

**FORT RECOVERY SCHOOLS**  
**400 E. BUTLER ST.**  
**FORT RECOVERY, OH 45846**

NON-PROFIT-ORGANIZATION  
US Postage Paid  
Fort Recovery, OH 45846  
Permit # 15

# Fort Site Journal

**January 2025**

Happy New Year! I hope this edition of the Fort Site Journal finds you and your January, 2025 family well and enjoying a great start to the new year. As we transition into 2025, I would like to draw your attention to our updated district goals for 2025 and beyond. Previously, our district goals were outlined in our Culture & Commitment Guide that expired in the fall of 2024. Collectively, our district and community has made great strides toward our goals. Our overall performance index (or overall performance on state tests) has improved over the past few years and our district was awarded five stars on our most recent state report card. However, there is still much to accomplish as a district and our staff has been working hard to revamp our new district goals for the future. These new goals focus on the following areas: Academic Achievement, Fiscal Accountability, Student Engagement, and Climate & Culture. Through working with our district leadership team, board members, and staff, we have updated our district Culture & Commitment Guide for the next three school years. This document outlines our district mission, highlights our important values, and provides a “roadmap” for our goals. We will continue to communicate and promote our progress toward these objectives. In the meantime, I encourage you to check them out on our district website. You can view the updated documents on [fortrecoveryschools.org](https://fortrecoveryschools.org) by clicking the “District” tab at the top and scrolling to the “Culture & Commitment Guide”.

A major stakeholder in the goal setting process is our district school board and I would be remiss if I did not mention that January is School Board Recognition Month in Ohio. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize our board members for their dedication and commitment to the district and our students. School board members give the community a voice in education decision-making, adopt district policies, and help set the direction for our district. Even though we make a special effort to show our appreciation in January, their contribution is a year-round commitment. Please thank our board members and let them know we support them and appreciate their service to our district! Our current board members are Don Wendel, Sean Kahlig, Nick Wehrkamp, Greg LeFevre, and Mitch Fullenkamp. Thank you!

Thank you for your continued support of Fort Recovery Local Schools and go Indians!

Tony Stahl  
Superintendent  
[stahl@fortrecoveryschools.org](mailto:stahl@fortrecoveryschools.org)  
419-375-4139  
Twitter - @FRLS\_Indians





# FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful and blessed holiday season. We are excited to get the second semester underway here in the high school. A lot of great events are going on this time of year, including basketball games, swim meets, bowling matches, band/choir concerts, drama performances, and even wrestling matches as FRHS's newest sport option has begun. We love seeing the community attend these events and the students certainly appreciate the support.

Here at FRHS, as students progress through their high school years, two critical metrics often come into focus: Grade Point Average (GPA) and Class Rank. These benchmarks not only reflect academic achievement, but also play a vital role in shaping future opportunities. Understanding their significance and how they are calculated can empower students to make informed decisions about their high school journey.

GPA serves as a numeric representation of a student's academic performance across all classes. It's a cumulative measure, meaning every grade earned contributes to this key metric. On the other hand, Class Rank is a weighted calculation of a student's GPA, number of honors courses taken, ACT score, and total credits earned in comparison to their peers, offering a unique perspective of their academic standing. Together, these metrics paint a picture of a student's academic success.

Why do GPA and Class Rank matter? Beyond personal accomplishment, these measures can open doors to scholarships, honors, and post-secondary opportunities. For example, the Ohio Governor's Merit Scholarship is a \$20,000 scholarship awarded annually to the top 5% of seniors based on Class Rank at every high school in the state. Therefore, achieving a solid Class Rank can significantly ease the financial burden of college, making it a goal worth striving for.

It's important to note that the Class Rank calculation formula underwent a change for the Class of 2026 and beyond. This means this year's seniors have their Class Rank calculated differently than underclassmen. The updated formula places more of an emphasis on a student's GPA, but still factors in honors courses, ACT score, and total credits. Having a clear understanding of how the calculation works is essential for students planning their schedules and choosing classes.

