



FOCUS ON FAIRLESS

Fall 2025

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2024 District Report Card Released

Our students and staff are to be commended for the district earning an overall 3.5 Star Rating from the Ohio Department of Education for the 2024-2025 School Year. Ohio rates schools on a scale of 1-5 stars. Within this report card, there are several areas in which the district earned the highest rating awarded -

5 stars - including Graduation and College, Career, Workforce and Military Readiness. The district saw continued growth in the area of academic achievement. Individually, Fairless Elementary School earned a 4 Star rating, Fairless Middle School earned a 3 Star Rating, and Fairless High School earned a 3.5 Star rating.

Renewal Levy and Financial Information

The Fairless Local School District will have a 3.6 Mill renewal substitute levy on the November 4, 2025 general election ballot. The renewal generates \$1,883,460 annually in revenue for the district, or approximately 10% of the overall operating budget. The renewal levy costs a homeowner \$110 per \$100,000 of appraised value OR \$9.17 per month per \$100,000 of appraised value. The renewal levy does not raise taxes on residents. It is a combination of levies first passed by voters in 1993 and renewed ever since, the last time it was renewed was 2015.

How will the recently passed Ohio Biennial Budget impact the district's funding? Overall, the state funding package is expected to be flat over the next two years.

Recently, the Rover Pipeline valuation case was settled by the Ohio Supreme Court. **How will back taxes and Rover**

paying a higher tax rate impact the district? The district has dedicated funds from the Rover Pipeline to pay for the mortgage on Fairless High School. To date, the state has not sent the owners of Rover Pipeline the tax bill which would inform the district exactly how much they owe in back taxes. Regardless of what Rover owes, these are dollars that will be used to pay down debt owed on Fairless High School. The end goal remains, our community benefits from world-class facilities that have been paid for using Rover Pipeline funds.

What cuts have been made to balance the district budget? Over the past three years, the district has been cutting staff through attrition to maintain a balanced budget and match our enrollment needs. In March 2025, the Board of Education took action to cut an additional \$775,000 in staff and programming through attrition and reductions in force:

- Cutting 4 teaching positions, increasing class sizes and eliminating middle school Spanish
- Reducing 6 paraprofessional positions across the district
- Eliminating summer programs and high school tutorial support
- Scaling back math coaching, curriculum services, and family supports
- Reducing ACT testing and curriculum resources
- Exploring shared administrative services with neighboring districts

If you have any questions about the financial status of the district or the information above, please feel free to contact either the Superintendent Mike Hearn or Treasurer Mark Phillips at 330-767-3577.





Mike Hearn
Superintendent

XC Course Opened

On September 13, we proudly dedicated our new Cross Country Course and hosted our first home meet in 20 years. This marks a significant moment for our student-athletes, who now have a home course to train and compete on, a dream two decades in the making.

The course was made possible through a unique partnership among three entities who shared a common vision: the Village of Brewster, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Fairless Local Schools Board of Education. Their collaboration exemplifies what can be accomplished when communities come together for the benefit of kids and the greater good.

What makes this course truly special is how it was built. Much like the Athletic Complex Team of the 1980s, who constructed Brideweser Stadium and the Barry Askren Memorial Track using their own trade skills and determination, this project came to life through the dedication of individuals who contributed their time, labor, resources, and good old-fashioned hard work. It's a testament to the power of community and a shared vision.

Following is an excerpt of Superintendent Mike Hearn's remarks from the dedication ceremony:

Cross country is a sport of determination, endurance, and resilience. Every runner knows what it means to push past their limit, to find strength when the body says stop, and to embrace the challenge of uneven ground, long miles, and unforgiving conditions. It's a sport built on toughness.

That toughness is a fitting tribute to the land we built our cross country course on. The course is mostly built on the former homestead of Jacob Reed, Jr., a Revolutionary War veteran born in 1762. Jacob Reed served alongside his father and brother in the Pennsylvania militia, fighting for the cause of American independence. In recognition of his service, the U.S. government granted him this land, where he became the second settler of Sugar Creek Township.

When Jacob Reed and his family arrived, this land looked very different. It was dense timber, wild land, and untamed frontier. With only logs, hand tools, and an unbending resolve, he built a home, cleared fields, and raised his family here. His only neighbors were Native Americans and the wild beasts of the forest.

