



Spring 2025

# FOCUS ON FAIRLESS

VOL. 32 • ISS. 3

*Special  
Edition!*

## Fairless Featured in April 2025 Issue of Business View Magazine

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FAIRLESS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

# EMPOWERING YOUNG MINDS

**See Pages  
8-17**

**A FORWARD THINKING DISTRICT  
DEDICATED TO STUDENT SUCCESS**

**AT A GLANCE**  
**FAIRLESS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**WHAT:** A district focused on student empowerment and preparation for life

**WHERE:** Stark County, Ohio

**WEBSITE:** [www.fairlesslocalschools.org](http://www.fairlesslocalschools.org)

**S**ituated in the vibrant community of Stark County, Ohio, Fairless Local Schools is dedicated to educating and empowering students while preparing them for excellence at every stage of life. Under the leadership of Superintendent Mike Hearn, the district takes a mission-driven approach focused on continuous improvement and innovation.

## KIDS EAT FREE!

- No Registration
- Age 18 or Younger

[education.ohio.gov/KidsEat](http://education.ohio.gov/KidsEat)  
866-348-6479

Department of Education  
**SUN MEALS**

## Summer Food

The Summer Food Service Program meals have a new name, now called **SUN Meals!** All children ages 1 through 18 are eligible to receive free meals during the summer months at participating program sites. Individuals ages 19 through 21 who have been identified as having mental or physical disabilities and are following Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) through their current enrollment in educational programs also are eligible for free summer meals. For more information call **1-866-348-6479**.

*Fairless does not serve Summer meals.*

## Superintendent's Message

### Happy Spring Falcons!

It is that time of year when new growth is a reminder of the renewal of life all around us. Our campus has been fluttering with activity both inside and outside as student athletes, Falcon Playhouse performers, student musicians and more have been hard at work. Watching all of the activity this Spring is exciting, and brings with it hope for the future as evidenced by all our students are able to achieve through their hard work. Fairless truly is the community where families want to learn, live, work and grow!

With the new Fairless Local School District Campus finally complete and settled into, we have had more interest in facility use and rentals than ever before. Our community led youth sports programs are always hopeful to be able to get more time in gymnasiums, cafeterias, and fields. We have also had outside groups like the Bluecoats, Canton Ballet, Canton Symphony, and local churches request to rent our facilities to host events that benefit our community. To help manage requests

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# District News

**Mike Hearn**  
Superintendent



## STAY CONNECTED

### Fairless Local School District

#### Board of Education

Mrs. Hope Hill, President .....330-874-0425  
Mr. Justin Henry, Vice President.....330-807-7056  
Mr. Ken Killian, Member.....330-705-1044  
Dr. Jody Seward, Member .....330-874-6118  
Mr. Charlie Snyder, Member.....330-879-0004

#### District Office

800 7th Street SE • Brewster, Ohio 44613

**330-767-3577**

Mr. Mike Hearn .....Superintendent  
Mr. Mark Phillips .....Treasurer  
Mrs. Connie Horton .....Administrative Assistant  
Mrs. Jamie Askren .....Special Ed Director  
Mrs. Julie Weyandt .....Curriculum Director  
Mrs. Julie Miller (330-767-7071) .....Food Service Director  
Mrs. Val Elder (330-767-4259) ... Transp. & Facility Director  
Mr. Zach Michel (330-767-7069) ...Athletic Director

#### High School

800 7th Street SE • Brewster, Ohio 44613

**330-767-3444**

Dr. Chad Merritt .....Principal  
Dr. Tammy Bixler-Zalesinsky...Assistant Principal  
Mrs. Kim King .....Secretary

#### Middle School

11836 Navarre Road, S.W. • Navarre, Ohio 44662

**330-767-4293**

Mr. Dan Nero .....Principal  
Mrs. Brenda Jennings .....Secretary

#### Elementary School

12000 Navarre Road, S.W. • Navarre, Ohio 44662

**330-767-3913**

Mrs. Lori Neuenschwander .....Principal  
Mrs. Natalie Gilkerson .....Assistant Principal  
Mrs. Madison Strong .....Secretary

Fairless Local Schools, a nonprofit organization. News releases, story ideas, comments and suggestions should be addressed to *Focus On Fairless*, Fairless Local Schools, 800 7th Street SE, Brewster, OH 44613.

Fairless Local School District does not discriminate in employment or services on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, national origin, age or disability.

### Superintendent's Message (cont. from page 1)

and get the most use and efficiency out of our facilities, the district has adopted a new scheduling platform to book spaces. If you or a group is interested in learning more, please go to <https://www.fairlesslocalschools.org/district/facility-rental> or email our Athletic Director Zach Michel at [athleticdirector@fairless.sparcc.org](mailto:athleticdirector@fairless.sparcc.org).

