

Dear Families, Students, and Community Members,

As our 2023-2024 school year comes to a close, I want to congratulate all of our families, staff, and students on your extraordinary accomplishments this year! Education is truly a team sport, and the combined efforts of our supportive families and talented staff members help provide great educational opportunities and experiences for our students. Thank you to all!

Additionally, I would like to personally thank everyone as well for their kindness, patience, and support as I navigated through my first school year as superintendent. I have a long way to go in my own personal development in my new position and could not have done it without the support of our exceptional staff, hard working students, and wonderful families.

Looking ahead to summer, there is much work to be done prior to welcoming students back in August. Along with the normal maintenance and cleaning duties, our technology department will work to replace our aging high school paging system and prepare our district devices for student and staff use come August. Also, the district recently completed some site reviews with a local architectural/engineering firm and we will continue to analyze these results to determine a fiscally responsible and long-term maintenance plan for our district facilities. Lastly, we are excited to work with the athletic booster club and the family members of Joe Bruns as they have secured enough private donations to begin construction on an approximately 1,800 square foot turf putting green facility. This facility will be located near the baseball and softball complex and will provide a unique space for our student-athletes to practice their golf skills this fall. We certainly thank all those individuals who have donated to the project and look forward to working with the Joe Bruns family to complete this memorial project.

Finally, best of luck to our 77 graduating senior students who participated in our commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 19th. We wish them all the best with their future endeavors and thank them for their years of dedication and commitment to our school district. Good luck!

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

Tony Stahl Superintendent <u>stahlt@fortrecoveryschools.org</u> 419-852-4139 Twitter - @FRLS\_Indians

#### Dates to Remember

June 3 - Final Forms opens.July 1 - Final Forms due for all students requiring transportation.July 31 - Final Forms due for all Student Athletes.



# From the Treasurer: Did You Know? Your School District's Financial Support for Student Activities Explained!

Did you know that your school district supports student activities with funds from its general revenue but it has a limit set by Ohio Revised Code? This means that the board of education can use money from its general fund to support various programs like athletics, student clubs, and other student-based organizations, but the interesting fact is that there's a limit on how much money can be spent – it can't exceed five-tenths of one percent of the board's annual operating budget. Our annual operating budget is approximately eleven million dollars and that sets a limit of fifty-five thousand dollars to be allocated to athletics and student activities excluding coaches' salaries. The district supports and encourages student involvement in activities but it also needs to stay within the legal constraints to ensure responsible budgeting for long-term fiscal stability.

## 24-25 Transportation News

Bus routes will not be posted online this year. Beginning the week before school starts, your child's bus number, pick up time and drop off times will be listed on the transportation tab of your child's Final Forms account.

This is what it will look like:

Please complete all information below concerning your child's transportation to and from school. <u>This information is important for your child's safety.</u> <u>Please fill out all information accurately.</u>

NOTE: If updating the form mid-school-year, please also contact and alert your transportation administration.

Morning Bus #: 1 | Afternoon Bus #: 2

Morning Pickup Time: 8:00 | Afternoon Dropoff Time: 2:00

## Also, remember, these times are approximate.

Be sure to visit the transportation table at the open building night to get information on signing up for the Remind app if you haven't done it yet.

# You need to go online and update your child(ren)'s Final Forms by July 1st to be included in our routes.

## Summer Food Service Program

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 **1-866-3-HUNGRY (486479)**.

## Important Update on School Device Policy for Fort Recovery Schools Parents

Dear Parents,

As part of our commitment to enhancing the educational experience and security for all students at Fort Recovery Schools, we are making significant changes to our device policy for the upcoming school year. Here's everything you need to know:

#### School-Provided Devices for All Students

Starting next academic year, the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program will be discontinued. This decision was made to improve the security of our school's digital network and to ensure that every student has access to standardized, safe, and reliable technology. All students will be provided with school-owned devices that are tailored to their educational needs.

#### Why We Are Making This Change

The primary reason for this shift is to enhance cybersecurity across our school. With a variety of personal devices previously allowed, it became increasingly difficult to manage and secure our network. Standardizing devices means we can implement stronger security measures to protect both our students' information and our school system.

