Ferndale Area School District

100 Dartmouth Avenue

Johnstown, PA 15905

814-535-1507

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Christine Oldham

Business Manager

Mr. John Kowal

Ferndale Area High School

600 Harlan Avenue

Johnstown, PA 15905

814-288-5757

High School Principal

Mr. Steven Brown

Assistant High School Principal

Ms. Jennifer Gamble

Ferndale Area Elementary School

100 Dartmouth Avenue

Johnstown, PA 15905

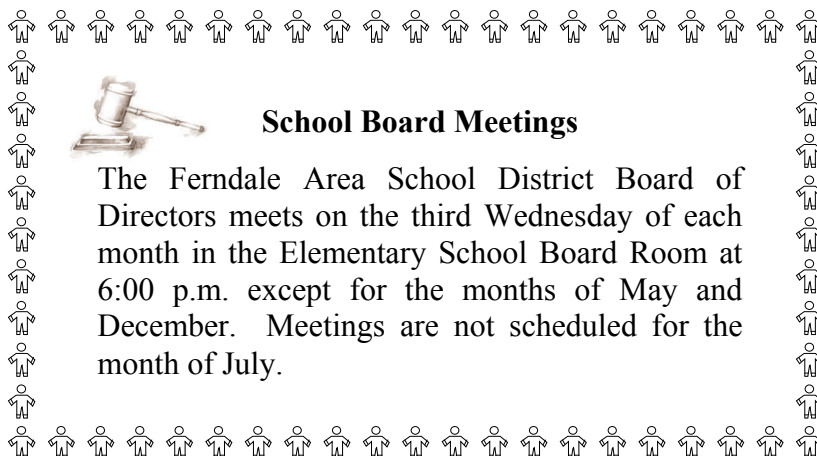
814-535-6724

Elementary Principal

Mr. Edward Moran

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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 months of May and December. Meetings are not scheduled for the month of July.

MORNING DELAYS, SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS, AND EARLY DISMISSALS

The Ferndale Area School District will announce any changes in the schedule on the following stations:

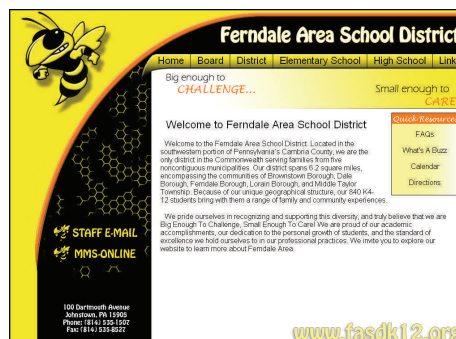
WNTJ (850 AM)	WJAC CH. 6
WNTW (990 AM)	WWCP CH. 8
WRKW (92.1 FM)	WTAJ CH. 10
WFGI (95.5 FM)	
WKYE (96.5 FM)	
WYOT (99.1 FM)	
WCCL (101.7 FM)	

We will notify the stations as early as possible when a change in the schedule is necessary. Be sure to note the length of the delay.

Check Us Out

www.fasdk12.org

Our website has had a facelift. We are excited about our new look and the information we are able to share with our entire community. If you haven't already, log on to check us out at www.fasdk12.org. Some pages are still under construction, but there is a wealth of information available about the district and its programs. We would like your help in making it even better. If there's something missing that you would like to see added, please complete this newsletter's "Your Voice Counts."



Ferndale Area School District to Enhance Student Achievement Through Use of Computers and Enhanced Technology

High School Receives 'Classrooms for the Future' Grant

Students at Ferndale Area High School will soon benefit under a new program that will transform their education from the traditional textbook, chalk and blackboard experience to one that utilizes computers, the Internet and enhanced technology.

Ferndale Area was selected as one of the schools across Pennsylvania that will embark on the second year of *Classrooms for the Future* in order to increase student achievement and success by providing state-of-the-art equipment and enhanced teacher development.

