



FOCUS ON FAIRLESS

Spring 2026

VOL. 33 • ISS. 3

Superintendent's Message

Happy Spring Falcons!

Spring at Fairless is more than just a change in season; it's a showcase of student achievement. Whether it's under the stadium lights, on the stage, or in the classroom, our Falcons are demonstrating the power of hard work and dedication which will soon culminate in the Graduation of the Class of 2026.

Watching our students flourish during this season gives us all a renewed sense of hope for what's to come. We are proud to be the community where families want to learn, live, work, and grow.

This June, the district is proud to partner with the Village of Brewster for the America 250 celebrations. Together, we will officially open the Jacob Reed Trail, honoring a Revolutionary War veteran and one of the original settlers of Sugarcreek.

Located just west of Fairless High School, the Jacob Reed Homestead was the second recorded settlement in Sugarcreek. According to *A History of Stark County* when Jacob Reed and his family arrived their only neighbors were "wild beasts and the Native Americans." Today, our new Cross Country course winds through this historic property, where Reed and several family members are buried in a small family cemetery.

Visitors can park near the Fairless softball field and choose from two trailheads to access the site. Along the way, you can read the story of the Reed family on signage researched and written by students in Ms. Susan Hanna's class. The trail also offers a full tour of the Fairless XC course—traversing woodlands, grasslands, and the Brewster solar field.

To enhance the natural beauty, the Village has installed bird and bat houses and planted pollinator-friendly gardens to attract butterflies. Walking this path offers a true glimpse into what life was like for the Reed family over 200 years ago. Please watch our social media pages for the official ribbon-cutting date!"

I am proud to announce an expansion of Fine Arts courses at Fairless High School that will be available to students starting in the Fall of 2026. This expansion marks a major milestone in our commitment to providing world-class fine and performing arts

opportunities for our students. This isn't just about classroom learning; these programs are designed to be "hands-on" experiences that bridge the gap between passion and profession. What makes these courses so unique is the inclusion of career-focused content and immersive experiences. The new courses are: Commercial Dance and Production, Dance Foundations and Choreography, Theatre 1 and Theatre 2, and Entertainment Operations (a deep dive into all of the career fields that exist behind the curtain). By balancing long-term financial stability with our mission to provide an excellent education, we are able to support this new investment that will engage our students, help explore their creativity, and expose them to a multitude of career paths.

The final phase of renovation work at Brideweser Stadium is nearing completion. Over the past several months we have replaced the visitors' grandstands, stadium lighting, and fencing. In late May, the press box will be installed on the visitors' grandstands and then landscaping will be restored. This work helps ensure that the investment made in Brideweser Stadium over forty years ago by the Athletic Complex Team remains a great venue for the community to enjoy events on our campus.

Last year, the district implemented approximately \$700,000 in cuts and staffing adjustments through attrition to prepare for flat revenue projections. Building on that foundation, we are grateful to our community for renewing the 10-year substitute levy in November, which continues to secure \$1.8 million in annual general fund revenue.

This year, we remain committed to fiscal discipline through several cost-saving measures:

- **Strategic Attrition:** Following recent retirements, we have optimized our staffing levels by not refilling a high school counselor position, a paraprofessional role, and a secretarial position became part-time.
- **Shared Services:** We are now sharing a Food Service Director with Canton Local, reducing our administrative costs for that role by half.

(cont. on page 2)



District News

Superintendent's Message (cont. from page 1)

- **Long-term Stability:** In March, the district successfully negotiated new contracts with our certified and classified unions through June 2029. These three-year agreements allow for precise long-term budgeting.

We are mindful that inflation will naturally increase operating costs. We remain dedicated to finding innovative ways to keep expense growth as flat as possible while maintaining the quality of our schools.

As we approach commencement, the Class of 2026 stands ready to trade their desks for new horizons. While they have already left an indelible mark on our hallways, we are even more excited to watch them SOAR into their next chapters. It is a privilege to celebrate their collective achievements and imagine the unique impact each of these graduates will have on the world of tomorrow.

