



Fairfield Local Schools
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DISTRICT UPDATE

Submitted by: *Tim Dettwiller, Superintendent*

Welcome to the first edition of our new Fairfield Local Schools Community Newsletter – “The Lions Roar”. This newsletter is designed to provide the reader with brief articles and fact tidbits about your local school. We know that for those of you with children in our school, you may have read or heard some of the info contained. But for a large portion of our community this may be the only school news you receive. I think it is critical that we share all the great happenings and work being completed by our students and staff with all of our community. So please enjoy reading this edition of the Lion’s Roar!

Upon starting as Superintendent in June it was evident that we needed to provide clarity to our staff and administration as to what our goals for this school year would be. Working collaboratively with the administration and the Board we were able to assign roles to the administrative team and create and assign members to board and Superintendent sub committees. This structure has now allowed us to begin the development and implementation of the following plans outlined below.

Strategic Plan - Committee has met and determined the current plan (2016) needs to be revised to reflect our current goals and aspirations.	➔ We will meet again beginning in March 2019. <i>We need community members to serve on this committee.</i>
District Operational Plan - The District is following the Ohio Improvement Process as a guide for putting our Operational Plan in place. The Administration has built our Leadership Teams. We have also created the Curriculum Leadership Team (CLT) to act as the monitor over the Teacher and Building teams. The CLT will also be responsible for researching and then providing curriculum adoption recommendations.	All teams are actively meeting. ➔ District and Building Operational Goals are being created and will become part of the basis for the District Vision set by the District Strategic Planning Team.
Capital Outlay Plan - Sub Committee prioritized facility needs. The plan was approved by the Board of Education in November.	➔ Replacement of all building roofs to occur in May. New bus ordered. New English curriculum to be adopted by May.
Communication Plan - Sub Committee to meet in early February.	➔ Clear plan implemented starting May 2019.
Professional Development Plan - Professional development now flows through our Curriculum Director to insure PD is aligned to our building and district goals.	➔ PD plan is in place for this school year. Key PD provided will insure that all teachers will be gifted service providers and most staff are trained in student restraint and de-escalation.
Technology Plan - We recently installed a new Technology Director who is working to develop a technology plan for the district.	➔ Technology infrastructure upgrades as well as new technology tools for students are to be acquired this school year.

Another critical team that has met several times is the **Safety Committee**. The team, comprised of employees, board members and first responders, is assigned the task of reviewing our crisis response protocols, evaluating the results of our drills and discussing new measures we can put in place to insure the safety of our students, staff and guests.

A change you may have noticed is that we have blocked off access to the drop off areas in front of the high school and middle school during evening events. The reason for the change is to insure that first responders can quickly gain access to our buildings during these events. We are installing signage that will notify guests that it is a no parking area. Once signs are in place we will remove the barricades so guests again can be dropped off. However, parking will not be permitted in these areas.

The Safety Committee is also exploring the use of a non-lethal deterrent for intruders who wish to do harm to our students and staff. The committee is considering the use of a pepper spray deterrent that has proven to be very effective.

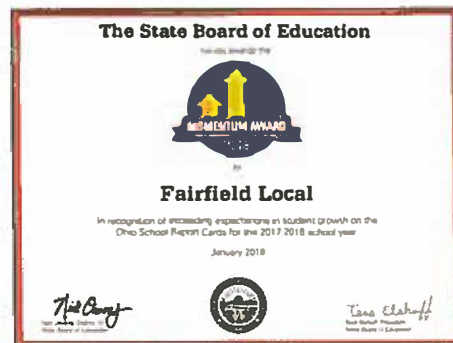
If you have any questions about the school and our operations or if you have a group who would like to have me come and speak on activities at the school please feel free to call or email me at tim.dettwiller@fairfield.k12.oh.us

Again, I am so excited to work with a great group of educators, in a wonderful community, dedicated to the education of their children.