Ferndale Area School District has been awarded **\$99,141** in order to transform its content area classrooms through this project. It was one of seven schools in Cambria County to receive the grant.



Classrooms for the Future is Governor Rendell's initiative to put a laptop computer on every high school English, math, science, and social studies desk and to provide teachers with a multimedia workstation and intensive training to enhance education. For Ferndale Area that means four classrooms will be equipped with 25 student laptops, 1 teacher laptop, and an interactive whiteboard / projector combination. Four additional classrooms will see interactive whiteboard / laptop / projector combinations.

In addition, Ferndale Area received \$30,000 to provide a teacher "coach" who will work with content area teachers to effectively integrate the new technology into their classroom instruction.

Ferndale Area School District Report Card 2006-2007

The Federal Law, No Child Left Behind (NCLB), requires that school districts report state test results and the professional qualifications of teachers to the public. Just as our students receive a report card, we offer to you this "Report Card" for the Ferndale Area School District.

High School Graduation Rate

AYP target = 80%.

Ferndale Area Junior/Senior High School = **93.33%**.

Attendance Rate

AYP target = 90%.

Ferndale Area Elementary School = **94.99%**

Commercial Standardized Test Usage

<u>Test Name</u>	<u>Used in Grade(s)</u>
Terra Nova	Grades 9, 10
PSAT	Grade 11 (optional for Grade 10)
ASVAB	Grade 11 (and 12 if they wish to take it again)
SAT/ACT	Grades 11 and 12
AP Exam	Optional for students Taking AP Distance Learning Classes Typically Grades 11& 12

Teacher Professional Qualifications

The Ferndale Area School District's professional personnel are all highly qualified teachers (**100%**).

State Assessment Information—Disaggregate Data

The state requires each school district to disaggregate Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) test data for several groups of students. The groups include: race, ethnicity, gender, disability status, migrant status, limited English proficiency, and economically disadvantaged.

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

The PSSA reports student achievement in reading, math, and writing by using the following rating system: below basic, basic, proficient, and advanced. Adequate yearly progress (AYP) is defined as the progress needed to bring all children to the "proficient level" by the year 2014. In order for a district to make AYP, each school within the district (the elementary, middle school, and high school) must be analyzed and any disaggregated group (race, ethnicity, economically disadvantaged, disability status and limited English proficiency) comprised of 40 students or more, must be scored separately. **In order to make AYP, the scores must be above the levels stated below:**

- At least 54% of the students must score at the proficient or advanced levels in reading.
- At least 45% of the students must score at the proficient or advanced levels in math.
- At least 95% of the students in each group listed above must have taken the test.

Adequate Yearly Progress	Number of Schools Identified
Warning	0
School Improvement 1	0
School Improvement 2	0
Corrective Action 1	0
Corrective Action 2	0



Both the Ferndale Area Elementary School and the Ferndale Area Junior/Senior High School made AYP for the 2006-07 school year, meeting all No Child Left Behind targets!



District Assessment Information

The Ferndale Area Community has a lot to be proud of:

 *Our growth from 2005-06!*

 *Our performance when compared to the state!*

	2006-2007							
	GRADE 3 - 58 students				GRADE 4 - 50 students			
	READING		MATH		READING		MATH	
	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State
Advanced	29.3%	22.0	51.7%	34.3	32.0%	32.0	56.0%	46.9
Proficient	65.5%	50.8	41.4%	44.2	46.0%	38.1	24.0%	31.1
	94.8 %	72.8	93.1%	78.5	78.0%	70.1	80.0%	78.0
	(2005-06 86.5%)		(2005-06 92.4%)		(2005-06 Not Assessed)			
Basic	3.4%	12.4	5.2%	15.4	10.0%	15.0	14.0%	9.3
Below Basic	1.7%	14.8	1.7%	9.4	12.0%	14.9	6.0%	12.7
	 Ranked 5th of 501 districts!		 Ranked 40th of 501 districts!					