For detailed information on how to calculate GPA and Class Rank, be sure to check out the "How to Calculate Your GPA & Class Rank" link on Mrs. Kaiser's Guidance Homepage on the FRHS tab of the district website. This resource provides step-by-step guidance for calculating these measures.

If you have questions or are a parent wanting personalized advice, don't hesitate to reach out to Mrs. Kaiser. She's here to help navigate this important aspect of a student's high school experience. Remember, GPA and Class Rank are more than numbers—they are keys to unlocking a child's potential and paving the way for future success.

Ryan Steinbrunner, HS Principal  
[steinbrunnerr@fortrecoveryschools.org](mailto:steinbrunnerr@fortrecoveryschools.org)  
419-375-4111

X (Twitter) - @FRHSPrincipal  
Facebook - @FRHighSchool



## **Dates to Remember**

**Jan. 11** - Student Spirit Bus to Bowling Match @ Celina  
**Jan. 17** - Student Appreciation Night (Boys' Basketball)  
**Jan. 17** - Shane Long/Traveling Tribe Sausage Supper  
**Jan. 20** - No School (MLK Day)  
**Jan. 25** - Student Spirit Bus to Swim Meet @ Jay County  
**Jan. 27** - Class Scheduling Begins for 25-26 School Year  
**Jan. 31** - Boys' Basketball Senior Night  
**Feb. 4** - CC+ Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
**Feb. 6** - Girls' Basketball and Swim Senior Night  
**Feb. 9** - Band Concert  
**Feb. 14** - No School (Staff PD)  
**Feb. 17** - No School (Presidents' Day)  
**Feb. 18-21** - FFA Week  
**Feb. 21-23** - HS Drama Presentation



## FRHS Guidance News

### College Credit Options Meeting

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

7:00 p.m.

HS Community Room

Learn how to earn college credit while in high school

MANDATORY for student + parent if they intend to take college classes  
off-site or online (WSU, Edison, Rhodes, etc.) next year

OPTIONAL for students taking CC+ courses at FRHS (and those currently  
enrolled in off-site/online CC+ this year)

Students must declare their intent to participate  
in College Credit Plus by April 1



### Call for Local Scholarships

Organizations, families, or individuals wishing to award a scholarship this year should contact Amy Kaiser at the high school 419-375-4111 or [kaisera@fortrecoveryschools.org](mailto:kaisera@fortrecoveryschools.org) by February 3

We encourage students to...



Job Shadow days do not count as absences  
(pending proper paperwork).

STOP BY THE GUIDANCE OFFICE  
TO LEARN MORE

HS Students  
will be selecting  
their 2025-26  
classes in  
February

Registration  
materials  
coming soon!

*IT'S SCHOLARSHIP TIME!*

### READ THE GUIDANCE & SCHOLARSHIP NEWSLETTER

It has LOTS of useful information for  
students and parents

available at school and on the FRLS website  
(High School > Guidance Homepage)

### How will my College Credits Transfer?

[Transferology.com](http://Transferology.com) is a website that allows  
you to "build your list" of college credits  
earned through CC+ classes and AP exams.

Students can then find equivalent courses  
at participating colleges.

A Transferology handout with instructions  
is available on the HS Guidance Homepage  
(under "Informative Links").

### FRHS will offer the ACT at no cost to Juniors on March 11, 2025

Students will register and receive more details at school.

*Good luck!*



#### ACT National Test Dates

February 8  
April 5  
June 14  
July 12

#### Registration Deadlines

January 3  
February 28  
May 9  
June 6

Register online at [myACT.org](http://myACT.org)

FRHS CEEB Code is 362165



2025-26 Applications were due January 15  
Program rosters will be released in early February  
See Mrs. Kaiser if you still wish to apply

## THANK YOU

*for your support*

FBLA and HS Student Council would like to thank everyone who had a part in the success of Adopt-a-Family this year. Without pie sales, support from local businesses and individuals, and the nominations of deserving families, this project would not be the great success it is every year. Because of all of you, the spirit of Christmas is kept alive.