If there is one thing we can all learn from the Spring season, it is that change is all around us and can happen at any time. I recall being at a track meet last year in which we had sun, rain, sleet, and then snow. . . all in a two-hour period! This type of unpredictability mirrors the challenges faced by public education today. The Ohio Legislature is currently doing the hard work of building the next State Biennial Budget, which will provide dollars and set policy for all the things our state funds, in particular public education. There is a lot of uncertainty regarding how the Fairless Local School District will be funded by the new budget. Early drafts showed substantial cuts, later drafts showed no cuts in state revenue; however, there would be cuts in local revenue. All of this unpredictability creates angst and anxiety.

I want to assure you that our leadership team and Board of Education is prepared to weather this. That track meet a few years back is a good analogy - you prepare for just about any weather! I recall planning for this meet by having everything from sunglasses to layers of clothes, sunscreen, a hat, and gloves. In the end, it is far too early to tell what will happen with this Biennial Budget, but we are taking action to ensure that the Fairless Local School District is in the best position to meet the commitment of providing the highest quality education possible for our students. We are committed to meeting the goals in our Strategic Plan and to our MISSION - Educate and Empower Fairless to SOAR to Excellence Every Day!

Soon, we will be graduating the Class of 2025. They are prepared and ready to SOAR wherever life takes them. I look forward to celebrating with the graduating class and their families all that has been accomplished by this group, but more importantly dreaming of all the possibilities of the future each one will make.

Mike

## MISSION

Educate and empower Fairless to SOAR to EXCELLENCE!

## VISION

Fairless is the community where families want to learn, live, work, and grow.

## VISION AREAS



### Learning

Ensure engaging, relevant, and rigorous educational opportunities where all become expert learners.



### Experience

Provide a positive experience where all feel valued.



### Culture and Climate

Ensure a culture that is safe, supportive, and successful for all.



### Communication

Provide clear and consistent two-way communication in which all remain informed and have a voice.



### Resources

Ensure responsible and transparent use of the community's resources to provide an exceptional education for all.



# Financial Update



## RESOURCES

Ensure responsible and transparent use of the community's resources to provide an exceptional education for all.

SMART  
GOAL

By May 2026, the Fairless Local School will maintain a balanced budget as measured by the five-year forecast.

Just like at home, maintaining a balanced budget for the school district is often a tough job. There are currently several pieces of legislation being debated at the state level that, if passed, would have a significant impact on funding of Fairless Local Schools. Examples of this legislation include:

HB 96 as proposed - The Biennial Budget - flatlines the state funds received by Fairless Local Schools, but also includes a mechanism that would reduce local funding.

SB 2 as proposed - Would substantially reduce the tax rate on utilities, like electric infrastructure and natural gas pipelines resulting in a loss of revenue for schools.

There are also around 30 bills being considered that are designed to provide property tax relief. The recent spike in property values has resulted in the taxpayers seeing unprecedented increases in their bills. This is an extraordinarily complex issue in Ohio, but ultimately all the currently proposed legislation will result in less revenue for Fairless Local Schools.

**Will Fairless Local Schools receive more revenue as a result of increased property values?** YES. But, it is important to note that the district's state share of revenue has been frozen for almost a decade. The only way the district maintains a balanced budget is through increases in local revenue.

**What is the district doing to prepare in uncertain times?** At its March Regular Meeting, the Board of Education approved a plan to reduce expenditures which will cumulatively save \$3 million dollars over next five years. While every effort has been made to keep cuts from impacting students, every person employed in our district impacts students in one way or another. Reductions to date include:

1. Four teaching positions (Grade 1, HS English Language Arts, Spanish, Grade 7). Losing these positions will result in increased class sizes and the loss of Spanish as an elective at Fairless Middle School
2. Six paraprofessional aide/tutorial positions - these positions reflect reductions in classroom support districtwide and the tutorial program from Fairless High School
3. Reduced Educational Service Center Support - these part-time positions provided math coaching for staff, curriculum support, family support, and technology support.
4. Summer programming - the district will no longer provide summer programming or summer credit recovery.
5. Curriculum Supplementals - these reductions include the ACT test for sophomores, core curriculum supplementals, and programming like the Guys with Ties and Girls with Pearls program.

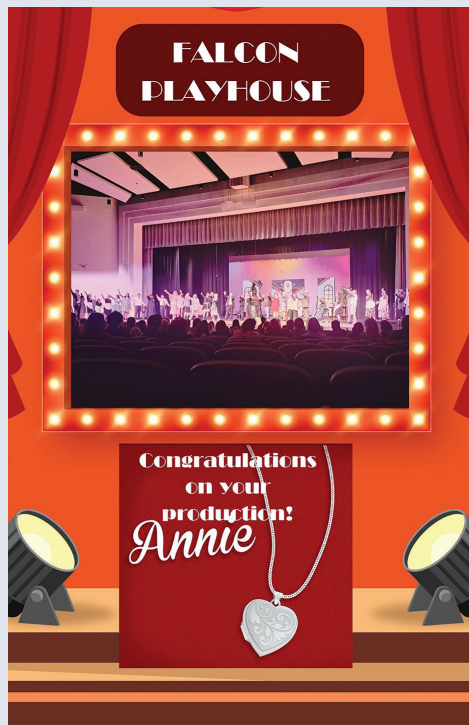
6. Shared Administrative Services - the district is actively studying the possibility of shared food service administration with Canton Local Schools and will pursue other opportunities as they arise.