MOMENTUM AWARD

The Momentum Award is presented by the State Board of Education and recognizes schools for exceeding expectations in student growth for the year. Schools must earn straight A's on all Value-Added measures on the report card. The school or district must have at least two Value-Added subgroups of students, which includes gifted, lowest 20% in achievement, and students with disabilities.

Our district is one of only 70 schools in Ohio to receive this Award.



iBELIEVE / PBIS

Submitted by: Denise Mootz, Assistant Principal

As the 5th through 12th grade Assistant Principal, I am excited to be the person in charge of the sophomore iBELIEVE group. The iBELIEVE Foundation strives to provide opportunities to Appalachian youth for the development of 21st century skills such as leadership, communication and problem solving. The Fairfield iBELIEVE group is comprised of 7 sophomores chosen through teacher recommendations last spring. These seven students



attended a leadership training in Tennessee last summer. Our iBELIEVE group is working with the sophomore class creating a mentoring program for our fifth graders. A retreat was held prior to Christmas and each sophomore

was paired with a fifth grader to implement a mentorship experience. This mentorship experience will continue throughout the school year and beyond. Additionally, Fairfield High School was the only high school chosen in the region to host an iSERVE event. iSERVE is the iBELIEVE Foundation's proactive Global Youth Service Day initiative. On April 6th Fairfield High School will host a food packing event that will focus on increasing youth and community engagement and promote the awareness of food insecurity in the region.

For more information on the iBELIEVE Foundation, please visit theibelievefoundation.org

Another initiative that will be rolled out next school year in grades 5-12 is PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports). PBIS is an implementation framework for maximizing the selection and use of evidence-based prevention and interventions practices that support the academic, social, emotional, and behavioral supports of all students. Myself, three middle school teachers, 3 high school teachers and Sherri Helterbrand from Region 14 ESC have been working collaboratively to plan this roll-out. On February 4th we will roll-out a pilot version of PBIS focusing on positive behaviors in the auditoria during lunch. Positive behaviors will be acknowledged with various incentives.

HIGH SCHOOL

Submitted by: Steve Hackett, Principal

The first half of this school year has seen numerous accomplishments by our students. From the State Cross Country Team to the individual academic achievements by our students. Our students and faculty strive each day to achieve excellence in education. We are very proud of our student body and appreciate the hard work and respect that is shown each day.

We are in the process of preparing our students for state testing and have implemented an intervention class for the second semester. After evaluating past performance we have designed the class to provide additional help to students in the subject areas that are state tested. We have also included a Math Tutor three days a week to work with those students that need additional help in math.

Our Juniors have recently taken a practice ACT Test to help prepare them for the state funded ACT Test in the spring. We will also have a one-day workshop for all juniors in February to further prepare them for the ACT. We have also given our students the PSAT and ASVAB Tests.

For FREE ACT practice tests and more information, please visit www.march2success.com

We are proud of the academic achievements of our students as evident by the following accomplishments:

- 33 students are receiving College Credit Plus Credits by taking a CCP class here at FHS
- 6 of our students made the Cross-Country Academic All-Ohio Team.
- One of our students won the Red Ribbon Week Essay Contest for the region.
- 43 students received all A's for the 1st quarter.
- 94 student received all A's and B's for the 1st quarter.



We are working on expanding our selection of class offerings for next school year by utilizing on-line classes that may be taken here at school. All of our seniors are on track to graduate this year and we will continue to monitor their progress throughout the remainder of the school year.

A great resource for students preparing for graduation is: <https://jobseeker.ohiomeansjobs.monster.com>. This website offers information on practice interviews, scholarship opportunities and career planning.

The High School has also implemented a Building Leadership Team made up of administration and teachers to ensure building and district goals are being met. We will be meeting on a regular basis to monitor progress and ensure we are providing the best education for our students.

Our faculty and staff continue to do a wonderful job and we cannot say enough about our students and the enjoyment of working with them each and every day. **GO LIONS!**

Interesting Fact: Fairfield High School has 17 teachers and 4 educational aides! There are currently 299 students enrolled. 261 attend classes at Fairfield High School and 38 are attending JVS or CCP classes full-time.