# FR ATHLETICS

## NEWS

### FR ATHLETICS CULTURE



Fort Recovery Schools and the student-athletes participating in our events thank you for your tremendous support! Let's remember to not only respect the participants and coaches but also the contest officials and administrators involved in this event. Let's act with dignity, speak with courtesy and play with pride! On behalf of everyone participating in our contests, please remember to **Respect the Game!**

### DATES TO REMEMBER

#### Sports Physicals

Must be turned in to practice/play

#### Winter Senior Nights

January 31- Boys Basketball & Cheer

February 6- Girls Basketball and Swim

#### Free Student Attendance

January 14- Community Club Night

January 17- Student Appreciation Night

#### Athletic Booster HOF Night

January 25- Ceremony and Booster Bash

### STUDENT ATTENDANCE

We continue to encourage and promote the attendance of the entire student body at FRLS. It is important to keep a safe and respectful environment for our home and away events.

1. Respect shall be shown during the National Anthem. Hats off and face the flag!
2. Good Sportsmanship should be displayed at ALL times! Watch BOTH teams introductions!
3. School rules (including disciplinary consequences) apply at all after school events.

### FORT RECOVERY ATHLETIC BOOSTERS HALL OF FAME

Scan the QR code to nominate someone today!







# FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

The first semester of the school year has officially ended and the school year is halfway complete. It really is hard to believe how quickly this first half of the school year has passed us by. The students have been doing a great job working hard in school thus far. On January 30th any middle school students who qualified for the first-semester incentive will be getting out of school for the day to go ice skating in Troy at Hobart Arena. This is just a small token of our appreciation for their hard work throughout the semester. Congratulations to all of the students who qualified!

An integral part of the Middle School is the involvement of our students in the planning of activities within the building. This past month the students have had some awesome new ideas that they've acted upon. The Student Council developed Student Appreciation Nights for a few of our Junior High Boys' and Girls' Basketball games where door prizes are given away, students dress up to a theme, and/or students get in free to watch the game! Some of these Student Appreciation Nights have already been held, and some are coming up on January 16th (Girls' vs. South Adams) and February 3rd (Boys' vs. Versailles). Please consider coming to these and all games as well to help support our JH Basketball teams! The Student Council also planned grade level competitions that were held the day before Christmas break, giving the students a chance to interact and compete with their classmates in some fun-filled challenges. The Student Council also participated in the Operation Christmas Child where they filled over 100 boxes that were shipped to different countries around the world.

The boys' and girls' basketball seasons are coming to a close soon as well. The teams have been hard at work all season long. I would like to thank Valerie Alig and Kendyl Mick, Jordan Winner, and Justin Overman for coaching our student athletes this year. The skills, knowledge, and teamwork qualities they have instilled in these young men and women will last a lifetime. I would also like to thank Jennifer Steinke for coaching our JH Cheerleaders this year as well as High School!

Please follow Fort Recovery Middle School on Facebook to see highlights of our students' work. These kids are doing AMAZING things, and our Facebook page is an excellent resource for recognizing these students' achievements.

Holly Gann  
Middle School Principal  
gannh@fortrecoveryschools.org  
(419) 375 - 2815 ext. 301



## Dates to Remember

**Jan. 10** - Report Cards Are Ready  
**Jan. 17** - HS Boys Basketball Student Appreciation Night  
**Jan. 20** - Martin Luther King Day- No School  
**Jan. 22** - MS Club and Candid Picture Day  
**Jan. 30** - Ice Skating Incentive for Grades 6th-8th  
**Jan. 31** - Carson Hinzman Assembly  
**Feb. 3** - Third Nine Weeks Interims  
**Feb. 7** - District Pep Rally  
**Feb. 14** - Professional Development Day - No School  
**Feb. 17** - Presidents Day - No School





# FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Happy New Year from the staff and students at Fort Recovery Elementary School! We are halfway through our school year. A paper copy of student grade cards for the second nine weeks will be coming home around January 10, so please make sure to check your child's progress with grades. If you need assistance with accessing your child's grades online throughout the school year, please call the elementary office and we will be happy to help.

