BUZZ FROM THE HIVE

A newsletter of the Ferndale Area School District

2024 2024

Saying Good-Bye

Congratulations and best wishes eight employees who retired from the hive at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.



Marsha Baumbaugh
Mathematics Teacher
35 years of service



Kimberly Becker
Elementary Aide
20 years of service



Kim Connors
PK Aide
2 years of service



Daniel Endler
Social Studies Teacher
19 years of service



Susan Leftwich
English Teacher
16.5 years of service



Deborah Pearce
Learning Support Aide
16.5 years of service



Kimberly Reighard
Health & Physical Ed Teacher
35 years of service



Kimberly Shrift
English Teacher
34 years of service

Ferndale Area School District

Board of Education

President
Mrs. Susan Boyle - Dale
Vice-President
Mr. Richard Pavic - Ferndale
Secretary
Mr. Barry Himes - Ferndale
Treasurer
Mr. Jason Moschgat - Middle Taylor
Board Members
Mrs. Kimberly Kinsey - Dale
Dr. James McKendree - Middle Taylor
Mr. John Rutledge - Lorain
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
Mr. Jeffrey R. Boyer
Business Manager
Mr. David Gates
Director of Education
Dr. William Brotz
PreK-12 Principal
Mr. Travis Robison

Ferndale Area Junior-Senior High School
600 Harlan Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15905
814-288-5757

Assistant Principal
Mr. Bernard Conway

Ferndale Area Elementary School
100 Dartmouth Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15905
814-535-6724

Assistant Principal
Mrs. Amy Mykut

2024-2025 PreK-12 School Calendar



The calendar for the 2024-2025 school year was adopted by the Ferndale Area Board of School Directors on April 17, 2024. The first day of school for students is August 22, 2024; the last day is May 30, 2025. Teacher In-Service days and Act 80 days are scheduled for August 19, August 20, August 21, September 23, October 14, January 20, February 17, March 17, and June 2.

Make-up days will be added at the end of the school term in June.

August 19.....In-Service Day (No School)
August 20.....In-Service Day (No School)
August 21.....In-Service Day (No School)
August 22.....First Day for Students
August 30 - September 2 .....Labor Day (No School)
September 23 .....Act 80 Day (No School)
October 14 .....Act 80 Day (No School)
November 4 .. Parent/Teacher Conferences (No School)
November 11 .....Veterans' Day (No School)
November 28 - December 2. Thanksgiving (No School)
December 23 - January 3 .....Christmas (No School)
January 20.....Act 80 Day (No School)
February 17.....Act 80 Day (No School)
March 17.....In-Service Day (No School)
April 17 - April 21 .....Easter (No School)
May 26.....Memorial Day (No School)
May 30.....**Last Day of School**
June 2.....In-Service Day (No School)

Marking Period Ends	
October 25	(45)
January 17	(45)
March 21	(44)
May 28	(46)

Class of 2024
CONGRATS!

Chelsea Nichole Bloxsom
Ethan Andrew Borischak
Kenneth Eugene Bryner
Derrick Matthew Buchkoski
Hailee Lisa Chuklochak
Trevor Lee Emerick
Xavier Hagan Maxentius Ferut
Brandon Lee Fisher
Kyrrah Merecedes Graham
Landon Nash Gray
Lucas Lloyd Hammers
Connor Russell Hemlock
Travon Aaron Hernandez
Alyssa Nichol Hicks
Emily Rose Holsopple
Aedan Martin Hrivnak
Jonathan Charles Huffman
Alex Lundon James
Ian Carlus Jeffreys
Nicholas Martin Jeffreys
Anthony Terralle Leak
Brandin Jaymes Locher
Mattie Grace Lushko
Evan James Mardis
Zachary Christian Mihalcik
Jacob Emerson Morack
Emma Jolene Mort
Kyla Jade Sidor
Gage Dee Smith
Prince Mysavior Taylor
Janiyah Nazhay Terrell
Ethan Matthew Usrey
Kirah Marie Weikel



A Fun Time Learning in First Grade



Balloons on Broadway

Both 1st grade classes read the book *Balloons Over Broadway*. They participated in various ELA and STEM challenges. They wrote about balloons in the story and ways they can design their own. Then, students designed, constructed, and rebuilt their balloon. They were able to have their own Thanksgiving Day Parade.