#### **Device Distribution and Updates**

- Elementary and Middle School Students (5th to 7th Grade): Students who are continuing with us will keep their Chromebooks over the summer to support ongoing learning.
- 8th Grade Students: These students will return their Chromebooks at the end of the school year because they will receive new Windows-based devices at the start of their freshman year. The return date is set for May 20th during 8th period.
- **High School Students**: All high school laptops will be upgraded to Windows 11 this year. This upgrade will enhance device performance and security. Starting next summer, high school students will also be allowed to take their devices home during the summer break.

#### **Non-returning Students**

If your child is not returning next school year, please ensure their device is returned to the library check-in desk. It's important to note that there will be a fee for any devices not returned.

#### **Device Care and Repair**

To ensure all devices are in optimal condition for the new school year, we will be offering repair services over the summer. Devices needing repairs can be dropped off at the front entrance of the High School. We will contact you once the repairs are complete and the device is ready for pickup.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we transition to this new policy. These changes will help us provide a better and more secure learning environment for all students. If you have any questions or need further clarification, please feel free to contact the school's tech department.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation,

Ryan Fullenkamp, Head of Technology

## Athletic News

PHYSICALS can be completed after June 1 Athletic Blackout week dates are June 28-July 7

### **Recognition Nights and Senior Nights**

Volleyball Student Appreciation Night- September 3 Little Indians Cheer- September 6 Football Student Appreciation Night- September 20 Band and Cross Country Senior Night at Football- September 20 Golf Senior Night at Volleyball- September 26 Volleyball Senior Night- October 10 Homecoming Football Game and Pink Out Game- October 11 Football Senior Night- October 18



## 2024-2025 Season Ticket Prices

- → Regular Season Pass Prices Effective August 13, 2024 (all listed below)
- → Purchased Pass Blast Passes will be available for pickup starting on August 13, 2024
- → Basketball Passes will not go on sale until November

All Sports (HS/JH)	Adult	Student	
Regular	\$150	\$50	
JH Pass (Fall/Winter)	Adult	Student	
Regular	\$25	\$10	
Football	Adult	Student	
Regular	\$25	\$15	
Boys' Basketball	Adult	Student	
Regular	\$55	\$35	
Girls' Basketball	Adult	Student	
Regular	\$55	\$35	
Senior Citizen	65+ (FR School District Resident)		
Regular	\$30		

#### Follow Us:

Facebook- Fort Recovery Athletics <u>https://www.facebook.com/Fortathletics</u> Twitter- Fort Recovery Athletics @Fort\_athletics <u>https://twitter.com/Fort\_athletics</u> Fort Recovery Athletics- <u>https://fortrecoveryathletics.org/</u>



GO INDIANS! Aimee Pottkotter-Athletic Director



As the school year has drawn to a close, I want to reflect on the achievements and events that have made the end of my first year at the high school so special. Our students and staff certainly have much to be proud of.

#### Academic Awards Ceremony

On Friday, May 17th, the Academic Awards Ceremony was held in the Fort Site Fieldhouse. Numerous students were honored for their successes this school year. I personally want to thank Mr. Stahl for his incredibly moving speech to staff and students that morning. His message of Faith, Family, and Fort, and how Mr. Joe Bruns led his life as an example of these values to all, inspiring everyone in attendance. The ceremony was a fitting celebration of our students' hard work and dedication throughout the year.

#### Senior Fest

Senior Fest was a perfect way to send our Seniors off on their last day of school on the afternoon of May 17th, with the weather holding out and giving us a beautiful day to be outside. Over \$3,000 worth of prizes were distributed, thanks to the generous donations from our local businesses. A huge thank you to all contributors! A full list of donors is available on our District Facebook Page.

#### **Class of 2024 Graduation Ceremony**

The Class of 2024 Graduation Ceremony was a success as Fort Recovery High School earned 77 new alumni. Congratulations to all of our new graduates! I want to especially thank the FRLS maintenance crew, tech department, Charlie Vasey, Amy Kaiser, Cheryl Wenning, Superintendent Stahl, and the Board of Education for their efforts in making this event a success. Their dedication ensured a memorable day for our graduates and their families.