**Will the district pursue renewing the substitute emergency levy?** YES. This levy, first passed in 1996, represents over 10% of the district's annual budget. This levy is necessary to provide our students a high-quality education while maintaining a balanced budget.

**How is the district planning for the future?** Just like you have a savings account for unexpected things at your home, the district maintains a cash balance. This cash balance is how we plan for maintenance, improvements, and unexpected repairs. Currently, the district has cash set aside to prepare for the following:

1. Roof replacements at Fairless Elementary School, Fairless Middle School, and bus maintenance facility.
2. Bus replacements - Fairless maintains a fleet of 17 buses and it is our goal to not have buses over 10 years old on the road for daily routes.
3. Asphalt maintenance, repair, and replacement.
4. Athletic Facilities - the district is saving for field turf replacement, visitors grandstand replacement, and maintenance of existing facilities.
5. In addition, the district also is working to save dollars for the maintenance, repair, or replacement of things like boilers, HVAC, windows, etc.

# High School News



Our Arts Department has several upcoming events and recently wrapped up a successful production of *Annie, the Musical*. The show featured a talented cast and crew made up of both middle and high school students. We are excited to share that both performances were nearly sold out!

## Aviation Update

This school year marked the launch of our aviation program, with nearly 50 students enrolled. Interest in the program continues to grow, and we anticipate nearly 75 students participating next year. Students have the opportunity to take up to four years of aviation courses. Upon completion, they will have earned 15 college credits — the equivalent of five aviation courses at Kent State University — providing a pathway toward a bachelor of science degree in Aeronautical Studies, Air Traffic and Airspace Management, Aviation Maintenance Management, Aviation Management, Professional Pilot, or Unmanned Aircraft Systems Operations.

At the end of this school year, Mr. Johnson, our dedicated aviation and aeronautical engineering teacher, will be retiring. We are excited to welcome Dr. BZ back to the classroom. After serving as assistant principal, she will return to teach aviation and aeronautical engineering — bringing her vision full circle, as she played a key role in creating this program.

## Class of 2025

The Class of 2025 became the newest alumni of Fairless High School. Many of these students began their journey with Fairless Local Schools as kindergartners. This year, they were paired with current kindergarten students as reading buddies—a full-circle moment that highlights how far they've come.

As part of a special tradition, they also decorated ceiling tiles with Mrs. Best during their earlier years. Now, as seniors, they were given the opportunity to take those tiles home as keepsakes. During graduation week, they returned to the elementary school for a special tour, reflecting on the place where their academic journey began.

In middle school, their teacher, Mr. Vick, had them write letters to their future selves. This year, they were reunited with those letters—offering a unique moment to reflect on how their perspectives and dreams have evolved over time.

After graduation, these students head into bright futures, pursuing careers, higher education, and military service.

*Students who complete 4 years of Fairless Aviation courses earn college credit equal to 5 Aviation courses from Kent State University leading to a bachelor of science in one of their Aviation degrees.*







# Welcome

We are excited to announce that **Mrs. Penny DeShields** will join the Fairless Local Schools as the new Assistant Principal at Fairless High School. Mrs. DeShields brings a wealth of experience in both education and athletics, and we are thrilled to welcome her to our school community.

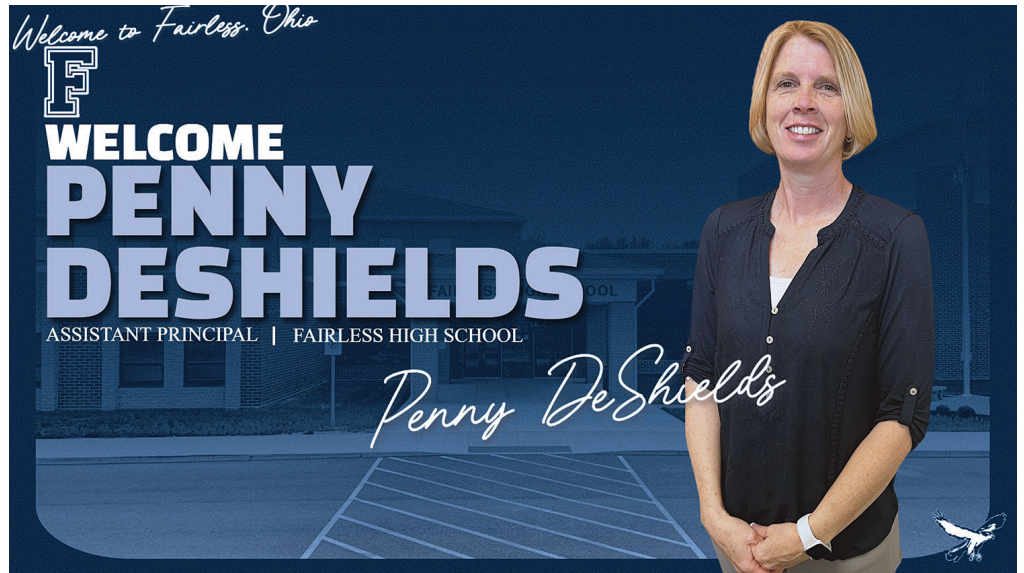
Mrs. DeShields comes to us from the West Branch Local School District where she has taught a variety of subjects and has also served as the Head Varsity Volleyball Coach for two decades.

