



# Falcon Flyer

## September 2016



### FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year! Our staff has been working very hard over the summer to prepare for another excellent year. Custodial staff, along with summer help, have our buildings looking great! Our teaching staff have put in many hours over the summer to be ready to provide your child with a great educational experience. For true success in the upcoming year we also need your support. Being involved in your child's education is critical in the overall success of his/her educational experience. As a team, Hillsdale will continue to prepare young people of this community to be successful adults. I thank you for your continued support of the Hillsdale Local School District. Entering my fourth year as the Superintendent I consider myself truly blessed to work in a district that values education and family so highly. If at any time you have questions or concerns please contact me or stop in the high school for a visit. I am always open for great discussions on improving all aspects of our district. Have a great school year and GO FALCONS!

Students in Mrs. Swisher's (formerly Miss Rosser ☺) music classes have been working on interpreting music into visual art. Hard at work below are fourth graders (top) and kindergarteners (bottom).



## FFA Update

Submitted by Maryellen Bliss, FFA Chapter Recorder

Just because school's out doesn't mean the Hillsdale FFA stops! The chapter's members have participated in various activities since school was let out in May. The Hillsdale FFA 2016-17 officer team had an officer retreat in early June. The officers gained teamwork and were able to plan out this year's activities and monthly meetings. In the month of June, Hillsdale also sent five delegates to the Washington Leadership Conference. Those members were Maryellen Bliss, Blayne Barter, Alex Becker, Libby Hohler, and Braxton Slage.



The chapter had its first meeting of the new school year with their summer picnic. At this meeting, Alex Becker was announced as the August "Member of the Month." Later in August the chapter was able to donate school supplies to all of the first graders in the Hillsdale Elementary School. Part of the funds going to this service project came from a grant that the chapter received from the IMPACT Youth Council, which is a part of the Ashland County Community Foundation.



The month of September keeps our FFA members busy, too. The September "Member of the Month" is sophomore Alyssa Crytzer. Hillsdale's Agronomy team and Food Science team competed at the Big E in West Springfield, Massachusetts. Agronomy placed first and Food Science placed third. After all of the hard months of preparation, the FFA chapter wishes the best to all members showing animals and having still projects at the Ashland County Fair!

## eLABorate Science

(Pictured Below: Mrs. Burnison's eLABorate science class)

eLABorate Science is a new science elective designed to transform students into scientists. It is a student-centered class where their interests in the physical sciences determine the direction of investigation. Students ask questions, research, build, problem-solve, collect data, and communicate while keeping a digital science notebook on Google Classroom. At this point, we have tested the strength of an uncooked spaghetti bridge and investigated the effects of different variables on the motion of a mousetrap car. It is shaping up to be an exciting year in eLABorate Science with Mrs. Burnison!



### PTO Information

The PTO meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Monday of each month in the elementary school cafeteria. If you would like to sign up for the PTO's "Remind" updates, please text @fc7572 to the number 81010.

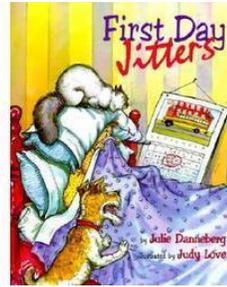


Pictured above: Mrs. Ayers' 3<sup>rd</sup> graders using "MobyMax"

Technology makes learning fun! The third graders enjoy learning with **MobyMax**. It is an online computer program that finds and fixes learning gaps with personalized learning in all K-8 subjects. It also offers enrichment to students working above their grade level. This program is available this year for our third and fourth grade students.



The sixth grade science students watch as Mr. Cline heats up the mineral salol (phenyl salicylate) over a candle flame. The purpose behind the experiment was to determine how the rate of cooling affects the size of crystals created by minerals.