Cross country demands more than speed; it requires the courage to keep going when the path is hard, the determination to carve out success when obstacles stand in the way, and the belief that perseverance leads to greatness. That same pioneer spirit that carried Jacob Reed through war, wilderness, and the building of a new life is the spirit that fuels every runner who takes on this course.

That mindset is exactly what Jacob Reed lived out on the land our course is built on. He faced war, wilderness, and hardship, and yet he pressed forward. When our runners race, they will embody that same spirit: digging deep when the path is rough, enduring when others might give in, and showing that true toughness isn't about avoiding struggle, but about meeting it head on.

As we open this course, may every runner who races here feel that heritage beneath their feet. May they be reminded that they are not only building personal strength but also carrying forward a legacy of toughness, resilience, and service to others—just as Jacob Reed did more than two centuries ago.

1600 Meter Donors - Silver

The Peterson Family
The Hill Family - In Memory of Aaron Bob and Jan Smith

400 Meter Donors - Blue

The Colucci Family
Fairless Athletic Booster Club
John Feucht Families -
In Honor of Kendra Feucht
The Hearn Family
Scott and Kristin Kirby - Kraus Pizza -
Kirby Food and Beverage
Zach and Lauren Michel
The Russell Family
The Vincent Family
Ed and Susan Whitmore

Volunteers

Kirk Askren
Keith Arthurs
Randy Clum
Mike, Katie, & Andrew Hearn
Ryan Henry
Jason and Jennifer Kirby
Ron Legg
Joel and Brant Marchand
Zach Michel
Jason, Nick, and Brody Pumneo
Mike Radich
Andrew Ruegg
Ben Russell
Lee Sternberg
Tim Stith
US Army Corps of Engineers
Dirty Hands Excavating
Bill Glick
Fairless Board of Education
Village of Brewster

High School News

Student Leadership Academy Kicks Off with Focus on Trustworthiness

The new school year brings an exciting start for the ALL IN Student Leadership Academy, which has welcomed 15 committed high school members who are ready to make a difference. Guided by the mission to inspire teens to lead positive change in their schools and communities, the academy is already off to a strong start.

This year's Leadership Council includes senior **Gavin Seibert** and juniors **Laura Seward**, **Cheyenne Cooper**, and **Aubrey Kornish**. Their leadership will help shape the direction of the academy as it launches new initiatives throughout the year.

The academy's first event was a powerful one—the International Day of Peace (IDOP), held at the Bulldog Activity Center on September 19. There, Fairless students connected with peers from across Stark County to reflect on peace, collaboration, and character, with this year's focus on *trustworthiness*.

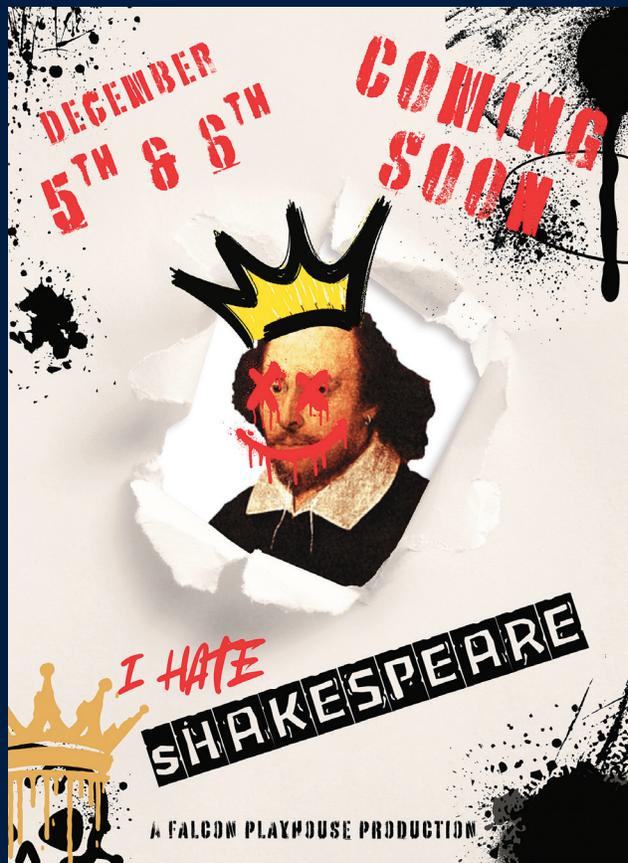
In September, the group will be concentrating on the foundational character trait of trustworthiness.