In addition to her teaching and coaching background, Mrs. DeShields has served as the Assistant Principal at West Branch High School for the past four years. Her leadership experience and passion for education will be invaluable assets to our team as we continue to SOAR to Excellence in all areas.

We are confident that Mrs. DeShields will be a wonderful addition to the Fairless High School administrative team and will make a tremendous impact on our school community. Please join me in welcoming her to Fairless!

## Underclassmen Awards

Last year, we introduced a new tradition: an annual awards ceremony honoring students in grades 9–11. During the event, students are recognized for their achievements with academic letters, academic excellence awards, and attendance awards. Families were invited to join us in celebrating their students' accomplishments.



August 2025						
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### Fairless Local School District Calendar 2025-2026

<b>August</b>	Open House (Teacher 1/2 Day)
14	Teacher Day - No School
15	Teacher Day - No School
18	First Student Day
19	Grades 1-6, 9
20	Grades 1-12
<b>September</b>	
1	Labor Day
2	Early Release
<b>October</b>	
8	P/T Conference - Evening
9	P/T Conference ALL DAY & Evening - No School
10 & 13	No School
24	End of 9 weeks (44 days)
31	Inservise Day - No School
<b>November</b>	
26	Professional Development Trade Day - No School
27-28	Thanksgiving Break
<b>December</b>	
1	No School
22-31	Christmas Break
<b>January</b>	
1-2	Christmas Break
16	End of 9 weeks (46 days)
19	End of semester (90 days)
30	Martin Luther King Day
<b>February</b>	
10 & 12	Inservise Day - No School
16	PT Conferences
<b>March</b>	
27	Presidents Day
30-31	End of 9 weeks (46 days)
<b>April</b>	
1-3	Spring Break
<b>May</b>	
25	No School
28	Memorial Day
29	Last Student Day
29	End of semester (84 days)
29	Teacher Last Day
<b>Calamity Day Make-Up Schedule:</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> Day - June consecutive	

February 2026						
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June 2026						
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July 2026						
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

**First & Last Student Day**  
**No School**  
**Early Release**

Student Days - 175



# Athletic News

## VARSITY BASEBALL



## VARSITY SOFTBALL







# CLASS OF 2025 SPRING SENIORS



## GIRLS TRACK



## BOYS TRACK





FAIRLESS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

# EMPOWERING YOUNG MINDS

**A FORWARD THINKING DISTRICT  
DEDICATED TO STUDENT SUCCESS**

**AT A GLANCE**

**FAIRLESS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**WHAT:** A district focused on student empowerment and preparation for life

**WHERE:** Stark County, Ohio

**WEBSITE:** [www.fairlesslocalschools.org](http://www.fairlesslocalschools.org)



# NG DS



**S**ituated in the vibrant community of Stark County, Ohio, Fairless Local Schools is dedicated to educating and empowering students while preparing them for excellence at every stage of life. Under the leadership of Superintendent Mike Hearn, the district takes a mission-driven approach focused on continuous improvement and innovation.



“My word for 2025 is ‘disruptive.’ That could be taken in a negative way, but I view it through a positive lens,” Hearn explains.

“In order to achieve our mission statement, which is to ‘educate and empower kids to soar to excellence,’ we’re going to have to disrupt some things. Disrupt systems that maybe don’t function as well as they should. Disrupt procedures. Do what we can to try to improve on a daily basis.”

This philosophy is reinforced by the district’s vision to create a community where families want to learn, live, work, and grow. “Everything we do in every decision we make contributes to making this a community people want to be a part of,” he adds.

## EARLY LEARNING AND LITERACY INITIATIVES

Recognizing the importance of early education, Fairless is committed to preparing students before they even enter the school system. This is exemplified through the early adoption of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which provides free books to young children, promoting literacy from an early age.

Additionally, the SPARK program employs a dedicated educator to work directly with families, helping parents develop literacy skills with their young children through play and interactive learning. In collaboration with local pediatric partners, the district ensures that new parents are provided with information on both programs, so they are able to sign up as early as possible.