All About STEM

Both classes participated in STEM experiences during Holiday Parties. Both classes learned about the Engineering Design Process and The Scientific Method. For Valentine's Day, Miss Duman's class built towers and dissolved candy hearts. For St. Patrick's Day, Miss Ozog's class built rainbows to structurally hold pennies and dissolve skittles.









Building Gingerbread Houses

Both First and Second Grade students worked together to construct and design gingerbread houses. They used a variety of materials to test the stability and rebuild when needed. Once they finished, they wrote reflections on their designs.





Peeps and Life Skills

During the Easter season, students were learning about responsibility and money. The Easter Bunny came and dropped off Peeps to each student. The students had to babysit the peeps and use money to care for their Peep. They participated in this experience for 2 weeks. They learned how to count and save money. They also learned the basic life skills.







What's Happening in the Art Room



This year was OUT OF THIS WORLD!

This year's art show theme was galaxy inspired in honor of our annual STEAM day "May the 4th be With You." Showcased on the stage during this event was one piece of art from every student K4-6th Grade that they completed for our space theme.

Art class has been buzzing with lots of fun things this year!

In case you missed the Art Show, here is what the students learned:

K4- K Students learned about lines, shapes and reviewed the rainbow colors by making simple shape rockets that will shoot into outer space.

1st & 2nd Graders Students are being abducted by aliens! They learned about geometric and organic shapes and made spaceships with aliens inside. Students used a spray technique to create space and stars. Analogous colors were used to make the beam of light into the spaceship.

3rd and 4th Graders Students created their own astronaut suit and will land on the moon! They used clay to make their moon and add texture to create craters.

5th Graders Students used recycled materials to create a rocket ship to shoot into outer space.

6th Graders Students created a spaceship for their aliens that they made out of model magic. These students created their own colors and made their own alien creatures for their spaceships.

5th and 6th Graders were introduced this year to an art app called "Artsonia." It has been so helpful in capturing their work. I will be using it again next year and will open it up to the parents to be able to see their students' work as well as buy merchandise with their artwork on it. Be on the lookout next school year for more information!



Many thanks for another wonderful school year,

Mrs. Sendek
Elementary Art Teacher

Grade 2 Filled With Enjoyment and Learning

Grade 2 was a year filled with both enjoyment and learning! Our annual parent involvement night was transformed into an exciting Book Tasting event, where families had the chance to explore a variety of book genres together. We also celebrated positive classroom behavior with several Pom Parties hosted by Mrs. Steiner.

In December, we indulged in the creative process of designing and constructing Gingerbread houses. Throughout most of the school year, we were fortunate to have the guidance of UPJ students, Mr. Cooper and Mr. Vargo, who worked alongside Mr. Beckner and Mrs. Hrabosky during their Field Practicum and Student Teaching experiences. We extend our best wishes to them for their future endeavors.

In April, we had the pleasure of attending "*Dot, Dot, Dot the Musical,*" presented by TheaterWorks USA and sponsored by the Mountain Playhouse. This musical, inspired by Peter Reynolds' book "The Dot," delivers a powerful message about making your mark on the world.

The month of May was dedicated to exploration. We ventured to the Mound playground and engaged with Adagio's PowerUp instructors to learn about the importance of staying active. Additionally, we raised Painted Lady butterflies from larvae and released them into the wild once they reached maturity. Our field trip to Camp Sequanota provided us with opportunities to hike, observe nature, and immerse ourselves in outdoor exploration.

As the school year draws to a close, Mr. Beckner and Mrs. Hrabosky will fondly remember this exceptional group of students, who have left an indelible mark on our hearts and memories. We encourage you to continue striving for success and always giving your best effort!