Kindergarten registration for the 2025-2026 school year is approaching quickly! To be eligible for Fort Recovery kindergarten for next school year, children must turn 5 years old on or before August 1, 2025. We will be working with Fort Recovery Public Preschool, Mercer County ESC Preschool, and Mercer County Head Start to gather information about students who will be ready for kindergarten in the fall. If your child attends one of these preschools, they will share your child's kindergarten readiness information with you and with Fort Recovery Elementary School. If your child does not attend one of these preschools, please contact the Fort Recovery Elementary office to schedule a conference to visit the school and determine your child's readiness skills.

At this time, our first step in preparing for next year's kindergarten class is to compile a list of potential kindergarten students. If you have a current preK student, please complete the form sent home with your child and return to your child's preschool or the Fort Recovery Elementary office no later than February 7, 2025, or scan the QR code and complete the form online. Additional information and forms will be sent home or mailed to students planning to enroll in kindergarten at the beginning of March. Transitioning to kindergarten is a big step, so please reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns. We hope to help ease the transition for parents and children as much as possible.

Thank you for supporting our staff and students as we work together to provide a strong foundation for our Fort Recovery kids!

Laura Brandt, FRES Principal  
brandtl@fortrecoveryschools.org  
(419) 375-2768 ext. 201



## Dates to Remember

**Jan. 10** - Grade cards sent home  
**Jan. 13** - Student Council Meeting, 3:30-4:30  
**Jan. 20** - MLK Day, No School  
**Jan. 23** - Grades 3-5 Book Club, 3:30-4:30  
**Feb. 9** - 5th Grade Band Concert  
**Feb. 10** - Student Council Meeting, 3:30-4:30  
**Feb. 14-17** - No school for students  
**Feb. 20** - Grades 3-5 Book Club, 3:30-4:30



## **Cents for Sawyer**

This school year, 2024-2025, Sawyer Overman would have been in his final year of Elementary School as a fifth grader. To help remember him, the Elementary Student Council sponsored a "Cents for Sawyer" fundraiser in November. (November 4th was Sawyer's birthday). Students in Preschool through grades 5 were encouraged to do extra chores at home and bring any amount of money they wish to donate in Sawyer's honor. All money raised will be donated to the Overman family as they continue on the Sawyer Overman Ninja Park construction at the Pool Park. The Elementary was able to raise over \$8,000 in his memory! WOW! The class in each grade level that brought in the most money received a pizza party! The overall class in the entire elementary with the most money brought in, also earned extra recess!





## FFA News

### ATMS Team Places 1st in State

The Ag Technical & Mechanical Systems team recently placed first in the state of Ohio. The team was tested in welding, electrical, mechanics, construction, fertilizer application, differential leveling, maintenance and more. Team members were Luke Fortkamp, Alex Gaerke, Riley Grieshop and Kyle Huntsman. The team will advance to nationals next October and represent the state of Ohio. Well done.

### Top Fruit Sellers Announced

The FFA would like to announce the top fruit sellers this year. 1st place-Riley Stammen, 2nd place-Amber Timmerman and 3rd place-Hannah Ervin. Thanks to all FFA members for selling.

### Industrial Tech Projects

Students in Industrial Tech have been busy making signs to take home for Christmas. Awesome job students.

### Gingerbread House Night

The FFA sponsored the Gingerbread House Family Night with much success. Thanks to all that attended as well as the FFA members who assisted with this event.