The district also puts a strong focus on the Science of Reading, starting in preschool. Julie Weyandt, Director of Curriculum and Special Programs expands, “We have been intentional in selecting curricula that align with the science of reading, ensuring our students develop essential early literacy skills, such as phonemic awareness. In addition to training teachers in the science of reading, we are providing them with high-quality, research-based curriculum materials.” These efforts help establish a strong literacy foundation by the time students enter elementary school, setting them up for long-term academic success.









## EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY

Fairless has made significant strides in integrating technology into classrooms. The district maintains a one-to-one device program for students in grades 3-12, while younger students have access to Chromebook carts when required for enhanced learning.

“We built a new high school and equipped every classroom with Promethean Boards,” explains Weyandt. “All of our teachers have access to consistent technology ensuring they can effectively deliver their curriculum.”

The district has added a Technology Integration Specialist to Fairless’ resources. “We have a teacher who not only teaches CCP math classes but also dedicates a portion of his day to supporting teachers with technology integration—whether it’s assisting with equipment or ensuring access to various curriculum components,” she explains.



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When it comes to security in a digital world, School Board Member Justin Henry emphasizes the district’s focus on staying ahead of the curve. “When it comes to AI, the future is uncertain, but it’s clear that the technology will play a significant role in many of our students’ careers. It’s critical that we introduce them to AI responsibly, equipping them with the tools and knowledge to use it ethically and effectively. As a board, our responsibility is to continue developing and implementing policies that support the responsible integration of AI in our schools.” Board member Charlie Snyder echoes





the sentiment, adding, “Educating students on the risks and the appropriate behaviors when utilizing technology is critically important.”

The district has taken a proactive stance on AI and cybersecurity, recognizing their growing impact on education. Rather than banning AI tools, Fairless students are encouraged to use them responsibly, demonstrating how they can enhance research, writing, and problem-solving skills. “For a rural school that’s out in the country, we’re very forward thinking on a lot of things, and I would argue that

we are doing a lot of cool stuff with AI because it is a tool that our kids will be using,” remarks Hearn.

### **CAREER PATHWAYS AND WORKFORCE READINESS**

Preparing students for the workforce is another key priority at Fairless. The district’s approach involves offering students exposure to various career fields through field trips, and guest speakers. Hearn highlights how these opportunities for high school students have grown over the past three years, going





from only a few field trips annually to more than thirty.

“They’re not just taking every kid, but small groups based on their interests and their skill sets that we get from an aptitude test called You Science,” he explains. “It helps us to identify how many kids we have that are interested in aviation and engineering and all these various types of career fields.”

These experiences range from college visits to manufacturing facilities and everything in between. “That all surrounds the programming they’re doing, where they are looking at student interests and aptitudes and connecting them not just with field trips but with speakers who come out and talk to our kids, as well as career days and career counseling. It’s a major focus of what we are doing,” Hearn says.





This approach is also used at the middle school level where seventh graders participate in the You Science Survey, followed by a one-on-one meeting with educators. “We recognize that not every student will pursue a college degree, but all students should have a clear goal for their future,” Weyandt emphasizes.

“Whether it’s a trade, college, or a career in manufacturing, our role is to help students identify

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their goals and provide them with experiences beyond the traditional school day to support their path forward.”

Students can also earn associate’s degrees in arts or science through the College Credit Plus (CCP) program, without leaving the high school campus. Those interested in vocational training can attend a Career Tech Academy, while others can pursue trade skills, military paths, or direct workforce entry through tailored high school programs.

## INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

Fairless has undergone extensive facility upgrades, supported in part by funds from the Rover natural gas pipeline. The district has successfully built new schools, with the most recent being the innovative high school that opened in 2023. Other major investments include a turf athletic field, renovated stadium structures, and ongoing maintenance of buses, roofs, and facilities to ensure long-term sustainability.



“We have a one, three and five year plan to make sure that what we’ve been blessed with from the taxpayers is in good, usable shape and something we can be proud of,” conveys Hearn. “And right now we’re sitting on a state of the art campus.”

As the district moves forward, Superintendent Hearn says the top priorities include completing the strategic plan, achieving a five-star rating from the state, enhancing communication and student engagement, and maintaining a balanced budget. “Fairless has not passed a new levy for new funding since 1996. We have managed to find a way to be fiscally well managed and to not ask our citizens for additional revenue for a very, very long time,” he boasts. “So, every single day, we talk about how we can be frugal with the taxpayer’s dollar, while offering our current students the best opportunities possible.”

Hearn acknowledges that even as a leader, he is on a continuous journey of growth, surrounded by a diverse team that challenges one another to constantly improve. “I absolutely believe in lifelong learning, and I think if you’re in education and you don’t, it’s the wrong business for you,” he imparts.

For Henry, education is about empowering students. “The reason that I’m here is for the kids in the community, to have a voice, to have a say, and to help lead and guide them,” he relays, “I want to make sure that when they walk out of the Fairless Local School District, they have the skills needed to succeed in life.”