Title I Reading Specialist Parent Engagement

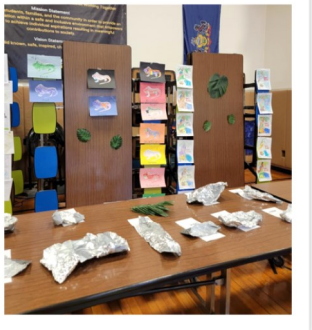
This year, the Title 1 reading team planned the 1st annual Book Bingo event, and it was a huge success! PreK 3-6th grade students were invited to bring their families, enjoy a snack, and play BINGO all while learning tips and tricks for reading. Students won books as prizes, and no one left without at least 1 book! We look forward to having this event again next school year.

The Title team also planned the One School, One Book event for PreK 3-6th grade. 2nd-6th grade students all received a book to read and take home with them when they were finished. ALL students participated in daily trivia related to the chapter(s) that the school was reading for that day, and they had the chance to win prizes each day. The grand prizes were plush animals that were chosen from ALL entries from the daily trivia submissions. As the culminating event, students in all grades were given the task to create a map of Nim's Island and/or mOn May 13th, students displayed their boats and maps in the cafeteria for their families to see, taste banana chips and coconut flakes, and take a family picture with a warm tropical backdrop.









2023-2024 MTSS

This year we started off with some new faces to our MTSS team. Jennifer Gorzelsky started as our new reading specialist, amongst new staff members to our core team and new interventionists. Our year started off with interventions based on our 2022-2023 end of year data. No time was wasted to get interventions started for all students in grades K -6 for Reading and Math. In early October our team was able to complete Beginning of Year universal screening for approximately 300 students.

After a deep data dive and teacher meetings our MTSS team started implementing skill based interventions for all tiers in Reading. This was the first year that we had teachers support us in completing Beginning of Year universal screening in Math. Approximately 300 students were screened in Math. After teacher meetings our MTSS team started implementing skill based interventions through Spring Math for all tiers in Math. After testing we had approximately 37% of students needing tier II support for Reading.

In January our MTSS team was able to complete Middle of Year universal screening for Reading and Math. Even though the weather did not cooperate, our team with the help of the teachers and staff completed testing in two weeks for approximately 300 students. Data dives occurred for both Reading and Math once testing and diagnostics were completed and teacher meetings were held to determine who was in need of tier services. We had approximately 40% of students needing tier II support for Reading. January through April our interventions persist with biweekly progress monitoring for Reading and weekly progress monitoring for Math. After six weeks of Reading intervention the data had shown that some students had met the qualifications to exit tier two services. By March we had approximately 34% of students needing tier II support for Reading. Spring Math consistently uses diagnostic testing to monitor student progress and skills in Math. Many students progressed through various Math skills, some even exited the program with their data scores.

Besides working daily with students, our team is constantly working on various professional development. This was our second year of implementing Swarming Strategies for Success, a teacher-led professional development, where teachers are able to learn various concepts and apply them into their classroom. With attendance and participation, teachers are able to earn an incentive. This year we had 14 teachers participate in SSS! Our team was selected for a second time to present at the Improving Schools Performance Conference. We showcased our teacher-led professional development and shared the logistics of how we are able to schedule and incentivize teachers to attend. Our team was then asked to present our presentation at one of our Coach Network meetings through the IU8 to fellow coaches. Our team is always learning and teaching others. We have attended various workshops through the IU8 to get the latest information on teaching and intervention. We were selected to participate in the IU8's Professional Learning Committee series. We have worked with local school districts to provide insight into scheduling, intervention programs, and MTSS logistics. We have also run several PLC meetings for our fellow colleagues on information learned through trainings.

As we close out the 2023-2024 school year, we have our End of Year universal screening to complete for both Reading and Math. This data will be used to start our intervention groups for the 2024-2025 school year. Our team is forever growing and learning all of the tools to support our students. We are eager with the future trainings and schedule updates to see what the next year has in store for our team and our students.

3rd Grade Science Technology

This past spring the 3rd graders studied weather and climate. This included using iPads to research trends across the United States. Students selected cities throughout the country to research current temperatures and weather trends. Students recorded data and used the information to predict future weather. The weather unit included various weather terminology and vocabulary. The students enjoyed being meteorologists.