## Fort Recovery FFA Members Attend the 97<sup>th</sup> National FFA Convention

Eighteen members of the Fort Recovery FFA Chapter attended the 97<sup>th</sup> National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana the week of October 22-25, 2024. Nearly 75,000 FFA members representing all 50 states were in attendance. The National FFA Convention is held annually to highlight and award member success through the FFA and agricultural education. Those in attendance were the best and the brightest young minds in the field of agriculture.

The Fort Recovery FFA Chapter had six students, Elizabeth Alig, Ethan Evers, Emma Keller, Alayna Laux, Megan Metzger, and Miranda Metzger receive their American FFA Degree; the highest degree a member can receive. These six members make up a total of 130 members that have ever received the prestigious American FFA Degree in the history of the Fort Recovery FFA Chapter. Elizabeth is the daughter of Randy and Barb Alig, Ethan is the son of Alan and Kate Evers, Emma is the daughter of Chuck and Terri Keller, Alayna is the daughter of Travis and Stacy Laux, and Megan and Miranda are the daughters of Mark and Kim Metzger.

The weeklong trip was packed with convention sessions, educational tours, and lots of fun. Tours included Champion Homes, Formula Boat, Keystone RV, Brock Grain Bins, Apache Sprayer Factory, and the Southside Landfill.

The weeklong trip allowed students to return home with long lasting memories, experiences, and deep ties to agriculture.

The Fort Recovery FFA Chapter would like to send a special thank you to the school board members, administration, and staff for allowing this trip to be possible.



### Middle School Spelling Bee News

Congratulations to all of our participants in the district spelling bee on December 18, 2024. A special congratulations to Jesse Homan, Logan Gaerke, and Kayla Dues for qualifying for the county spelling bee in March. Kayla Dues was our champion and also will compete in the regional bee in March as well.



## SADD Activities

The High School SADD and Middle School SADD Jr clubs have had a busy couple of months. On November 7th, the groups packaged and sold 500 barbeque chicken dinners! The proceeds from this fundraiser allow them to do several activities throughout the year. On November 15th, a Game Night was held in the High School Commons for all members in grades 6-8. Over 50 students spent the evening hours playing various card games, board games, dodgeball and kickball. On Thursday, December 12th, members came together in the High School Community Room to decorate Christmas Cookies and enjoyed classic Christmas movies. Friday, December 13th, a Christmas Lights Bus Tour took members to Van Wert and Mercer County Fairgrounds for their drive through Christmas Light experiences. The two clubs have a collective membership of 86 students and they're looking forward to several more activities during the second half of the year, including their annual Fun Night!



## College Visit for FTA

On Friday, December 6th, the FTA went on a college visit to Ball State where they learned more about pursuing a career as a teacher, social worker, speech pathologist, and other related professions. They listened to eye opening presentations about different career opportunities and overall life while attending Ball State. Tour guides led them through campus as they shared their personal experiences of the college. The students visited the dorms, classrooms, common rooms, and even ate lunch in the dining hall. The trip was deemed a success!

Our 5th graders participated in the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program and held a special graduation ceremony that included student speakers as well as a K9 demonstration to celebrate their hard work.



In December, FRES held an assembly to celebrate our character word of the month, "empathy." Empathy is understanding and connecting to other people's feelings. We had a lot of students who demonstrate empathy at school, and we were happy to honor them.