Pointing to the Portrait of a Graduate, which outlines five characteristics for students to strive for, Weyandt adds, “Our ultimate goal is to create expert learners—students who have the skill set they need to go out into the world and be successful. They should be academically prepared, resilient, fearless learners, have professional collaboration skills, and be caring citizens.”

“Our ultimate goal in education is to equip students with the skills and qualities they need to succeed, empowering them to reach their full potential.”







## PREFERRED VENDOR/PARTNER

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### ■ PSI Solutions

[www.psi-solutions.org](http://www.psi-solutions.org)

PSI offers comprehensive educational and health services for schools, including psychological services, speech therapy, and specialized nursing. Partnered with University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital, PSI improves student outcomes in grades, health, and behavior through innovative, customized models.



# Middle School News



(l to r) front row: **Levi Karam, Landon Hershberger, Luke Bracey, Parker Hood, Brantley Davis, Camdyn Owen, Gracie Haines, Sophie Alexander**; back row: **William Yarnell, Gillian Vigil, Wyatt Rittenhouse, Braden McKenzie, Kendrick Nisely, Vincent Buchmann, Piper Cunningham, Aubrey Fleck, Lennon Hodges, Westley Ickes.**



(l to r) **Black Beauty Group: Sophie Alexander, Gracie Haines, Aubrey Fleck, Piper Cunningham, Camdyn Owen, Lennon Hodges.**

## Sixth Grade Reading

Students in Mrs. Fritz's ninth-period class chose to read one of two classic novels: *Call of the Wild* or *Black Beauty*. Students were assigned to select their favorite event or part of the book and depict it creatively in a format of their choice. Some created dioramas or other 3D models, while others designed Google Slideshows or similar presentations.

Each student then shared their project with the class, explaining why they chose that particular scene, what materials they used, and the purpose behind their choices. The goal was to spark their classmates' interest in the novel and encourage them to read it or recommend it to others. A rubric guided them through the project requirements.

As always, this class brought enthusiasm and a healthy sense of competition, eagerly applying their creativity to meet—and exceed—the project's expectations.



(l to r): **Miss Leifer, Hannah Wentling, Landrie Borojevich, Braelynn Berresford, Chloe Boyce, Lilly Fugate, Sam Gilkerson.**

## Power of the Pen Tournament

The Power of the Pen is a creative writing team open to teacher-recommended seventh and eighth graders. The team is coached by seventh grade teachers **Kylee Leifer** and **Julie Feucht**.

The district tournament took place at the University of Mount Union on January 10, 2025, with 8 seventh-graders and 7 eighth-graders participating. The seventh-grade team earned third place out of 19 teams and went on to place third again out of 28 teams at the regional tournament, held at Lake Elementary on February 22.

### Team Members

**Braelynn Berresford, Landrie Borojevich, Chloe Boyce, Lilly Fugate, Sam Gilkerson, and Hannah Wentling.**

### Placements for the District Tournament

**Braelynn Berresford**-12th place of 100 writers

**Lilly Fugate**-52nd of 100 writers

**Landrie Borojevich**-19th place of 100 writers

**Sam Gilkerson**-22nd of 100 writers

**Chloe Boyce**-18th place of 100 writers

**Hannah Wentling**-52nd of 100 writers

The eighth-grade team placed 9th out of 18 teams at the district tournament. Team members **Leighton Brown, Hunter Miller, and Ashton Vincent** qualified for regionals. At the regional tournament, **Leighton** placed 50th out of 93 writers, **Hunter** placed 31st, and **Ashton** placed 28th.

**Lilly Fugate** and **Sam Gilkerson** will represent Fairless at the state tournament on May 22 at Ashland University.

## FMS Spelling Bee

The Middle School Spelling Bee was held on February 4th and 5th in the middle school cafeteria. Sixth grade reading teacher **Susan Fritz** served as the pronouncer, while seventh grade writing teacher **Julie Feucht** and eighth grade reading teacher **Heather Pauli** were the judges. A total of 36 students participated, with 12 students representing each grade level. The winning word was “**flailed**.”

### Top Five contestants

#1 **Colton Brewer**-7th grade, #2 **Theoden Murtaugh**-8th grade, #3 **Savannah Thompson**-8th grade, #4 **Kameron Manack**-7th grade, #5 **Olivia Keller**-8th grade

Congrats to all the participants, you did a wonderful job! **Colton Brewer** represented Fairless at the regional spelling bee at Kent Stark on March 1.





## Eighth Grade Washington DC Trip

We are excited to share the wonderful experiences our students had during their recent trip to Washington, D.C., and to express our heartfelt gratitude for your continued support.

From March 18–20, our students embarked on an enriching journey to the nation's capital, participating in educational tours and creating lasting memories.

### **Educational Visits**

Students explored several significant landmarks, including the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the National Museum of American History, the National Museum of Natural History, and the National Archives. These visits offered meaningful insights into our nation's history, culture, and heritage.