Adventures in ESL

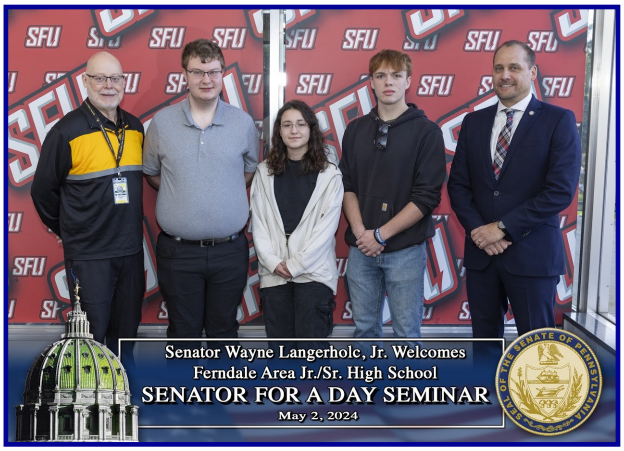
The 2023-2024 school year saw a more diverse student population here in the Ferndale Area School District than ever before! We now have students and families that represent 8 different countries and 6 different languages. Our international students are hard at work learning English and our culture here in western Pennsylvania. They take English as a Second Language (ESL) classes with Mrs. Sweeney, Mrs. Bennett, and Mrs. Leftwich, as well as other grade-level courses with their peers. While these students are getting to know our community, school staff, and classmates, they have much to teach us as well!

District Adopts 2024-2025 Budget

The Ferndale Area School Board adopted the 2024-2025 fiscal year budget on May 22, 2024. Real estate millage was set at 97 mills, which was an increase of .5 mills. After review, the Pennsylvania Department of Education approved the tax rate. The increase was less than the 2024-2025 index of 8.4% which was required by Act 1 participating districts.

Senator for a Day

Three Jr/Sr High School students attended Senator Langerholc's "Senator for a Day" program, at Saint Francis University on May 2, 2024. Students participated in Committee meetings, where they discussed the pros and cons of potential legislation. During this process, the students saw how legislation is influenced, as Harrisburg lobbyists were on hand to explain their work and how it relates to potential legislation. Once work was completed at the Committee level, students then reported to the General Assembly (JFK Center Auditorium) to debate/vote on the proposed pieces of legislation. Students in attendance were Emily Holsopple, Evan Mardis and Ethan Bagley.



2024 Board Meeting Schedule

Board Meeting "Workshop" Dates Wednesdays	Board Meeting "Voting" Dates Wednesdays
6 PM Start Time	**6 PM Start Time**
January 3	January 10
February 21	February 28
March 13	March 20
April 10	April 17
May 15	May 22
June 12	June 19
No Meeting	No Meeting
August 21	August 28
September 18	September 25
October 16	October 23
November 13	November 20
December 4 – Combined Workshop/Voting Meeting – 6 PM	

Sherlock Homes: Assasins at Sea

The Ferndale Area Drama Club presented a head scratching detective story. Ms. Susan Leftwich was Director and Miss Paige Leftwich was the Assistant Director.

The game was on and The "*Elyssia*" was sailing the ocean, headed for New York. Unfortunately, it wasn't a simple voyage for Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson. The pair, in disguise, was on the run from a team of assassins, also in disguise! Meanwhile, their friend, Oscar Dove, was helping an industrialist to escape agents who were after his secret formula and Lady Constance was helping several young women flee from oppression. Holmes needed to look through the disguises and stories to discover who he could trust, without getting discovered himself! And what did a backache have to do with solving the crime? Play dates were Friday and Saturday, March 8 and 9, and Sunday, March 10, 2024.



Sherlock Holmes: Assassins at Sea – Cast and Crew 2024

eSports Has Another Successful Season

Ferndale's eSports team, coached by Justin Ogline and Rebecca Dernar, successfully reached the playoffs this season with both Overwatch Teams earning the opportunity to compete with the best teams in the region for the league championship. Overwatch D1 finished in 8th place out of 13 teams this regular season and D2 finished in 8th place out of 14 teams this season. Another season of growth for the young and upcoming program, the future looks bright for the team's continued longevity and success. Members of the Overwatch D1 Team included: Travon Hernandez, Erik McFeaters, Gabe Maris, Lukas Davis, Maddex Chuklochak. Members of Overwatch D2 included Brody Watson, Pepper Boyd, Mason Beach, Jacob Berchick, David Hicks. Alternates included Kaden Greathouse, Daemon Stiffler, Casey (Emma) Halliday, and Rue Watson. Congratulations on another successful season!