The **Fairless Band** recently showcased their talents at the South Central High School Annual Parade of Bands. This fall, the band has been captivating audiences with their performances at football games and various community events!

Fall Play

I Hate Shakespeare! performances will be held at Lucinda J Frailly Performing Arts Center on December 5 and 6 at 7:00 pm. Stay posted for more information on ticket sales. The cast and crew have been working diligently to bring this high-energy comedy to life, and they are excited to share their unique take on Shakespeare with the community. This year's cast is made up of talented students from both Fairless Middle School and Fairless High School. Don't miss this opportunity to see Shakespeare like you've never seen him before—and maybe even learn to love him, too.



dayton children's

FEMALE COACH Spotlight

"JEN WADE HAS ELEVATED THE FAIRLESS VOLLEYBALL PROGRAM. THIS PAST FALL SHE HELPED OUR LADY FALCONS WIN THEIR FIRST LEAGUE TITLE IN OVER 30 YEARS. SHE HAS HELPED OUR YOUNG LADIES GAIN CONFIDENCE, WORK HARD, AND LEAD BY EXAMPLE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY!"

JEN WADE
FAIRLESS HIGH SCHOOL

A photo of Coach Jen Wade, a woman with blonde hair and glasses, wearing a blue t-shirt with 'FAIRLESS HIGH SCHOOL' on it.

Congratulations to **Coach Jen Wade**, who was recently recognized by the OHSAA for her outstanding leadership of the Falcon Volleyball team! The girls have had a strong start to the season and are eager to make an impact as they head into the tournament later this fall.



Golf

The girls golf team has been led this season by a fantastic group of seniors: **London Radich, Kim Frease, Madison Yarger, and Chloe Hurst**. Their leadership has been key as the team has shown steady growth and improvement throughout the season.

The team's hard work has paid off, and they're now competing in the sectional tournament. They're hopeful to perform well and advance to the next round of tournament play.

The Fairless boys golf team is wrapping up its season with sectional play, showing great heart and passion for the game. Though small in number, the Falcons have displayed unwavering dedication and team spirit throughout the season.

Competing in the Division II Boys Sectional Tournament at Cadiz Country Club, Fairless was proudly represented by two junior golfers: **Melvin Lemus Santos** and **Brayden Bailey**.

We wish them the best as they finish out the season and look forward to what lies ahead for these committed athletes!



Football

With a current record of 3-2, the Falcons are heading into the heart of their Principals Athletic Conference (PAC-7) schedule. Fairless has already demonstrated its strength this season with impressive wins over Sandy Valley, Waynedale, and a dominant performance against Tuscarawas Valley.

Head Coach A.J. Sarbaugh and the team are now locked in on PAC-7 play, with upcoming match-ups critical to securing a strong position in the league standings.

Don't miss your chance to support the Falcons—come out to the next game and be part of the energy as they push toward a successful season!

Cheerleaders Bring the Spirit to Falcon Football

The first half of the football season has been packed with excitement, and a big part of that energy comes from the outstanding Fairless cheerleading squad. Under the leadership of seniors **Riley Henry, Telayah Mann, and Evelyn Maldonado**, the cheerleaders have played a key role in firing up the "Dirty Bird" student section and creating an electric game-day atmosphere.

Their spirit doesn't stop at the sidelines. The squad has also gone above and beyond to support the football team with thoughtful touches like decorating senior players' lockers and preparing special goodie bags. Their dedication, both seen and behind the scenes, has made a meaningful impact on the team and the school community.



Our spirited "Dirty Birds" student section has been showing up in full force to cheer on the Falcons at this year's football games! Each week, they rally around a new theme, bringing energy, excitement, and unwavering support to our team.

