



# FALCON FEATURES

Volume 25, Issue 1

August 2023

## To the Fairfield Union Students, Families, Staff and Community:



The 2023–2024 school year is quickly approaching, and I am extremely excited for what the coming year has in store for us. One of the great things about Fairfield Union is the willingness of our community to look forward and prepare for the future, while never losing our sense of history and tradition. Across the district, you may notice several changes with our facilities and operations, but I also know you will be able to feel the essence of our history woven into each of these improvements.

I believe having a positive mindset is critical to experiencing successful outcomes. To help the district focus on our goals, we have adopted new Vision and Mission Statements for our district. I believe our new Vision Statement provides the clearest insight into how we want to approach each day at Fairfield Union, **“Every day, in every way, excellence is a way of life.”** We want our students, staff and our community to know that no matter what you are doing in life, do it to the very best of your ability. I

believe this type of mindset is the hallmark of everything that embodies Fairfield Union.

In order for our students to be their best in the classroom, I know the importance of providing the best possible resources and learning environment at each school. In the coming year, we will be making the following improvements to our facilities: new chillers (AC) for each building, new controls for the heating and air systems, new indoor and outdoor security cameras at each building, new roofs at Bremen and Pleasantville Elementary Schools, and new door locking devices for each classroom for emergency situations. In addition to the physical improvements at each building, the district has made significant investments in curriculum related to the Science of Reading and reading intervention programs, new curriculum for science and social studies, and we will be instituting a driver’s education program in conjunction with the Fairfield County Commissioners, Hocking College, and the Workforce Development Center.

As you can see, the district continues to grow and prepare for the future, but we will never forget our history. I am looking forward to our Alumni Band Night, the high school production of *Mama Mia*, “drive your tractor to school day”, Right to Read Week, and the many other memorable events that make the school year special. I fully expect the 2023–2024 school year to be one of the best years in Fairfield Union’s history! I hope each of you have a wonderful school year, and never forget, it is always a **GREAT day to be a Falcon!**

Chad Belville  
Superintendent

## OPEN HOUSE/ORIENTATION

As the school year begins, we extend an invitation to parents to attend Open House/Orientation from **4:30 to 8:30** on the following dates:

**High School — Monday, August 14**

**Rushville Middle School — Monday, August 14**

**Bremen Elementary — Tuesday, August 15**

**Pleasantville Elementary — Tuesday, August 15**

More detailed information will be available from your Building Principal and on our School Website.



## FAIRFIELD UNION WEBSITE

The Fairfield Union web address is [www.fairfieldunion.org](http://www.fairfieldunion.org).

Please visit this site for school news and regular updates.



# NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH AND BREAKFAST PROGRAM/FOOD SERVICES

It is critical that all students submit free and reduced-price meals forms. Fairfield Union receives additional Federal and State funding based on the submission of free and reduced-price meals forms. Additionally, the new state budget is providing free breakfast and lunch meals for students who qualify for reduced-price meals. Free and reduced-price meal applications can be found on our District web page (under the Parent tab), and applications will be sent home with students after the opening of school.

**PLEASE NOTE: If you have received a Direct Certification letter through the mail, a new free and reduced-price meal application does not need to be completed for the 2023-2024 school year.**

Fairfield Union is also proud to announce our continued partnership with Chartwells, a Food Service Man-



agement Company. Chartwells is an industry leader in overseeing food service programs and currently works with organizations such as The Ohio State University. We are hopeful our students and staff experienced improved quality and consistency in our menu offerings last year, and we will continue to work to make our food service top quality.

Breakfast and lunch prices for the 2023-2024 school year will be as follows:

<b>Student Lunch – \$3.00</b>	<b>Student Breakfast – \$1.75</b>
<b>Reduced Price Lunch – Free</b>	<b>Reduced Price Breakfast – Free</b>
<b>Adult Lunch – \$5.00</b>	

## PAYMENT OF FEES/WORKBOOKS

As a sign of support and thanks to the Fairfield Union community, the Fairfield Union Board of Education has elected to waive all classroom fees for the 2023-2024 school year. The district understands many families are experiencing financial burdens in the current economy, so the Board of Education is hopeful this gesture will help our families during these difficult times. Once again, our district thanks the Fairfield Union community for its constant and continuous support!

## STUDENT TIME SCHEDULES

The time schedules for the 2023-2024 school year are:



<b>High School</b> .....	7:20 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.
<b>Rushville Middle School</b> .....	7:20 A.M. – 2:38 P.M.
<b>Bremen Elementary School</b> .....	8:50 A.M. – 3:35 P.M.
<b>Pleasantville Elementary School</b> .....	8:50 A.M. – 3:35 P.M.