The Forensics Team had a fantastic season. Evan Mardis had a great year and showed tremendous growth!! Loryn Geisel and Ethan Usrey both qualified for States in Bloomsburg. Loryn took 6th place in Poetry! Ethan received the "Speaker of the Year" award from Mrs. Pepley at the 2023-24 Awards Ceremony for his dedication to his craft and the organization.

The Junior Senior High School staff organization "Kids Come First" provided holiday meals and gift cards to a large number of district families this year. This organization also provided much needed personal supplies to students in the Necessity Closet Locker. This locker is available to all Junior Senior students to access.

The Annual Senior Walk was a tremendous success! This year the Senior Class was joined by the graduating K4 students. The students walked together hand and hand to the Senior Song "I Lived" by OneRepublic. Dr. Fosbrink and her class created an incredible video of the event for families and students.

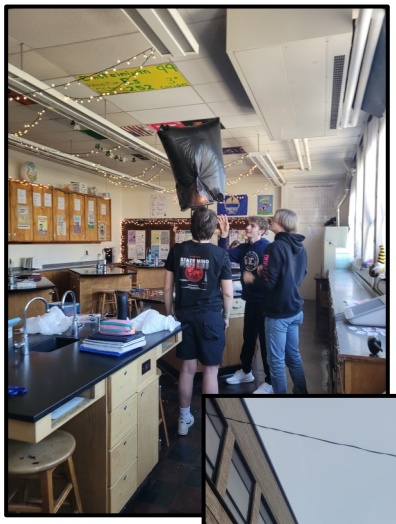
Spanish Trip

Since the fall of 2022, six of our Spanish students and their families have been fundraising and planning for their trip to the Dominican Republic, which will take place June 14-21. Mrs. Gaviola and Dr. McKendree will be chaperoning Maddex Chuklockak, Emma Hendershot, Lydia Hyland, Caitlyn McKendree, Gabe Maris, Brody Watson and Mrs. Gaviola's daughter. Some items on their itinerary include seeing Islamic-style architecture, making pottery, learning Jiu Jitzu, snorkeling in mangroves, hiking, white-water rafting and ziplining - all of these activities plus complete immersion in the culture. Stay tuned for some photos that will be shared when they've returned.

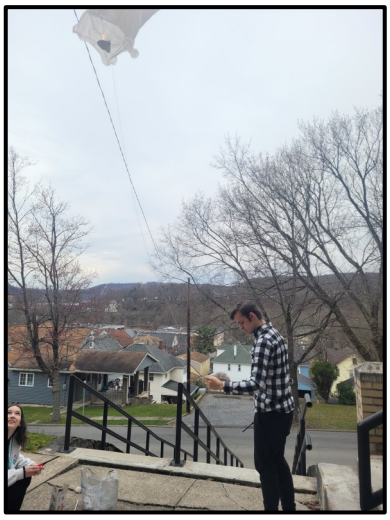
Chemistry Class II

Ms. Pilcher's Chemistry II class was tasked with creating functional hot air balloons using what they learned about gas laws and the various materials available to them. Through trial and error, all students were able to create a hot air balloon that floated. Once they had a functional hot air balloon, they were given a week to improve their design. The students took their finished design outside to see how high they could get it to fly. Most were able to fly above the school before coming back down. The trick was to use a cotton ball soaked in ethanol, which would produce enough heat to make a large enough difference between the cooler outside air and the hot air inside the bag.











Prom 2024 - "Wish Upon a Star"

For Prom Week, SADD created a Prom Promise poster that encourages students and staff to "pinky swear" to make safe decisions not only during the Prom season but EVERYDAY. The students also "Chalked the Walk!" Students wrote encouraging messages on the sidewalks outside the school to remind everyone to Bee Safe! Bee Sober! Bee Awesome!!!!