Mike

KIDS EAT FREE!

- No Registration
- Age 18 or Younger



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.

Your Dollars at Work: A Budget Update

Here's a quick snapshot of our district's financial health this quarter, measured against our five-year forecast.

Revenue

The district has received **82.28%** of the total annual revenue forecasted. This indicates the current progress in revenue collection for the fiscal year is **on pace** relative to the forecast.

Spending Rate

Our current operational spending is **80.84%** of the total annual budget. Third-quarter expenditures of **\$5,102,920** are below the anticipated quarterly spending of \$5,192,796, placing us **on pace** relative to the forecast.

General Fund Balance

Our cash reserves are **\$9,506,802**. This balance is **on pace** with the third quarter forecast.

Summary - The district's third-quarter financial data indicates that both revenues and expenditures are trending with the forecast. Based on this information, there are no immediate concerns regarding district funding at this time.

2026-2027 First Semester

August
Open House & Back to the Nest
18th- First Student Day Grades 1-6,9
19th- First Student Day 1-12

AUGUST 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September
7th- Labor Day
25th- No School

SEPTEMBER 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October
7th- PT Conferences Evening
8th- PT Conferences All Day
9th- Teacher Exchange Day
12th- No School
23rd - End of 1st Nine Weeks (44 Days)

OCTOBER 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November
25th-27th- No School
30th- Teacher Exchange Day

NOVEMBER 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December
21st-31st- No School

DECEMBER 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January
1st- No School
8th - End of 2nd Nine Weeks (41 Days)
8th - End of Semester (85 Days)
18th- No School
29th- All Employees

JANUARY 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

■ No School
■ First and Last Student Day

Alumni News



Riceland Golf Course
Saturday, June 13, 2026
Shotgun – Scramble
Fee: \$90 PP Includes Golf, Cart,
Hot Dog - Beverage & Dinner
50/50- Skins- Hole Contests
~Door Prizes
Cash for 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place



Registration: 7:15 – 8:00 a.m.
Tee Off: 8:00 a.m.
Format: Four Person Scramble
Hot Dog & Beverage: Turn
Dinner: Following Golf

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY-Make Checks Payable to: Fairless Alumni Association, Inc.

Hole Sponsor \$125 **Company/ Individual Name:** _____
Contact Person: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

REGISTRATION- Make Checks Payable to: Fairless Alumni Association, Inc.

Players: \$90/person (4 players per team)

1. _____
 Name Address Phone
 2. _____
 Name Address Phone
 3. _____
 Name Address Phone
 4. _____
 Name Address Phone

Questions:
 Jacqueline
 330.603.6535
 Ken
 330.705-1044

Return to: Mail Check to 800 7th St SE, Brewster, Oh 44613

High School News



Fairless Students Shine in Spring Production of *Moana, Jr.*

This spring, Fairless Local Schools proudly presented the Disney musical *Moana, Jr.*, showcasing the remarkable talent and dedication of students across multiple grade levels. The production was held in the Lucinda J. Frailly Performing Arts Center, providing an excellent opportunity to highlight both the facility and the strength of the district's theater program.

Students from middle school through high school collaborated to bring the production to life. Their hard work was evident in the quality of the vocal performances, choreography, and set design, each reflecting months of preparation. Rehearsals began in January, with cast members also embracing the challenge of learning songs in Oceanic languages.

The production featured standout performances by **Kaylee Dowdle** in the title role of Moana, **Gabriel Renner** as Maui, **Angelina Boyles** as Gramma Tala, **Aston Scheibe** as Chief Tui, and **Kenzie Gatschet** as Sina. **Riley Brothers**, who portrayed Tamatoa, further distinguished her performance by designing her own costume.

Behind the scenes, students played an equally vital role in the show's success. Seniors **Matthew Largent** (lighting designer), **Chloe Hurst** (Ancestor 1), and **Starre Petz** (Villager 2, Maui soloist, and ensemble) were recognized as this production marked their final high school performance.