	2006-2007							
	GRADE 5 - 59 students				GRADE 6 - 70 students			
	READING		MATH		READING		MATH	
	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State
Advanced	8.5%	20.8	54.2%	41.5	31.4%	30.8	30.0%	39.6
Proficient	47.5%	39.2	25.4%	29.5	31.4%	32.7	40.0%	30.0
	56.0%	60.0	79.6%	71.0	62.8%	63.5	70.0%	69.6
	(2005-06 67.6%)		(2005-06 69.1%)		(2005-06 Not Assessed)			
Basic	27.1%	19.7	16.9%	17.0	25.7%	19.6	21.4%	15.9
Below Basic	16.9%	20.4	3.4%	12.1	11.4%	17.0	8.6%	14.4

This report card has been designed to comply with requirements associated with the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Section 1111(h). Contact the Superintendent's Office at 814-535-1507 for additional information.

2006-2007								
	GRADE 7 - 71 students				GRADE 8 - 60 students			
	READING		MATH		READING		MATH	
	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State
Advanced	15.5%	36.5	25.4%	41.0	36.7%	45.7	28.3%	40.3
Proficient	33.8%	30.3	28.2%	26.2	35.0%	29.3	36.7%	27.6
	49.3%	66.8	53.6%	67.2	71.7%	75.0	65.0%	67.9
	(2005-06 Not Assessed)				(2005-06 61.9%)		(2005-06 61.9%)	
Basic	29.6%	17.3	21.1%	15.0	21.7%	12.7	18.3%	15.2
Below Basic	16.9%	16.0	16.0%	17.8	6.7%	12.3	16.7%	16.9
	Did not make AYP							

2006-2007				
GRADE 11 - 55 students				
	READING		MATH	
	District	State	District	State
Advanced	32.7%	28.9	25.5%	24.2
Proficient	32.7%	36.5	31.7%	29.5
	65.4%	65.4	58.2%	53.7
	(2005-06 63.1%)			
Basic	20.0%	15.3	21.8%	19.8
Below Basic	14.5%	19.3	20.0%	26.6

While writing does not count toward AYP, students in grades 5, 8, and 11 are assessed by PDE.

WRITING						
2006-07						
	Grade 5 - 59 students		Grade 8 - 62 students		Grade 11 - 56 students	
	District	State	District	State	District	State
Advanced	00.0%	1.3	3.2%	10.9	14.3%	7.7
Proficient	74.6%	56.0	46.8%	60.9	78.6%	80.2
	74.6%	57.3	50.0%	71.8	92.9%	87.9
	(2005-06 59.4%)		(2005-06 56.3%)		(2005-06 92.7%)	
Basic	25.4%	41.6	43.5%	25.5	7.1%	11.3
Below Basic	00.0%	1.1	6.5%	2.8	00.0%	0.8
	 Ranked in the top quartile of the state!				 No student scored Below Basic!	

Percentage and number of students Proficient or above in:						
		Overall	White	Economically Disadvantaged	Male	Female
Grade 3						
Reading	%	95%	95%	91%	93%	97%
	#	55	53	21	26	29
Math	%	93%	93%	91%	96%	90%
	#	54	52	21	27	27
Grade 4						
Reading	%	78%	79%	77%	75%	82%
	#	39	37	23	21	18
Math	%	80%	79%	73%	86%	73%
	#	40	37	22	24	16
Grade 5						
Reading	%	56%	54%	48%	50%	61%
	#	33	30	14	13	20
Math	%	80%	80%	76%	77%	82%
	#	47	45	22	20	27
Writing	%	75%	73%	72%	58%	88%
	#	44	41	21	15	29
Grade 6						
Reading	%	63%	64%	51%	59%	67%
	#	44	42	21	22	22
Math	%	70%	71%	61%	73%	67%
	#	49	47	25	27	22