### **Memorial Tours**

The group visited the World War II, Martin Luther King Jr., Franklin D. Roosevelt, Iwo Jima, and Jefferson Memorials, gaining a deeper appreciation for the people and events that shaped our country.

### **Capitol Building Tour**

A highlight of the trip was a guided tour of the Capitol Building. Students had the chance to explore the historic Rotunda and learn about the legislative process and the history housed within its walls.

### **Culinary Experience**

Students also enjoyed trying out local cuisine from a variety of food trucks near the Smithsonian Museums, adding a fun and flavorful element to the trip.

*This experience allowed students to step beyond the classroom and immerse themselves in the vibrant culture and history of Washington, D.C. From sightseeing to bonding with friends at the hotel, the trip was filled with unforgettable moments.*

*Thank you for your continued support. Your partnership plays a vital role in providing these meaningful and educational opportunities for our students.*



# Elementary School News

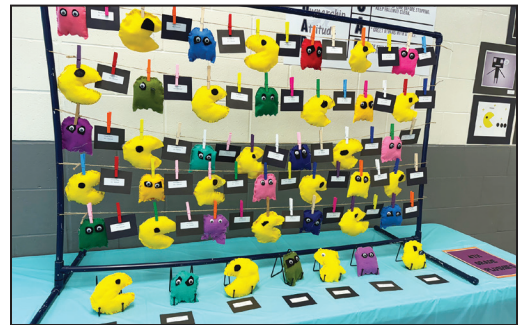


## Fire Safety

Students had an unforgettable day learning fire safety with the help of Casey and Caramel, two talented fire dogs who stole the show during an engaging and educational assembly. The program, made possible thanks to the Massillon Fire Department connecting the school with this special opportunity, taught students important fire safety tips through exciting dog tricks and a catchy song all about *Kasey the Fire Dog*.

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## Evening of the Arts

FES warped back to the 1980s during their spring Evening of the Arts. The event was totally rad and gnarly! Students adorned the hallways with paintings, linoleum prints, sewing projects, jewelry, origami, clay pieces, and 3-D sculptures, all revolving around the 1980s! Swatch Watches, Pac-Man, boom boxes, roller skates, and Rubik's cubes could be found from floor to ceiling. There was even a hallway of 1980-themed staff member portraits that seemed to be the highlight of the night! The music of the decade filled the hallways as guests reflected on the hard work by the FES artists.

Following the art show, guests could continue to take a step back in time by attending the Fifth Grade Music Showcase that followed. It featured music from the 1980s with songs like *Don't Stop Believin'*, *We Are the World*, and more. It even showcased some bucket drumming to music by the Go-Go's!

The evening ended with a beautiful performance by the Spirit Sticks Group honoring our military and country. Thank you to everyone who attended and those who helped to make this event a wonderful one for all!







## Fifth, Sixth and Seventh-Grade Math Tournament

On March 1, 45 Fairless students participated in the Stark County Math Competition, joining over 750 students from 18 area schools in a day filled with problem-solving and mathematical challenges. Fairless had a strong showing, with 25 students receiving awards for their outstanding performance. Their hard work and enthusiasm for math were evident throughout the event. A special thank you goes out to the 13 Fairless volunteers who helped make the day a success—it's inspiring to see so many students getting involved and excited about math!



## Spring Programs

Our second and fourth-grade students performed in their Spring programs on March 13. The theme for the second grade was *Music from the 1950's* and the theme for the fourth grade was *Music from the 1980's*. The audiences were treated to bucket drumming, recorder playing, dancing, and singing some familiar songs.



## First Grade Fractions



In April, first graders dove into the world of fractions by learning how to divide shapes into equal parts using Play-Doh. Through hands-on activities, they discovered how whole shapes can be split into halves, thirds, and fourths. Students practiced how to sort shapes based on these fractional parts and learned to correctly identify and name each fraction.



## Fourth Grade Social Studies

In Mrs. Kornish's fourth-grade social studies classes, students studied about the American Revolution. Here, **AJ Ward** plays the role of King George III, and students played a taxation game to help them to better understand issues facing the colonies in the 1700s.



# Elementary School News



## Autism Acceptance Month

Miss Amiee and Miss Sandy's classrooms created a tree base for Autism Acceptance Month. They provided all elementary students with a ribbon to color any way they wanted and then they were able to hang it up as one of the "leaves" to create a full, thriving tree.



## McKinley Museum

In January, our fifth graders visited The McKinley Museum. Students explored the three "islands" of Discover World and enjoyed a tour of our solar system in the Planetarium.



*Braden Bissell and Sutton Roberts*

## Plant Life Cycles

Third graders are learning about plant life cycles by growing seeds in the Grow Lab.