Our amazing student section at a HS boys' basketball game!

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Submitted by: Deanne Miller, Principal

Fairfield Middle School was recently recognized by the State Board of Education for achieving an Overall A on the 2017-2018 Ohio School's Report Card. FMS is 1 of 310 Schools in Ohio that received this award. This recognition highlights the hard work and dedication of the Middle School Staff and Students! Congratulations FMS!!!



In December, the Middle School Band and Choir students presented a Winter Concert led by Music Director, Mr. DiLuciano. Each grade level worked diligently prior to the concert. All in attendance enjoyed several musical selections that kicked-off the Holiday season. Thank you Mr. DiLuciano and Students for presenting a wonderful concert.

Student Recognitions:

Ms. Sydney Hooper, 7th grade student, was selected as the Fairfield Middle School essay winner for Highland County's Red Ribbon Week. This year's theme was "Life is Your Journey, Travel Drug Free".



In January, Fairfield Middle School students participated in our annual Spelling Bee. Sydney Hooper placed first and Abby Monson placed second. Sydney will have the opportunity to participate in the Regional Scripp's Spelling Bee in March.

Fairfield Middle School staff and students have completed a very successful 1st semester of the 2018/2019 school year. Students have welcomed new teaching staff members, adjusted to the new "block" scheduling and course offerings, and continued to excel in athletics.

Overall, our fall sports teams were very successful! The Boys Cross County Teams finished first in the SHAC League and the girls finished second. The 8th grade volleyball went undefeated on the season and won the SHAC 8th grade volleyball tournament. To date, the Boys and Girls basketball teams have had successful seasons with a high percentage of wins. Keep up the hard work and dedication to your sports!

Interesting Fact: Fairfield Middle School has 14 teachers and 2 educational aides! There are currently 310 students enrolled in grades 5-8.

WHAT'S COOKIN' IN THE KITCHEN?

Submitted by: Mary Beth Craycraft, Head Cook

This school year has been fun and very eventful in the kitchen. From taste testing, monthly prize days, to new items on the menu, we have made many changes and are looking forward to more in the future as well.

During our Christmas break we did some equipment swapping. With the new arrangement, 3rd & 4th graders are now able to serve their own fruit and vegetables. Along with this change, grades 3-12 are now offered a variety of fresh fruits, salad, and fresh vegetables on a daily basis. K-2nd grade are offered these items as well, just on limited days.



Starting affect 2/11/19, the USDA is lifting the amount of whole grain we have to serve our students. What does this mean? Our students will still be served a nutritious meal, but our options on what we are able to serve will be broader. We are super excited for this and are looking forward to new menu items.

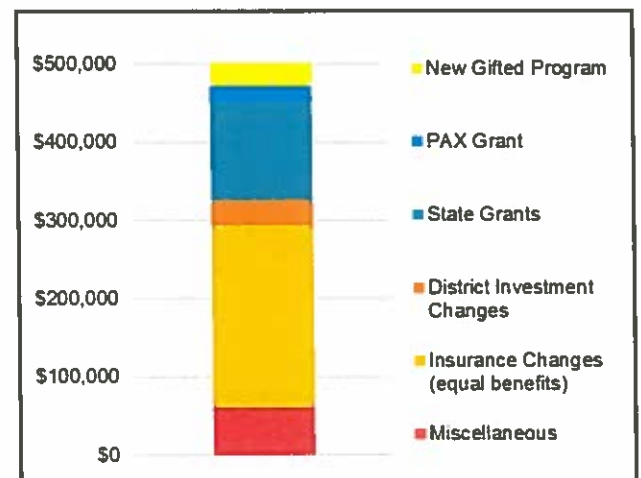
All of the changes (and more to come!) would not have happened without a great kitchen staff. Please thank them for all they do. Without them the options and service for our school would not be as great as it is. Thank you for your continued patience and support for the kitchen. We hope to report more great news in the future.