Percentage and number of students Proficient or above in:						
		Overall	White	Economically Disadvantaged	Male	Female
Grade 7						
Reading	%	49%	51%	49%	44%	57%
	#	35	35	19	19	16
Math	%	54%	55%	49%	51%	57%
	#	38	38	19	22	16
Grade 8						
Reading	%	72%	71%	74%	76%	64%
	#	43	41	20	29	14
Math	%	65%	67%	67%	68%	59%
	#	39	39	18	26	13
Writing	%	50%	50%	50%	46%	57%
	#	31	30	14	18	13
Grade 11						
Reading	%	65%	67%	62%	64%	67%
	#	36	36	16	18	18
Math	%	58%	59%	62%	68%	48%
	#	32	32	16	19	13
Writing	%	93%	95%	85%	89%	97%
	#	52	52	23	24	28

As a parent of a student in the Ferndale Area School District, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instruct your child. No Child Left Behind federal law allows you to ask for certain information about your child's classroom teachers, and requires us to give you this information in a timely manner if you ask for it. Specifically, you have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child's classroom teachers.

- Whether the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects he or she teaches.
- Whether the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has decided that the teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of special circumstances.
- The teacher's college major; whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of the degrees.
- Whether any instructional aides or similar paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications.

All instructional materials, including teacher's manuals, audiovisuals, or other supplementary instructional material, used in the instructional program shall be available for inspection by the parents or students, in accordance with Board policy. Instructional materials do not include tests or academic assessments. Parents and students (age 18 and over) have a right to access information about the curriculum, including expected student learning outcomes, instructional materials and assessment techniques.

If you would like to receive additional information about any teachers or paraprofessional aides who work with your child, please contact the Superintendent's Office at (814) 535-1507.

No student shall be required, without written parental consent for students under eighteen (18) years of age or written consent of emancipated students or those over eighteen (18) years, to submit to a survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning:

- Political affiliations or beliefs of student or parent/guardian.
- Mental and psychological problems of the student or family.
- Sexual behavior or attitudes.
- Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior.
- Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships.
- Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those with lawyers, physicians, and ministers.
- Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parent/guardian.
- Income, other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program.

However, such survey, analysis or evaluation may be conducted on a voluntary basis, provided that the student and parent/guardian have been notified of their right to inspect all related materials and to opt the student out of participation.

The parent/guardian has the right to inspect the material and opt out the student from participating in any activity that results in the collection, disclosure or use of personal information for purposes of marketing or selling that information. This does not apply to the collection, disclosure or use of personal information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for or to students.

Each year, more than 800,000 school-age children in the United States experience homelessness. The federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 includes a provision to make sure that homelessness does not cause these children to be left behind in school. Homeless children should have access to the education and other services that they need to meet the same challenging state academic achievement standards to which all students are held. The Ferndale Area School District is required to provide activities for, and services to, homeless children, including preschool-age homeless children and youths, enabling them to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school or preschool programs. The law states that, pending resolution of a dispute about school placement, a school district must immediately enroll a homeless student in the student's school of origin or other school selected on the basis of the child's best interest and provide a written explanation of the rights of appeal to the parent or guardian of the student.

In compliance with local, state, and federal laws, to protect students, staff, and others from the safety hazards of tobacco, the Board prohibits possession or use of tobacco in any form by students, staff or others (community):

1. in buildings owned by, leased by or under the control of the School District;
2. on property owned by, leased by or under the control of the School District;
3. on buses, vans or other vehicles owned by, leased by or under the control of the School District;
4. at any school-sponsored or school-sanctioned events (day or night);
5. when a student represents the school (i.e. work study program, seminars, school visits, field trips, or any similar event).

Policies are available for review at the Superintendent's Office located at 100 Dartmouth Avenue, the Elementary School Office located at 100 Dartmouth Avenue, and the High School Office at 600 Harlan Avenue, or on the Ferndale Area School District website at: <http://www.fasdk12.org>

The Ferndale Area School District will not discriminate in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices, based on race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, ancestry, union membership, or any other legally protected classification. Announcement of this policy is in accordance with state and federal laws, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The Ferndale Area School District employees and participants who have an inquiry or complaint of harassment or discrimination or who need information about accommodations for persons with disabilities, should contact John Kowal, Business Manager, Administrative Office, 100 Dartmouth Avenue, Johnstown, PA 15905, telephone: (814) 535-1507.