The cast and crew delivered three outstanding performances, captivating audiences and engaging the Fairless community. The production exemplified the collaboration, commitment, and pride of all students involved.

Fairless Local Schools extends its sincere appreciation to the community for its continued support of the performing arts.





Fairless Celebrates Prom 2026

Fairless High School juniors and seniors enjoyed an unforgettable evening at the 2026 “Under the Sea” Prom. For one special night, students traded their backpacks for formal attire, gathering for an elegant celebration at Pine View Acres Event Center in Massillon. The evening included dinner and dancing from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

A highlight of the event was the crowning of the 2026 Prom Court. Congratulations to this year’s honorees: King and Queen: **Jaxon Sadie and Kaylee Dowdle**; Prince and Princess: **Jack Olihan and Evelyn Pascacio**.



This successful event was made possible through the dedication of **Mrs. Widder** and the **student prom committee**. Their thoughtful planning created a memorable experience for all in attendance. Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to a wonderful evening.



Fairless Students Engage in Leadership Learning Opportunities

Fairless students recently had the opportunity to participate in two impactful leadership experiences. One group attended the PAC-7 Leadership Day, where they heard from Hall of Famer **Dan Hampton** and former University of Mount Union coach **Larry Kehres**. Their insights provided valuable perspectives on teamwork, perseverance, and effective leadership.



Athletic News - Sprint Sports

Track and Field

The Fairless boys and girls track and field teams are performing well in the PAC-7 this season and are poised to contend for league, district, and state qualifications, with the potential for state-level success. The boys' distance team ranks among the top in Ohio, led by **Andrew Hearn**, **Brice Fuller**, and **Bradlee Keehn**. Additionally, **Bo Schetz** set a new school record in the discus with an impressive throw of 167 feet, 11 inches. The girls' team continues to show strength and depth, highlighted by a talented group of sprinters who contribute significantly to the team's success.



Baseball

The Fairless baseball team is led by a strong group of seniors, including **Hunter Dean**, **Deegan Meek**, **Lucas Peters**, **Carter Samaco**, **Gabe Stockert**, **Jeremiah Highben**, **Austin Sullivan**, and **Grady Vaughn**. **Jeremiah Highben** and **Austin Sullivan** have recently committed to continue their academic and athletic careers at Hiram University and Bluffton University, respectively. The team continues to compete with determination and improve each week. Currently positioned in the middle of the PAC standings, the Falcons are focused on building momentum and climbing the rankings as the season progresses.



FAIRLESS FALCONS YOUTH FOOTBALL CAMP

Fairless Falcons Football
ALL KIDS GRADES K-6

WHEN: June 2-4

WHERE: Brideweser Stadium

TIME: 10:30-12:00

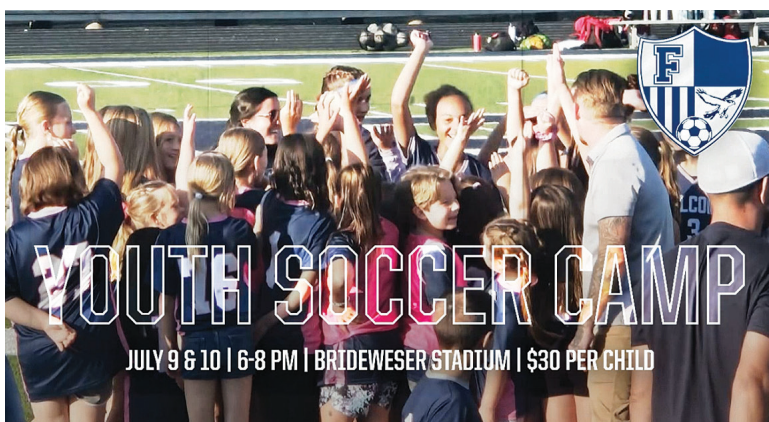
Registration due by May 15th to guarantee a shirt.