#### Industry-Recognized Credentials

This year, 37 FRHS students earned industry-recognized credentials (IRCs), showcasing their skills and readiness for the workforce. The certifications included:

- \*\*Retail Industry Certification\*\* (16 students)
- \*\*Customer Service Certification\*\* (7 students)
- \*\*Ag Commodity Tester Certification and Licensure\*\* through the Ohio Department of Agriculture (9 students)
- \*\*Basketball Officiating License\*\* through the OHSAA (5 students)

Looking ahead, we aim to expand our licensure offerings in future school years to include Microsoft Office, Adobe, CPR certification, and even Drone Piloting. Our goal is to continually increase the number of students earning IRCs each year.

#### Summer Break!!

The accomplishments earned throughout the 2023-2024 school year reflect the hard work of our students and the dedication of our teachers and staff. As we look ahead to next school year, we look forward to building on these successes and continuing to provide excellent educational opportunities for our students.

Enjoy the summer, and we'll see you next year with more exciting news and achievements!

Ryan Steinbrunner FRHS Principal steinbrunnerr@fortrecoveryschools.org 419-375-4111 Twitter - @FRHSPrincipal Facebook - @FRHighSchool

#### Dates to Remember

June 3 – Final Forms Opens June 28-July 7 – Summer Shutdown Week August 14-16 – Grades 10-12 Schedule & Laptop Pickup August 19 – Freshmen Orientation (10:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m.) August 19 – Open Building (3:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.) August 21 – First Day of School August 27 - School Picture Day

## **Representation at DARE Luncheon**

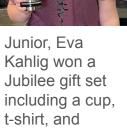
On April 16th, 10 seniors attended the Mercer County DARE Banquet at the Elks. These individuals have stayed true to their DARE promise and abstained from using drugs and alcohol throughout their school career. Students attending were Alex Dues, Matthew Romer, Alex Evers, Cole Shoemaker, Ellie Will, Mara Pearson, Megan Evers, Olivia Smith, Jocelyn LeFevre, and Tiffany Taft. Congratulations to Alex Evers for being 1 of 10 students in the county selected to win a \$500 DARE scholarship. We are incredibly proud of all the students who were in attendance for making good decisions.



## 2024 Senior Fest Success!



Freshman, Carter Fortkamp won a boy's gift basket filled with items from local businesses.



Jubilee Bucks.



Senior, Olivia Smith and Freshman, Kaylor Wendel won gift certificates to Tin Cupboard. **2024 Senior Fest Donors** Anonymous donor be you boutique brick street carts & parts cooper farms fortkamp excavating fort recovery insurance fort recovery lumberyard

HASTINGS AUTO SALES Home idea center Jenfit Jæm Manufacturing

#### JR MANUFACTURING JUBILEE COMMITTEE JUTTE ELECTRIC K&L TRACTOR SALES MEL HEITKAMP BUILDERS MIRACLE LANES NAPA PSI IOTA XI SALTY HAVEN SIMPLE TOUCH SUNSHINE BOUTIQUE THIRTY-ONE - J. KREMER TIN CUPBOARD

## **Rhodes State College in Action!**



Rhodes State College provided Drone demonstrations for our students in the Ag department. Students were able to learn about how drones are utilized in agriculture. Thanks to Rhodes for the great experience!



A group of our students spent a day at Rhodes State College in Lima for Ag Commodity Testing instruction. After learning about Commodity testing in class over the previous few weeks, the students were able to apply their skills in hands-on activities. At the conclusion of the day, each student took the Ag Commodity Testing licensure exam.

## Fort Recovery FFA Attends 96<sup>th</sup> State FFA Convention

Thirty-six members, two parent chaperones, and two advisors of the Fort Recovery FFA Chapter recently attended the 96<sup>th</sup> State FFA Convention in Columbus, Ohio. The three-day trip was packed with convention sessions, skills contests, educational tours, and fun. Between convention sessions, members could go to the Expo Center to purchase FFA attire and discover different Agri-Business professions.