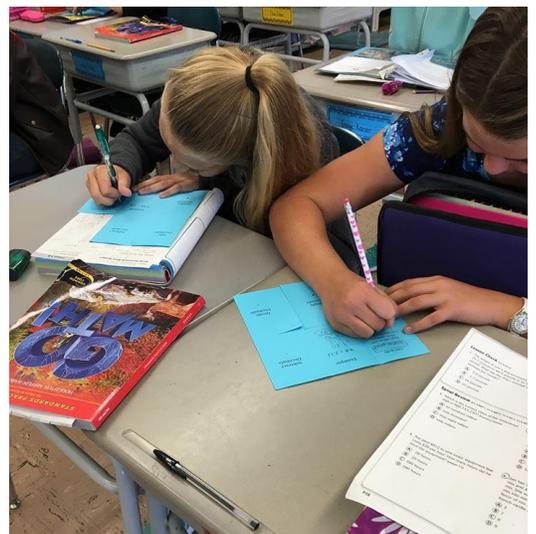


## First Day of School!

On the first day of second grade, Mrs. Weiler's second grade class read the book, *First Day Jitters* by Julie Danneberg. The book describes a girl who does not want to go to school because she is too nervous for her first day. We learn at the end that the "girl" was actually the teacher! After reading the story, Mrs. Weiler's class drank "Jitter Juice" to get rid of their jitters and start a great second grade year!



In 6<sup>th</sup> grade math, students are learning operations with decimals. Students completed a foldable for adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing numbers with decimals—an interactive way of note-taking!



## Pre-School News!

HES pre-school students are off to a fantastic start!

Below, you can see the children practicing to become future chefs in the dramatic play area, and future scientists experimenting with movement using tubes and marbles! The students also took a walk outside and chose their "class tree." They will observe this tree throughout the school year to see how it changes with the seasons.



## Washington, D.C. Trip

June 10-13, 2016

This summer 40 students from Hillsdale Middle School went to Washington, D.C. for our bi-annual trip. We had a great time visiting sites all over the city. Below you can see our agenda of places we visited and please notice our group pictures. Our next trip is in the planning stages - please consider joining us!

### Day 1

- 8:00 am Depart from Hillsdale HS
- 1:00 pm Lunch in Breezewood, PA
- 4:45 pm Arlington National Cemetery
- 6:45 pm Iwo Jima Memorial
- 7:00 pm Dinner: Pentagon City
- 8:00 pm Pentagon 911 Memorial
- 8:45 pm Depart for Hotel: Holiday Inn, Dulles, VA

### Day 2

- 8:00 am Depart hotel
- 9:00 am White House Vietnam Visitor's Center/ Lafayette Park
- 11:00 am Ford's Theatre/ Peterson House
- 12:45 pm Lunch: Union Station
- 1:50 pm National Archives /Natural History Museum
- 4:00 pm Museum of American History
- 5:00 pm FDR Memorial/ MLK Memorial
- 7:00 pm Pizza/pool party at hotel

### Day 3

- 7:30 am Depart hotel
- 9:00 am Mount Vernon: George Washington's home.
- 1:00 pm Lunch: Reagan Building
- 2:00 pm Engraving and Printing: (pending appt.)
- 3:30 pm Holocaust Museum
- Vietnam Memorial/Einstein Statue
- 6:00 pm WWII Memorial
- 7:00 pm Dinner: Pentagon City
- 8:00 pm Lincoln Memorial/ Korean War Memorial/Jefferson Memorial

### Day 4

- 8:00 am Depart Hotel
- 9:00 am Supreme Court
- 10:30 am Capitol Building Tour
- 12:15 pm Library of Congress
- 1:00 pm Lunch: Union Station
- 3:00 pm Kennedy Center
- Midnight Return to HHS



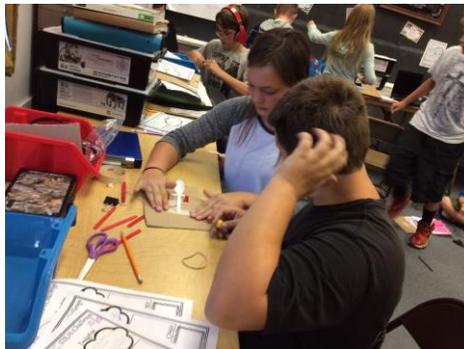
## S.T.E.A.M.

This year the middle school has launched a new venture during “specials” time in the STEAM lab. STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics. During this time students work on a variety of tasks that match many of the Common Core Standards in this area, but more importantly, help students to develop critical thinking skills as they work through the various stages of the engineering design process.