Middle School News



Fairless Middle School Receives Honorable Mention for Mental Health Education

Fairless Middle School has been recognized with an Honorable Mention for the **Peggy Kubert Model School Award** by Erika's Lighthouse, a national organization dedicated to mental health education and suicide prevention.

This recognition highlights the school's dedication to fostering a culture that prioritizes mental wellness. FMS was honored specifically for its excellence in **educating students** about mental health and promoting open, supportive conversations around the topic.

The Peggy Kubert Model School Awards are given to schools that demonstrate a strong commitment to mental health awareness, with a focus on prevention and early intervention. Honorable Mentions are awarded to schools that effectively implement Erika's Lighthouse programs across four key categories:

- **Educating Students**
- **Empowering Youth**
- **Engaging Families**
- **Equipping Staff**

Fairless Middle School earned its recognition through outstanding efforts in the **Educating Students** category, showing leadership in mental health education and student support. We are proud to be part of a school and district that not only values mental health but also takes active steps to educate, empower, and support our students.

Congratulations to the FMS teachers and staff for their commitment and dedication!



Multiple Disabilities Classroom Visits Stark County Fair

Students from the Multiple Disabilities classroom recently attended the Stark County Fair as part of a special program designed for children with disabilities. They enjoyed low-stimulus rides, sampled some delicious fair food, and had the chance to visit a variety of animals.

Some of the animals on display were raised by Fairless Middle School students, including chickens and ducks shown by their own classmate, **Chance Haines**. It was a fun, educational day full of hands-on learning and joyful experiences.



Boys Middle School Cross Country Takes First Place!

A ribbon-cutting ceremony kicked off the first home cross country meet held at Fairless in 20 years — and it was a great one! Our Middle School boys' team took **1st place**, marking a fantastic start to the season.

This event was not only a victory on the course but also a great opportunity for our cross country teams to host more meets in the future.

Elementary School News



Kindergarten Celebrating our brand-new Falcons on their first full day of kindergarten! A big thank you to our FES PTO and Only Opal Designs for providing the awesome shirts!



First Grade First graders have been hard at work sharpening their math skills with fun and engaging games from our Everyday Math curriculum! From counting to number recognition, students are building confidence while mastering important concepts, and having a blast along the way!



Third Grade Third graders kicked off the school year with a fun *Book Tasting*! Students “sampled” a variety of genres and discovered the types of books that excite and inspire them the most.



Fourth Grade In Mrs. Kornish’s class, fourth graders are collaborating in small groups on personal narrative writing activities, learning to share their stories and strengthen their writing skills.



Fifth Grade Fifth-grade classrooms recently transformed for the annual Watermelon Day festivities! Students rotated through math, reading, science, and social studies activities, proving that learning is everywhere, even in something as simple (and sweet!) as a watermelon.

Special Program Highlight – Mrs. Goist’s Class

Mrs. Goist’s class had a fun and inspiring day participating in the Playmakers program, hosted by the Pro Football Hall of Fame!



August 2025						
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31						
September 2025						
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28	29	30				
October 2025						
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November 2025						
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December 2025						
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January 2026						
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Fairless Local School District
Calendar
2025-2026

August	
14	Open House (Teacher 1/2 Day)
15	Teacher Day - No School
18	Teacher Day - No School
19	First Student Day
	Grades 1-6, 9
	Grades 1-12
September	
1	Labor Day
26	Early Release
October	
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	Inservice Day - No School
November	
26	Professional Development Trade Day - No School
27-28	Thanksgiving Break
	No School
December	
1	No School
22-31	Christmas Break
January	
1-2	Christmas Break
16	End of 9 weeks (46 days)
19	End of semester (90 days)
30	Martin Luther King Day
	Inservice Day - No School
February	
10 & 12	PT Conferences
16	Presidents Day
March	
27	End of 9 weeks (46 days)
30-31	Spring Break
	No School
April	
1-3	No School
May	
25	Memorial Day
28	Last Student Day
28	End of 9 weeks (38 days)
28	End of semester (84 days)
29	Teacher Last Day
Calamity Day Make-Up Schedule: 1 st Day - June consecutive	

First & Last Student Day
No School
Early Release

Student Days - 175

February 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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March 2026						
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April 2026						
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May 2026						
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31						
June 2026						
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28	29	30				
July 2026						
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