TREASURER'S UPDATE

Submitted by: Mike Morrow, CPA, Treasurer

I am excited to announce that the Administration and Board of Education worked to achieve over \$500,000 in cost savings and extra income for the 2018-2019 school year.

This was a team effort, and it goes a long way in meeting the needs of our students.



EVERY day is a GREAT day to be a Fairfield LION!

Upcoming Important Dates

2/15..... No School - In-Service	4/22 No School - Spring Break
2/18..... No School - Pres. Day	5/6 HS Concert
2/21..... P/T Conferences	5/7 MS Concert
3/5..... HS Concert	5/11 Alumni Banquet
3/15..... HS Musical	5/15 Music Banquet
3/16..... HS Musical	5/17 FFA Banquet
4/3..... Kindergarten Registration	5/22 Kindergarten Program
4/18..... No School - Spring Break	5/24 Last Day for Students
4/19..... No School - Spring Break	5/26 Graduation

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Submitted by: Mendy Hamilton, Special Education Director

All Special Education Students have completed a Transition Pre-Assessment which is a 3-prong assessment evaluating their transition skills. A follow up assessment will be conducted after year one to determine program effectiveness of the services and activities that were implemented. Students have started instruction and services with high priorities in the following areas:

- Managing personal finances
- Selecting and managing a household
- Choosing and accessing transportation
- Knowing and exploring employment possibilities
- Exploring employment choices
- Seeking, securing, and maintaining employment
- Exhibiting appropriate employment skills
- Utilizing recreational facilities and engaging in leisure

Transition Services and Activities - Students went to the Samaritan Outreach in January and spoke to Program Director, Wade Hamilton on the effects of the Federal government shutdown and how it will impact Highland County. The Program Director discussed the food shortage that the Outreach Program will have if community members must go without Food Stamps in the month of February. The Director also explained the purpose of the Outreach Program and how families could receive assistance. Mr. Hamilton discussed how students could volunteer at Samaritan Outreach and gain hours toward their Community Service Graduation Component. (All Fairfield students are required to volunteer a minimum of 20 hours in the community to graduate.) Students in grades 8-12 also attended a trip to Kroger to explore employment options as well as to hear from employers on what employment skills are needed.

Students ended their trip at the YMCA where they learned about utilizing recreational facilities and engaging in leisure. All transition activities were funded by a grant. The grant also purchased 2 new Smartboards for and 44 laptops for student and staff use.

Autism Training Held August 2018 - Special Education Director, Mendy Hamilton held a training for Elementary and Middle School Staff on The Face of Autism. This course introduced participants to characteristics of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and dispelled common misconceptions through the experiences and perspectives of individuals on the autism spectrum.

Visual Communication Training Held August 2018 - Heidi Friend, Speech and Language Pathologist held a training for Intervention Specialists and Paraprofessionals on Visual Communication Supports. The purpose of the training was to train all special ed. staff on how to communicate with students who have communication deficits and the benefits of visual supports for all students.

Ocalicon—National Autism Conference
Fairfield Elementary School had two teachers (Mandi Jones and Staci Bales) along with Special Education Director (Mendy Hamilton) present along with Megan Trowbridge (ESC Employee) on Executive Dysfunction at the National Conference which was held in Columbus, Ohio.



Interesting Fact: Fairfield Local Schools currently provides special education services to 147 students. We have 17 special education staff members.

VAPING / JUULING

Submitted by: Tim Dettwiller, Superintendent

Vaping, also known as JUULing, is becoming more popular with youth in middle school and high school. Vaping means using an electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) or other vaping device. It is referred to as vaping because tiny puffs or clouds of vapor are produced when using the devices. E-cigarettes are battery powered and deliver nicotine through a liquid (called e-juice), which turns into a vapor when using the devices. The liquid comes in flavors, such as mint, fruit, and bubble gum, which appeal to kids. Youth often believe that the liquid used in vaping only contains water and flavoring and are unaware that it contains nicotine. Therefore, they may think vaping is less dangerous than using other tobacco products, such as cigarettes. The amount of nicotine in the liquid can be the same or even more than the amount found in cigarettes. Many types of e-cigarettes are available, but one popular brand is JUUL. JUUL is becoming more prevalent with youth in middle and high school because of its small size, and it looks like a USB device. When using a JUUL it is often referred to as JUULing.