The Fort Recovery FFA Chapter was fortunate to receive many awards for their great success this past year at the State FFA Convention. Seven members, Drew Backs, Kassidy Dues, Evan Evers, Allison Knapke, Matthew Romer, Zach Schoenlein, and Mara Wenning received their prestigious State FFA Degree. Fort Recovery Secretary- Allison Knapke, Treasurer- Zach Schoenlein, and Reporter- Kassidy Dues all received a gold rating on their books. The Nature Interpretation Team placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the state of Ohio that included team members Gabe Acheson, Brennan Dues, Carter Fortkamp, Russell Hart, Cody Klenke, Keegan Muhlenkamp, and Will Westgerdes.

Fort Recovery FFA members attending the convention included SENIORS-Wes Bechtol, Allison Knapke, Owen Knapke, Liberty Pohlman, and Abe Siefring; JUNIORS- Drew Backs, Samantha Brackman, Amber Dirksen, Kassidy Dues, Evan Evers, Cody Klenke, Keegan Muhlenkamp, Zach Schoenlein, and Mara Wenning; SOPHOMORES- Gabe Acheson, Ella Bechtol, Kylia Dues, Dylan Klenke, Brylee Kremer, Cora Kremer, and Autumn Leuthold; FRESHMEN- Bethany Brackman, Deanna Brown, Kenna Dues, Tyler Dues, Brady Evers, Carter Fortkamp, Russell Hart, Aubree Heitkamp, Adyson Homan, Makenna Huelskamp, Sydney Jutte, Madie Schoenlein, Kiera Stump, Ava Timmerman, and Will Westgerdes.

A special thanks goes to Chris and Julie Bechtol for serving as parent chaperones and to the Fort Recovery school board, administrators, staff, and support staff for making this trip possible.





As the school year draws to a close, we are filled with pride and joy reflecting on the incredible journey we have shared. This year has been nothing short of transformative, guided by the inspiring principles of the Energy Bus. From the first day of school, we embraced the Energy Bus philosophy, which has driven us towards positivity, resilience, and a collaborative spirit.





Congratulations to Addie Jutte, River Overman, and Ally Roessner on winning MS Idol! The 5k was run on Monday, May 20th with all 5th-8th graders and some brave community members running/walking the 5k(ish) course around town. Thanks to Ellie Will for providing the motivational speech prior to the race and to our PTO for the donation of yogurt to all students after the race. In the afternoon, over 15 local community members joined us for the annual Health Fair where students in grades 4-8 learned about varying important health-related topics and work fields. On Wednesday, May 22nd, all 6th graders went to the Temple of Tolerance and Shipyard Sports Complex. 7th graders earning second semester incentive traveled to Sky Zone for some fun, and the 8th grade students earning

incentive spent a day out of school at Kings Island. We then concluded the school year with Field Day on the final day of school. It was a crazy, but memorable, final week of school for sure.

As we close this chapter, we look forward to the adventures that await us next year. We are grateful for the support of our entire community and the dedication of our students and staff. Together, we have created a vibrant, positive, and nurturing environment that will continue to inspire not just us as adults but also our students.

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

#### Dates to Remember June 28- July 7 - Summer Shutdown Week

- August 14 Schedule Pick Up August 19 - Open Building, 3:30-7:00 p.m.
  - MS Parent Meeting in Auditeria, 6:30 p.m.
- September 10 MS Picture Day
- September 23 Class of 2029 Washington DC Trip Meetings - Chaperone Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
  - Parent/Student Meeting, 8:15 p.m.

October 28 - 8th Grade Washington DC Trip

## 7th Grade Wreath Ceremony Speeches

Congratulations to a group of ten 7th grade students who presented their wreath ceremony speeches live to a panel of VFW and Legion members on Tuesday, April 23, 2024. (Back row, left to right: Emmitt Dues, River Overman, Claire Grube, Lydia Will, Brinley Fortkamp and Chloe Brockman. Front row: Kale Diller, Alex Roessner, Addie Jutte, and Kayla Gaerke.) These students were selected through a written essay competition. Judges: Dave Romer, Ken Romer, Ken Knapke, Laura Boeckman, and Zeke Hart helped bring it down to the top four students who will lay the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in October on their 8th grade Washington DC trip.