Softball

The Fairless softball team is demonstrating steady growth under the leadership of new head coach **Kaity Davis**. With a strong core of underclassmen providing leadership, the team continues to improve daily. The players are competing hard in every game, learning to overcome challenges, and developing the skills needed to succeed in close contests. Congratulations to junior **Madi Barkan** on reaching an impressive milestone of 200 career strikeouts, a testament to her hard work and dedication.



YOUTH SOCCER CAMP

JULY 9 & 10 | 6-8 PM | BRIDEWESER STADIUM | \$30 PER CHILD

FAIRLESS GIRLS BASKETBALL

BASKETBALL CAMP

T-SHIRT INCLUDED



LADY FALCONS BASKETBALL


REGISTRATION LINK

F


K - 6th Grade(s) **16-18 JUNE**

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
COST \$60

More Information:
Chad.Pfeiffer@fairless.sparcc.org



XX BASKETBALL




F

YOUTH SUMMER CAMP

June 8-10

1st-3rd Grade: 10:00-12:00pm
4th-6th Grade: 1:00-3:30pm
\$60 each (\$30 sibling discount)
at Fairless High School

EACH CAMPER WILL GET A BASKETBALL AND T-SHIRT



YOUTH CAMP

Middle School News



Refuge of Hope

News from Student Council

In February, our Student Council organized a service initiative to support the Refuge of Hope, a local organization dedicated to providing food, clothing, shelter, and healthcare to individuals facing homelessness and extreme poverty. Through this campaign, students collected and donated essential items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, soap, and socks to assist those in need within our community.

In addition, throughout the school year, Student Council members have supported the SOAR Store by ensuring that all SOAR orders are accurately prepared and fulfilled for students who have earned SOAR points. Their continued commitment helps recognize and reward positive student behavior across our school.



SOAR



Power of the Pen District and Regional Tournament

The Power of the Pen team, a creative writing group comprised of seventh and eighth grade students, continues to demonstrate exceptional talent and dedication. This year's members include **Braelynn Berresford, Landrie Borojevich, Chloe Boyce, Abby Cottrill, Lilly Fugate, Sam Gilkerson, Gracie Haines, Parker Hood, Macy Kammer, Haley Mizer, Gillian Vigil, and Hannah Wentling.**

The team is coached by eighth-grade teachers **Julie Feucht** and **Heather Pauli**. Seventh-grade aide **Krista Doane** also provided valuable assistance in the tab room during the district tournament.

Students competed at the district tournament held at the University of Mount Union on January 9. Seven team members advanced to the regional tournament on February 21, held at Lake Elementary School. Notable individual achievements include **Lilly Fugate**, who placed eighth in the eighth-grade division, and **Gillian Vigil**, who earned sixth place in the seventh-grade division among more than 100 competitors.

Additional regional qualifiers included **Braelynn Berresford, Chloe Boyce, Abby Cottrill, Macy Kammer, and Haley Mizer.** **Chloe Boyce, Abby Cottrill, and Lilly Fugate** further advanced to the state tournament, which will be held at Ashland University on May 18.

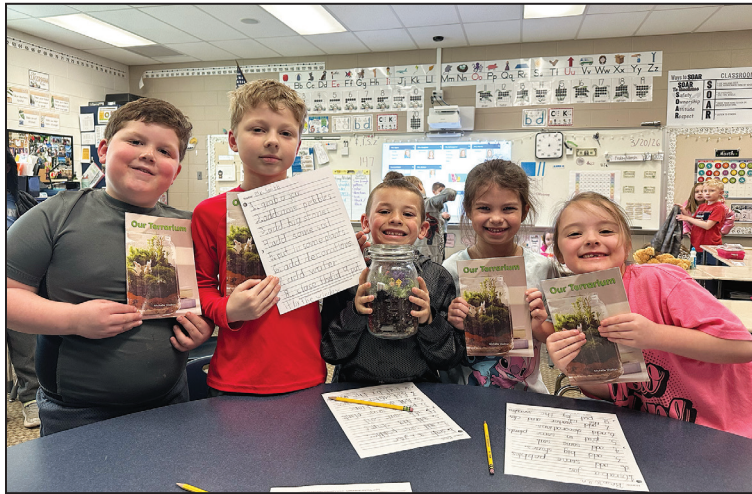
Lilly Fugate also earned the distinguished Platinum Pen Award, signifying that her work will be published in the Power of the Pen Book of Winners.