YOUR VOICE COUNTS!

We would like to know what you think about Ferndale Area School District. Please jot down your thoughts, place in a stamped envelope, and return to our Administrative Office.

What are we doing that we should continue doing?

What are we doing that we should stop doing?

What aren't we doing that we should start doing?

What is our website missing that you would like to see?

PLEASE RETURN TO:

**Ferndale Area Administrative Office
100 Dartmouth Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15905**

Ferndale Area School District Endowment Fund

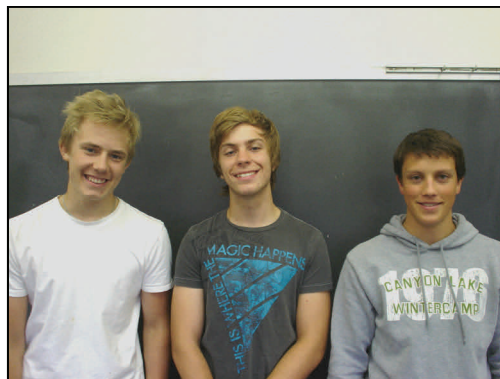
One of Ferndale Area's greatest strengths is its pride and commitment. We have found an exciting way for our community to put a little honey in the hive. Through the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, Ferndale Area School District has established an endowment fund. Many may not know that donations to public schools can be deducted from income for federal tax purposes. Even better, gifts that are designated will not only benefit our students today, but will "stick" around for years in the future.

A gift to support the Ferndale School District Endowment Fund may be made at any time and in any amount. It is also possible to make gifts over a period of years, or to establish special named "sub-funds" under the endowment fund in honor or memory of loved ones.

For more information, call the Community Foundation at 536-7741. Tax-deductible gifts to the Ferndale Area School District Endowment Fund may be sent to the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, 116 Market Street, Suite 4, Johnstown, PA 15901. Please be sure to mark your gift "FASD Endowment Fund."

Yellow Jackets Around the World

The Ferndale Area School District welcomes three foreign exchange students this year: Adam Haallen from Sweden, Axel Walin from Sweden, and Lukas Farber from Germany.



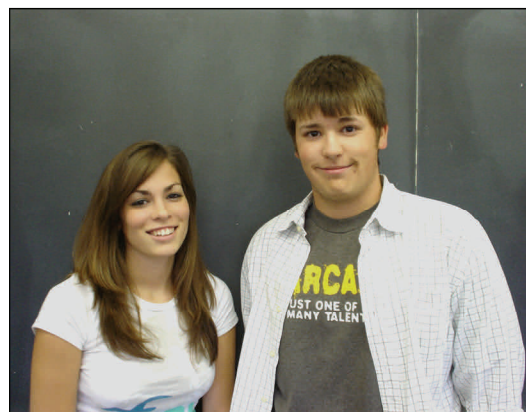
Left to right: Adam Haallen, Axel Walin, Lukas Farber



Student Voices

This year's Ferndale Area School District Board of Education student representatives are Senior, Alyse Callihan and Junior, Bradley Brosig. The student representatives will be offering insight into student life at Ferndale Area Junior/Senior High School. Even though the students serve on the board as non-voting members, they are responsible for attending the monthly board meetings, reporting on student activities, and bringing about any concerns of the student body.

Alyse and Brad are also responsible for sharing the board's decisions and suggestions with the student body through upkeep of the informational bulletin board in the high school cafeteria. They are also asked to maintain a portfolio of their work throughout their term. In return, the students will receive one half credit in social studies. It is a great opportunity and honor to serve as the voice of the student body.



Board Representatives: Alyse Callihan and Bradley Brosig

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.



We're on the web!
<http://www.fasdk12.org>

PLEASE RETURN TO:

Ferndale Area Administrative Office
100 Dartmouth Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15905

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