## Scho Bo Highlights

The FRHS Scholastic Bowl team had a slow start, but improved a great deal this season to end on a high note. Members of this year's team included: seniors Ben Reinhard (Captain), Drew Backs, Ava Englehardt, Caden Marchal, and Tucker Brockman, juniors Elisa Evers, Eli Hawk, and Jameson Heitkamp, sophomores Grace Lochtefeld, Jennifer Wendel, and Cara Shoemaker, and freshmen Hoyt Schmitz, Kendall Ranly, and Maddie Weigel. At the end of the regular season, the Varsity team tied for 3rd place overall of the ten participating schools. For the MAC tournament, which is sponsored by Mercer Savings Bank, Ben Reinhard, Drew Backs, Ava Englehardt, Elisa Evers, Eli Hawk, Jameson Heitkamp, Jennifer Wendel, and Hoyt Schmitz represented the Varsity team. They placed 5th overall (missing 4th place by just one point) and brought home \$100 in prize winnings. The JV team tied for 2nd overall at the end of the regular season. The team was represented by Grace Lochtefeld, Cara Shoemaker, Jennifer Wendel, Hoyt Schmitz, Maddie Weigel, and Tucker Brockman in their respective tournament in which they placed 3rd overall.

The team will travel to Wright State- Lake Campus on March 3rd for one more tournament. They also plan to hold another Community Trivia Nite on a date to be determined in the spring to help raise funds for scholarships and to bring fun academic competition to businesses and families in the community.



### Varsity Scholastic Bowl Tournament Team:

L to R = Back: Mercer Savings rep. Lydia Miller, Jameson Heitkamp, Eli Hawk, Ben Reinhard, Drew Backs, Ava Englehardt, Elisa Evers, Coach Marcia Weigel; Front: Hoyt Schmitz, Jennifer Wendel.



### JV Scholastic Bowl Tournament Team:

L to R: Grace Lochtefeld, Tucker Brockman, Cara Shoemaker, Hoyt Schmitz, Jennifer Wendel, and Maddie Weigel.

## VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest Winners



6th grade Winners: Garrett Siefring and Anna Niekamp. (shown with Laura Boeckman and Commander Joe Cain of Ft. Recovery VFW Post 6515)

7th grade Winners: Katelyn Siefring and Gavin Willmann. These students were also chosen as the two district winners.

8th grade Winners: Ella Hahn and Addie Jutte.



# Fort Recovery Academic Booster Club

## *Annual Pork Chop Dinner*



Thursday, March 13th  
4:00-6:00 PM

\$10.00 per meal - PRESALE ONLY  
(Purchase tickets by March 1st)

Drive Thru Pick up at the FRES PreK/K entrance

*Catered by Wendel's BBQ* - (Meal includes: Pork chop, baked potato, applesauce & roll)

Proceeds benefit: *FR HS/MS SADD Clubs & the Academic Booster Club*

Tickets are available from any HS or MS SADD member  
or in any of the school building offices

Make checks payable to: **Ft. Recovery Academic Booster Club**



Fort Recovery  
Local Schools

### Preschool Registration

*Available March 10, 2025  
at 8:00 a.m.*

Mark your calendars and do not miss registering your child for the upcoming school year. The link for registration will be on the Fort Recovery Preschool's website.

## Thank You from the Committee

The Fort Recovery Historical Society & Project Recovery One-of-a-Kind committee would like to thank our community and our merchants for their continued support of the One-of-a-Kind Auction. From donating items for the raffle, silent auction, live auction, side raffles or your monetary donation, none of this would happen without you.

We are very excited to say that this year's fundraising campaign was an overwhelming success. The community response to bidding on big or small items resulted in over \$40,000 profit which will provide the Historical Society and Project Recovery's funding for facility maintenance and operations / programs. Such success wouldn't have been possible without our community and merchants participation, and so we are writing to express our deep gratitude for your commitment and vision to Fort Recovery and the history of our small but mighty community.

Planning will begin in early summer for the 2025 auction and we are hopeful that you will continue to support this important fundraiser in support of our local historical facilities.

Thanks again! Randy & Mary Diller - Auction Chairmen



**BETTER TODAY  
THAN YOU WERE  
YESTERDAY, BETTER  
TOMORROW  
THAN YOU  
WERE TODAY**



Fort Recovery  
Local Schools



**Fort Recovery Local Schools**  
**400 E. Butler Street**  
**Fort Recovery, Ohio 45846**