Congratulations to all participants on their outstanding accomplishments.

Spelling Bee



Elementary School News



First Grade Learning Highlights

First-grade students recently explored the story *Our Terrarium* while engaging in a variety of activities designed to strengthen their reading skills. As part of this experience, students deepened their understanding of the story's vocabulary by making meaningful connections through hands-on learning.

To celebrate their learning, the class worked collaboratively to create their own terrarium. Using knowledge gained from the text, students carefully followed the steps to build and care for it.

This engaging project successfully integrated reading, science, and creativity, providing students with a meaningful and memorable learning experience.



Fifth-Grade Math Team



Sixth-Grade Math Team



Seventh-Grade Math Team

Math Teams

Congratulations to our math teams on their outstanding performance at the Stark County Math Competition! On Saturday, March 7, 46 Fairless students participated alongside more than 760 students representing 18 area schools.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the Fairless volunteers whose support helped make this event possible. Our students demonstrated tremendous effort and enthusiasm, and it has been exciting to see their growing engagement and interest in mathematics.

We are especially proud to recognize that 20 of our students earned awards, with **Westley Ickes** and **Parker Hood** achieving first-place honors. #FalconsSOAR



Kindergarten and Senior Buddies

Throughout the school year, several of our seniors generously dedicated their time to building meaningful connections with our kindergarten students. Each month, seniors led themed activities that included reading aloud, as well as guiding their younger buddies through engaging writing, math, and art projects.

These visits quickly became a highlight for our kindergarten students, who eagerly anticipated time with their senior partners. This special program not only fostered relationships across grade levels, but also brought our “Pathway to Graduation” full circle in a meaningful and memorable way.

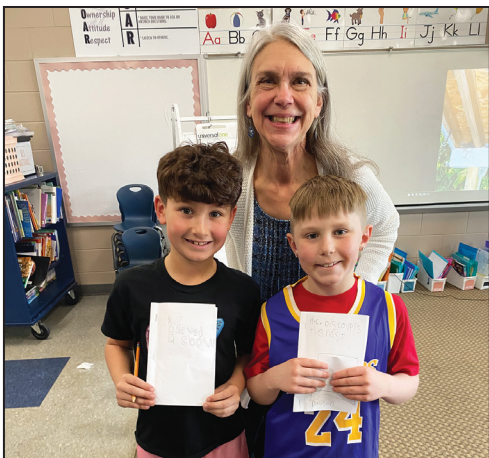


FES Author Event

FES was delighted to welcome back local children’s author **Andi Michelson** to work with our kindergarten, first, and second-grade students. During her visit, she shared a reading of her book, *Little Roo*, guiding students through the thought process authors use when creating a story.

Students explored both comprehension and the role of illustrations in storytelling, gaining a deeper understanding of how text and images work together. They were then given the opportunity to develop their own story ideas and begin writing their own books.

This engaging experience provided a meaningful and enriching literacy opportunity for our young Falcons.





Third Grade

Our third-grade classrooms were transformed into vibrant learning spaces with blacklights and neon décor for a special “Glow Day” review. This engaging event provided students with an exciting opportunity to revisit and reinforce the skills they have mastered throughout the year.

Students participated in a variety of “glowing” challenges across all subject areas, demonstrating their knowledge and confidence. The experience highlighted that our third graders are well-prepared, motivated, and ready to shine on their upcoming state assessments.



Spring Music Shows

Our second and fourth-grade students delighted audiences with their spring programs on March 19, featuring a lively selection of songs from popular movies. Their performances showcased both their musical growth and enthusiasm.

On March 24, the fifth-grade choir and bucket drummers took the stage during the Music Showcase, held in conjunction with the school’s art show. Students performed a variety of movie-themed pieces, demonstrating their talent, teamwork, and enjoyment of music.