## Mrs. Swiger's Second Graders

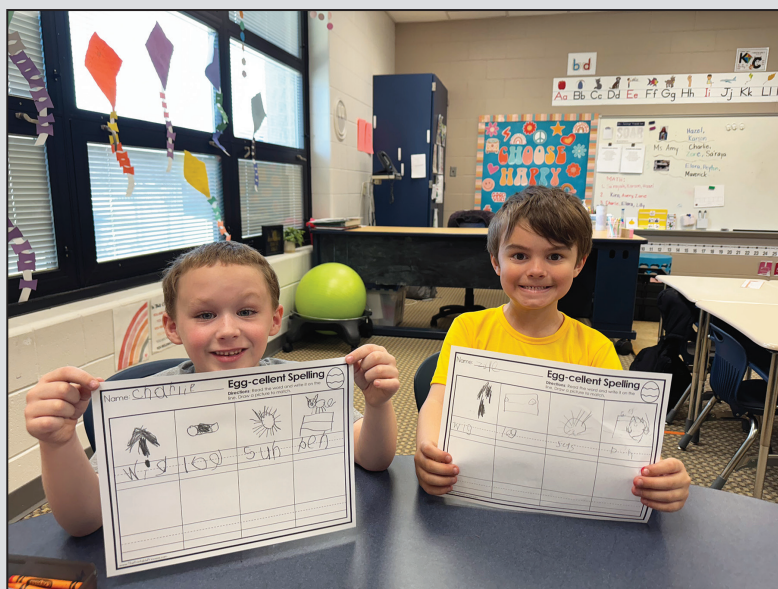
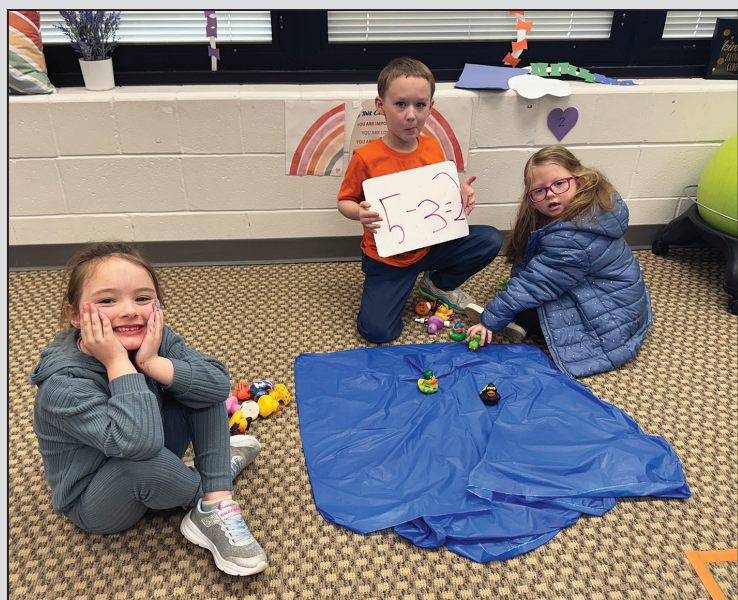


Students in Mrs. Swiger's second-grade classroom had a chance to be teachers for the day! They earned this reward for SOARING in the classroom!



# Kindergarten Activities

Mrs. Jennings small groups in kindergarten love learning through play! Some of the fun activities we participate in are, acting out number stories with ducks in a “pond,” building numbers with Play-Doh, ordering teen numbers and cracking open CVC words to spell!





# Fairless

## LOCAL SCHOOLS



### ACADEMICALLY PREPARED

#### Foundational Knowledge

Graduates will have an academic experience that achieves high expectations for each student's individual development.

#### Well-Rounded Content

Graduates will have access to a range of options for co-curricular and extracurricular activities that reflect students' interests, goals and learning profiles.



### RESILIENT INDIVIDUAL

#### Adaptability

Graduates will use their skills, knowledge, and experiences to identify possible solutions for complex problems.

#### Growth Mindset

Graduates will embrace challenges and be persistent in their learning.

#### Motivated

Graduates will show an eagerness to ask questions and explore beyond what is required; discovering, learning and understanding.



### FEARLESS LEARNER

#### Critical Thinking

Graduates will develop critical thinking and reasoning skills, problem-solving competencies, and technology proficiency.

#### Innovative

Graduates will be self-directed learners, who are flexible with their knowledge and learn as they go, adapt to the situation, and use critical thinking skills.

#### Curious

Graduates will ask thoughtful questions, dig deeply into issues, and consider multiple perspectives when tackling problems and developing new processes.



### PROFESSIONAL COLLABORATOR

#### Intrapersonal Skills

Graduates will assume developmentally and age-appropriate responsibility for learning through effective decision-making, goal setting, and time management.

#### Effective Communication Skills

Graduates will clearly, concisely and truthfully articulate their thoughts in verbal and written formats while respecting the targeted audience and other points of view.

#### Collaborator

Graduates will work well with others by respecting differences and actively listening in order to practice cooperation and compromise in problem solving.



### CARING CITIZEN

#### Service Learning

Graduates will engage in community service experiences to help meet societal needs.

#### Ethical

Graduates will act with integrity and take responsibility for their actions and decisions.