The Junior and Senior Classes of Ferndale presented "Wish Upon a Star" for the 2024 Prom. The event was held on Friday, May 10th at the Masonic Temple in Johnstown and catered by Anthony's Restaurant. Over 80 students and guests attended the affair, dancing to music provided by DJ Jack Labarko. This year's colors were Royal Blue, Gold, and White.

(2 photos below of Prom Committee Members… before and after….)





Scholarships and Awards

SCHOLARSHIPS AND MONETARY AWARDS

The Challenge Program
- Academic Excellence ..... Mattie Lushko
- Academic Improvement ..... Kyrrah Graham
- Attendance ..... Alyssa Hicks
- Community Service ..... Aedan Hrivnak

STEM ..... Jonathan Huffman
Chatham University ..... Nicholas Jeffreys
Juniata College ..... Aedan Hrivnak
Penn Highlands ..... Alyssa Hicks
Ethan Usrey
Saint Francis University ..... Evan Mardis
University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown ..... Connor Hemlock
Jonathan Huffman
Mattie Lushko
Kirah Weikel

COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS & RECOGNITIONS

Alma Lodge #523 IOOF Scholarship ..... Landon Gray
American Red Cross Scholarship ..... Evan Mardis
Burger King Scholarship ..... Nicholas Jeffreys
Hannah Noel Chuha Memorial Scholarship ..... Emily Holsopple
Conemaugh Valley Detachment 287
- Marine Corps League Scholarship ..... Jonathan Huffman

FAEA Scholarship ..... Evan Mardis
Ferndale Lions Club ..... Aedan Hrivnak
Drs. William & Nancy Grove Scholarship ..... Ethan Usrey
Agnes McConaughy Musician's Scholarship ..... Mattie Lushko
Polish National Alliance Citizenship Scholarship ..... Evan Mardis

ATHLETIC AWARDS

WestPAC All-Conference Teams
Varsity Golf ..... Owen Rutledge
Varsity Soccer All Trojan Team ..... Hunter Lombardo
Varsity Volleyball ..... Deajah Chatman
Aubrielle Leverknight
Maisen Sechrengost
Cassidy Stancombe
Varsity Boys' Basketball ..... Caleb Fenton
Chance Washington
Varsity Girls' Basketball ..... Deajah Chatman
Affiniti Mason
Baseball ..... Aedan Hrivnak
Danny Fesko
Softball ..... Deajah Chatman
Lydia Hyland
Aubrielle Leverknight
District 6 Sportsmanship Awards ..... Aedan Hrivnak
Faith Murray
Outstanding Male Athlete ..... Aedan Hrivnak

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATION AWARDS

Drama ..... Evan Mardis
Ethan Usrey
National Honor Society ..... Evan Mardis, President
Ethan Usrey, Vice President
Mattie Lushko, Secretary
Aedan Hrivnak, Treasurer
Kirah Weikel, Historian
Connor Hemlock
Jonathan Huffman
Journalism Award ..... Mattie Lushko
Kirah Weikel
Outstanding Speaker ..... Ethan Usrey
PBIS Award ..... Ethan Usrey
Student Council Award ..... Evan Mardis

DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

Art ..... Emily Holsopple
Senior Band Award ..... Ethan Usrey
Senior Chorus Award ..... Kirah Weikel
District 6 Band ..... Paige Cenko
Keira Turner
Region III Band ..... Paige Cenko
District 6 Chorus ..... Caitlyn McKendree
District 6 Jazz Band ..... Brenna Beckman
Aiden Conway
Biological Sciences ..... Kenneth Bryner
Chemistry ..... Connor Hemlock
English ..... Nicholas Jeffreys
Mathematics ..... Jonathan Huffman
Social Studies ..... Evan Mardis
Technology and Engineering
- Archimedes Award ..... Jonathan Huffman

Citizenship ..... Aedan Hrivnak
Mattie Lushko
Evan Mardis
Ethan Usrey

Valedictorian ..... Aedan Hrivnak
Salutatorian ..... Mattie Lushko



Ferndale Area School District
100 Dartmouth Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15905

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

www.fasdk12.org

Ferndale Area School District

Five Boroughs ~ Two Schools ~ One District Working Together

Mission Statement

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

Vision Statement

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