Congratulations to Alex Roessner, Claire Grube, Lydia Will, and Chloe Brockman on being selected as the top four students to receive this honor. Our school is proud of all of these students and grateful for wonderful community members to help in this special process.



### Dayton Ronald McDonald House Service Project

## Law Day Essay Contest 1st Place Winner

8th grade students in Mrs. Huelsman's LEAP class had the opportunity to take part in the Mercer County Bar Association's annual Law Day Essay Contest. The theme for this year's contest was "Voices of Democracy". 8th graders throughout the county had the opportunity to respond to one of three essay prompts. Out of 30 essays from almost every school district in Mercer County, Maddie Weigel's essay was selected as the 1st place winner. Maddie is the daughter of Doug and Marcia Weigel. Maddie as well as the other top candidates were honored in a special ceremony at the Mercer County Courthouse on May 2nd. In addition to a cash prize, Maddie has also earned the opportunity to job shadow a Mercer County government official. Congratulations goes out to Maddie Weigel for her hard work!



On March 19th, some of the Fort Recovery Middle School Student Council members along with advisors, Mrs.Jutte and Mrs. Fullenkamp completed their spring service project with a trip to the Dayton Ronald McDonald House. The Ronald McDonald House provides a temporary home-away-from-home for families of critically ill and hospitalized children. The house provides families with a place to sleep and warm meals to eat. Families in our own community have used this wonderful resource during trying times. Leading up to this trip the student council collected some of the house's top 10 most needed items as well as monetary donations to provide Easter meals to those families staying in the house over the holiday weekend. This year the middle school alone collected 1,127 items and topped with donations from the elementary school, they were able to bring over 1,500 items along with three large boxes of pop tabs down to the house. On their visit students helped sort the items into appropriate tubs in the basement storage area, created a few tie blankets for movie night at the house, and also received a tour of the facility. Next year the group is looking forward to working in the new Ronald McDonald House which will be completed in August. This new house will triple the capacity of families they are able to serve. Thank you to all students and community members that contributed to this great cause!





As the school year comes to an end, I want to express my gratitude for your support and partnership throughout this journey. It has been a joy to work with each and every one of your children this year, and it has been so exciting to see their growth and the learning they have accomplished over the past nine months!

Please make sure to take a look at all of the important information that your child brought home on the last day of school regarding the next school year. This included details about the needed school supplies, next year's school calendar, and how to earn a special reward in the fall by reading and completing math activities over the summer. To help you prepare for the upcoming school year, please save the date for our meet-the-teacher night on August 19. Additionally, you can expect to receive a welcome back letter from your child's teacher during the first week of August.

I want to remind you that report cards have been published to Progress Book, where you can easily access and review your child's grades online. Furthermore, your child's state test scores will also be available on Progress Book under "assessment scores" in the near future. Another reminder is that Final Forms will open online on June 3rd. Please be sure to complete these forms before July 1, especially if your child requires transportation on a school bus for the next school year. Your child should have brought home a reminder about Final Forms on the last day of school, but feel free to contact me if you have any questions or encounter any problems completing these forms.

Thank you for making this school year a fantastic one and for being such a wonderful community to be a part of. I truly appreciate your patience and support as I navigated my first year here at Fort Recovery. I am looking forward to even better school years ahead and wish you and your family a restful and enjoyable summer break.

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

#### Dates to Remember

July 29-Aug. 1, Aug. 5-8 - Summer School for Registered Students August 19 - Meet-the-Teacher night August 21 - First day of school



The 3rd & 4th grade students at Fort Recovery took tours of the opera house and were able to see first hand what they've learned in 3rd grade music about Fay Morvilius and opera houses in the late 19th/early 20th centuries!