JUULing is all the rage right now, and if you think it's only "those" type of kids who are vaping in place of cigarette smoking, you couldn't be further from the truth. Ask your teenagers right now if they know what JUULing is, and I guarantee you they'll tell you they've seen kids JUULing right in the middle of class without anyone even knowing they're doing it- including the teachers.

- JUUL devices look nothing like other vaping and e-cig devices
- JUULs are very small and look exactly like a USB drive, or a portable charging battery for smartphones.
- They can be inserted into a laptop's USB drive to charge
- JUUL come in a variety of flavored enhanced nicotine
- One JUUL pod contains the same amount of nicotine as a pack of cigarettes



In the first 6 months of this school year we have had 5 instances in which Fairfield students were caught with or using JUUL devices. In response the administrative team has planned an assembly with an outside expert who will communicate to our students the dangers of JUULing. We are also increasing the disciplinary response for a first time offense for possession or use of any smoking/vaping device to 3 days Out of School Suspension.

ELEMENTARY

Submitted by: Katie Streber, Principal

The Fairfield Elementary Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Team (PBIS) has been hard at work this school year. The team has spent the first half of the school year revamping our building-wide rules and expectations. In September, our PBIS Team was introduced to the PAX Good Behavior Game. We had the opportunity to visit Madison Plains Elementary and see the game in action. At the completion of our visit, we were excited about what we had observed. The consistency in expectations throughout the building and the positive atmosphere filled with respect made for a productive learning environment. Our team knew it was something we wanted to pursue.

The PAX Good Behavior Game is a research-based system that uses a preventative approach to teach students self-regulation, co-regulation, and self-control. PAX, Latin for peace, incorporates skills that are used to promote effective collaboration in order to create peace, productivity, health, and happiness into our daily lives.



PAX incorporates 11 evidence-based strategies called "Kernels" that work to prevent undesirable behavior. Some of these strategies include the PAX Vision, Granny's Wacky Prizes, Tootle Notes, and the PAX Game. The PAX Vision sets clear expectations by predicting behavior before it occurs. The PAX Game teaches self-regulation

through team competition and group rewards. Granny's Wacky Prizes are short, fun activities (Ex. Crazy Ball Toss and Skip Around the Room) that students participate in after winning a PAX Game. Tootle Notes are shout outs to others that are used to improve relationships and promote positive behavior. *For more information on the PAX Good Behavior game, visit <https://www.goodbehaviorgame.org/>*

Fairfield Elementary is excited to collaborate with Paint Valley ADAMH in order to offer any Highland County school the opportunity to participate in a one-day professional development on the PAX Good Behavior Game. On February 15th, all K-4 teachers will complete the initial teacher training in order to prepare for building wide implementation at the start of the 2019-2020 school year. Fairfield Elementary would like to thank Paint Valley ADAMH for fully funding this training and giving our district the opportunity to host. We look forward to the positive impact PAX will have to our already productive learning environment.

Interesting Fact: Fairfield Elementary has 26 teachers and 7 educational aides! There are currently 338 students enrolled in grades K-4.



January was School Board Appreciation Month. Pictured is our School Board with a sign made by Mrs. Campbell's 4th grade class.