The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades are beginning the year with a review of basic computer and application skills using the Easy Tech program from Learning.com. Then they will begin work on various science, math, and ELA sites, building important skills in these areas. Finally, the year will conclude with them in a short unit on programming and robotics – the 5<sup>th</sup> grade will use Ozobots, and the 6<sup>th</sup> grade will create music with the Makey Makey.

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades are working on some more complex items. 7<sup>th</sup> grade begins their 9 week unit on some web 2.0 tools, completes several engineering design challenges, then works with Scratch, a programming language from MIT, and finishes the year with the Finchbot. 8<sup>th</sup> grade works for 9 weeks on some basic programming, and then dives right into the Carnegie Mellon module “Introduction to Programming” using the LEGO kits purchased with a grant from the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation.

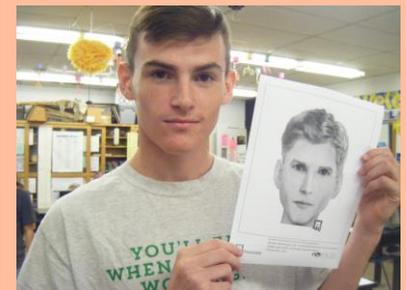
The STEAM lab has been made possible through the generous donation of many supporters of “donors choose” projects Mrs. Stump has created, the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation, as well as some funding provided through the Hillsdale Local School District. We hope students will acquire some valuable teamwork skills this year through the lab, as well as learn how to employ the engineering design process to solving complex problems.



## Forensic Science

Forensic Science students have been studying the importance of observation skills, eyewitness identification reform, and tools that help police, such as facial composites done by sketch artists and computer programs. After learning about these topics, students were able to try to create composites of their classmates. They will also be having an Ashland County Police Officer come speak to the class soon after the fair. Students are also looking forward to using technology to test DNA and blood samples. For more information on Miss Abrams' Biology and Forensic Science class projects visit

<https://www.donorschoose.org/MissAbrams> and [tinyurl.com/BioHHS](http://tinyurl.com/BioHHS)



## Welcome to Hillsdale Middle School!

photos and interviews by Landon Allis and Gabe Murawski



**Mr. Trevor Cline** teaches 6th Grade Social Studies and Science. He wanted to become a teacher because he has always enjoyed working with kids and he wanted to make a positive impact on kids' lives. He went to The Ohio State University. Mr. Cline wanted to work at Hillsdale because this is the school he went to and this is the community that he grew up in so he wanted to give back to his community. His hobbies are hanging out with friends, watching and playing sports, and coaching.



**Miss Brittany Hardman** is an Intervention Specialist with the 6th and 8th graders. She wanted to become a teacher because she wants to help kids who struggle, like she did, so they can do better in school. She received her teaching degree from The University of Akron. Miss Hardman wanted to come to Hillsdale because she has heard good things about Hillsdale and it is close to her family. Her hobbies are reading, she loves watching the Cleveland Browns (yay!), and going on runs.



**Mr. Robert Altenburger** teaches art at the middle school and high school. He wanted to become a teacher because he wanted to teach kids art and help improve their lives. He attended Judson University in Illinois and received his teaching certification from Ashland University. Mr. Altenburger wanted to come to Hillsdale because it was a great opportunity to share with kids he knows, and to be a good influence in their lives. His hobbies are making art (obviously), and running long distances.



## Welcome Back to HES!

Elementary students had a fun surprise waiting for them on their first day back at school! A special thanks goes out to Vella King for bringing endless smiles to nervous and excited students! 😊



Hillsdale High School – Consumer Notice of Tap Water Results can be found posted at Hillsdale High School.

For more information, contact Rusty Yarman 330-317-9787 or visit [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead) or call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or your health care provider.

**The Hillsdale Local Schools would like to thank Bookmasters for making this newsletter possible! Without their help, we would not have been able to print and distribute this amazing Falcon Flyer!**

## Welcome to Hillsdale Elementary School!



Mrs. Ashley Zickefoose is an Intervention Specialist at Hillsdale Elementary. She has always loved to learn and go to school. She became a teacher because she realized not everyone felt the same way, so she wanted to help others to have fun and have a love of learning, too!