4th grade students in Mrs. Dues' Social Studies classes designed and made products to sell as part of their economics unit. All profits went towards books for the school library.



Fifth graders were able to explore the rainforest in the greenhouse at Ball State University.

## Fort Recovery Local Schools Holds Annual Banquet

On May 24th, Fort Recovery Local Schools held their annual employee banquet. Over 150 staff members, retirees, board members, and special guests joined together to celebrate the end of another school year.

Three dedicated staff members who have served our district were honored. Judy Fortener retired after 30 years of service. Norma Pottkotter retired after 15 years of service and Karen Schwieterman retired with 17 years. Congratulations on your retirement!

Several teachers were recognized for their notable years of service, ranging from 5 years to 25. The Friend of Education award was brought back after several years and was awarded to community member, Kim Wendel for all that she does for the students, staff, and schools by taking countless pictures and volunteering at various school events.



**Retirees:** Judy Fortener, 30 years Norma Pottkotter, 15 Years Karen Schwieterman, 17 years



Friend of Education: Kim Wendel





**10 Years:** Chris Guggenbiller Laura Heitkamp Tory Horstman Chelsea Kahlig



**15 Years:** Jessica Jutte



**20 Years:** Brian Patch Vicki Schmitz Cheryl Wenning



**25 Years:** Lori Acheson Dave Blockberger Kari Eilerman Brad Evers Lisa Fullenkamp Michael Gower Marcia Weigel

5 Years: Mindy Dues Renee Huelsman Monika Johnson Stacy Laux Lindsey Reinhard Charlie Vasey Courtney Westgerdes

## 2024 PSI IOTA XI STADIUM CHAIR ORDER FORM

## Grab a stadium chair for added comfort for sporting events!

Chairs are available in both **BLACK** and **PURPLE** and can include an optional school logo, for <u>ANY</u> school, for free!

The Gamechang Dimensions:	er: \$65.00 OPEN - 13.5"t x 16"d x 17"w, FOLDED - 13.5"t x 17"w x 4"h Weight Limit: 350 lbs.	INDIANS
The Gamechang Dimensions:	er Deluxe: \$75.00 OPEN - 13.5"t x 16"d x 21"w, FOLDED - 13.5"t x 21"w x 4"h Weight Limit: 400 lbs.	PURPLE

Orders are due by June 28, 2024.

Please send order forms and payments to:

Psi Iota Xi, PO Box 364, Fort Recovery, OH 45846

Checks can be made to Psi Iota Xi Sorority.

A percentage of all sales will go to community projects!

Orders can be picked up starting August 12, 2024 at Be You Boutique in Ft. Recovery.

Name:

Phone:

Please note if you do NOT want a logo added. The price will not change.

Style	Purple Gamechanger \$65.00	Black Gamechanger \$65.00	Purple Gamechanger Deluxe \$75.00	Black Gamechanger Deluxe \$75.00
Quantity				
School Name				
Total				

Total Chairs Ordered:

Total Due: \$



## Fort Recovery American Legion Auxiliary Patriotic Contests Held

The Fort Recovery American Legion Auxiliary, Post 345, recently sponsored a poppy poster contest as well as poetry and object contests to promote this. Students in sixth grade were given background information by Legion Auxiliary member Marcia Weigel about the history of Flanders Fields and the poppy. They then entered a poster contest to win cash prizes. In the seventh grade, a patriotic poetry contest, also for cash prizes, was open to any student who wished to enter. Eighth graders also were given the option to create a patriotic object and enter it into the contest. Members of the American Legion Auxiliary judged the entries.

In sixth grade, first place and \$20 went to Julia Westgerdes, second and \$10 went to Zahavah Steinbrunner, and third place was a tie with \$5 going to both Bentley Niekamp and Mya Will. In seventh grade, first place went to Addie Jutte along with \$20 while second place and \$10 went to Julia Homan. The only eighth grader to enter was Ally Roessner, so she received first place along with \$30 due to the extra effort put into crocheting her entry. Congratulations, and thanks to all who entered the contests! Please join us in remembering our veterans and their families every day for their service and sacrifice.







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