NEW GIFTED MODEL

Submitted by: Kesia McCoy, Assistant Principal

Students who are gifted need differentiated curriculum and instruction and support services to fully develop their cognitive, academic, creative and artistic abilities or to excel in specific content areas. This includes opportunities to exceed grade-level academic indicators and benchmarks. Ohio defines a student who is gifted as one who "performs or shows potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared to others of their age, experience, or environment". Currently, Fairfield Local School District has identified 151 gifted students in one or more of the following ability areas:

- Superior cognitive ability
- Specific academic ability: reading/writing, mathematics, science, and social studies
- Creative thinking ability
- Visual and performing arts ability: dance, drama, music, and visual arts



To better serve all these students, Fairfield Local School Districts is providing gifted professional development to all our teachers. This year, teachers will participate in 15 hours of professional development in order to provide instructional services to our gifted students in the general education classroom. A few of the professional development topics that teachers have received professional development on is; identification of gifted students, characteristics of gifted students, and an introduction of lesson design. With this new gifted model, it is the goal of Fairfield Local Schools to not only identify gifted students, but to provide differentiated curriculum and instruction and support services to all students.

To learn more about gifted education and the Highly Qualified Professional Development that our teachers are receiving check out these websites: <http://oagc.com/HQPD.asp> or <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Other-Resources/Gifted-Education/>

SPRING TESTING SCHEDULE

Submitted by: Kesia McCoy, Curriculum Director

April 2: 7th ELA; 5th ELA	April 26: 8th Math, Algebra;
April 3: 7th ELA; 5th ELA	5th Math, Biology
April 4: 8th ELA; 3rd ELA	April 29: 7th Math; 6th Math
April 5: 8th ELA; 3rd ELA	April 30: 7th Math; 6th Math;
April 9: 6th ELA, ELA I	3rd Math, Am. History
April 10: 6th ELA, ELA I	May 1: 5th, 8th Science;
April 11: 4th ELA, ELA II	3rd Math, Am. History
April 12: 4th ELA, ELA II	May 2: 4th Math; 5th Science;
April 15: Make-Up Testing	8th Science
April 16: Make-Up Testing	May 3: Government, 4th Math
April 17: Make-Up Testing	May 6: Geometry, Algebra
April 25: 8th Math, Algebra;	May 7: Geometry, Algebra
5th Math, Biology	

To reduce stress and anxiety on test days, make sure your child sleeps well the night before, eats a smart breakfast in the morning and wears comfortable clothes to school.

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***MISSION STATEMENT** As a part of a rural community rich in traditional values, our mission is to enable each individual to reach his/her highest potential to succeed in an ever-changing global society by providing the highest level of academic instruction in a safe, positive learning environment.*

TRANSPORTATION

Submitted by: Clint Shoemaker, Coordinator

First, I would like to thank all of our drivers. Whether its in a van or a bus, our drivers safely transport our students to/from school and school events. Their flexibility and dedication is very much appreciated!



Other items:

- The trip and sub pay rate went up - from \$11.44 to \$13.25 per hour effective 1/7/19
- We have implemented a new bus rotation - buses over 15 years old will be retired
- We currently have 4 propane buses in our fleet with a 5th one expected to arrive the end of April. A \$13,000 grant helped with the most recent purchases.
- The propane bus we will be receiving in April will be the 2nd new bus put on the road during this school year.
- **WE ARE HIRING SUBS!** Please call 937-780-2221 if you are interested in being a sub bus or van driver.

Interesting Fact: Fairfield has 8 buses and 3 vans on the roads every day! The total daily miles driven is 1,049.

ATHLETICS

Submitted by: Denise Mootz, Assistant Principal

I would like to congratulate senior athletes who have recently signed with various schools to compete in college athletics. Bennett Hodson signed at Kentucky Christian University to run track and cross country. Kaiti White signed with the University of Cumberlands to play softball. Brandtson Duffie signed with Lehigh University to run track and cross country.

I would also like to congratulate the following coaches and athletes for SHAC honors:



Kamryn Magee - SHAC Volleyball Player of the Year
Brandtson Duffie - SHAC Cross Country Runner of the Year
Lesley Hattan - SHAC Volleyball Coach of the Year
Raymond Friend - SHAC Boys Cross Country Coach of the Year

As most of you are aware, our high school boys' cross country team finished 6th place at the state cross country meet! Kudos to everyone involved on another exceptional season!

Interesting Fact: 266 Fairfield Middle and High School students participate in fall and winter sports!