# STAFF CHANGES

## Retirements

The following employees have retired: **Wendy Drake**, Bremen Library Aide; **Tammy Elkins**, High School Aide; **James Guseman**, Rushville Custodian; **Jenifer Ray**, Rushville Aide; **Barbara Roberts McKinnon**, Rushville Art Teacher; **Denise Schoonover**, Rushville 5th Grade Science Teacher.

## Transfers

The following employees will be transferring within the school district as follows: **Moriah Allen** from Bremen Grade 1 to District Intervention Specialist, **Lorrie Bailey** from Rushville Secretary to High School Secretary, **Casey Bischof** from Grade 7 Social Studies to Grade 5 Social Studies, **Andy Clark** from Athletic Director to High School Financial Literacy/Career Exploration, **Kerrie Hammack** from Pleasantville Grade 2 to Pleasantville Grade 3, **Lindsey Hockman** from Pleasantville Grade 3 to Grade 5 Writing, **Emily Holm** from Bremen Intervention Specialist to Bremen Kindergarten, **Jamie Kostiuk** from Bremen Grade 4 to Grade 5 Science, **Hannah Landis** from Bremen Kindergarten to Bremen Grade 4, **Marcia Miller** from Pleasantville Principal to Rushville Wellness, **Amy Noland** from



Asst. Treasurer – Payroll to Asst. Treasurer (Admin.), **Bart Smith** from Rushville Wellness to Rushville World Culture, **Mackenzie Smith** from Pleasantville Grade 1 to Pleasantville Grade 2, **Amanda Strawn** from Pleasantville Aide to Rushville Aide, **Kasi Wilkinson** from Bremen Secretary to Asst. Treasurer – Payroll.

## New Employees

**Carrie Burnworth**, Bremen and Pleasantville Music Teacher, **Melissa Burton**, Bremen Aide, **Christina Clark**, Rushville BRT Aide, **Nicholas Claybourn**, Grade 6 Math Teacher, **Taylor Claybourn**, Rushville BRT Aide, **Pam Dickson**, Rushville BRT Tutor, **Nathan Fisher**, High School Math, **Scott Harris**, Athletic Director, **Sarah Henderly**, Rushville Art Teacher, **Tara Hochradel**, Rushville Secretary, **Nicole Holbrook**, Rushville Cook/Cashier, **Nathan Horn**, Maintenance, **Brianna Hoffman**, Bremen Intervention Specialist, **Jennifer Kessler**, Bremen Aide, **Jerrica Leith**, Rushville BRT Aide, **Bridgid Mahler**, High School Aide, **Greg Markwood**, Rushville Custodian, **Gregory Masterson Booth**, High School English, **Tara Montgomery**, Bremen Grade 1 Teacher, **Hannah Penrose**, High School Agriculture Education Teacher, **Jennifer Pike**, School Nurse, **Lydia Tokarz**, Pleasantville Principal, **Angel Webb**, Bremen Aide, **Debora Young**, Grade 8 Math/Algebra I Teacher.

## MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

All information and schedules for our music department can be found by going to the Fairfield Union High School page on our school website and clicking on "Performing Arts Grades 5-12."



## MISSION STATEMENT

*Fairfield Union will foster excellence by creating a safe, empathetic environment where everyone is able to thrive as learners and citizens.*

## DISCLOSURES AND NOTIFICATIONS

### Identification of Gifted Students

All school districts are required to identify children who are gifted. Gifted students perform at **remarkably** high levels when compared to other students of their own age. The district accepts referrals, screens and identifies, or screens and reassesses students who perform or show potential for performing at high levels of accomplishment in the areas of superior cognitive ability, specific academic ability, creative thinking ability, and/or visual and/or performing arts. The district must follow policy and procedures established in Ohio Administrative Code 3301-51-15. These rules specify that assessment instruments must come from the list approved by the Ohio Department of Education.



If you believe your child to be gifted in one or more of the areas listed above, please contact Eydie Schilling, Curriculum/Gifted Coordinator at 740-536-7384.

### Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

The IDEA requires school districts to locate, identify and evaluate all resident children and adults from age 3 through 21 who are suspected of needing special education services. This notice is a required step in this search, and the district is committed to fulfilling the intent of the IDEA. Therefore, any child who is suspected of having a disability and who is not currently identified should be referred to the Principal of the building of attendance. Also, John Turnbull, Special Education Coordinator, may be contacted at 740-536-7306.

### Student Records and the Public's Right to Know

The Fairfield Union Board of Education supports the right of the people to know about programs and services of their schools and makes efforts to disseminate appropriate information. Records pertaining to individual students and other confidential materials



are not released for inspection. Student records that consist of "personally identifiable information" generally are exempt from disclosure except in certain limited cases required by law. Only that information deemed "directory information" may be released from an individual student's file. Student Directory Information includes student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, participation in school activities, achievements, awards, honors, weight and height if a member of an athletic team, major field of study, and dates of attendance and graduation. This information will be disclosed without prior written consent. If the parents, legal guardian, or adult student prefers that such information not be released, they must notify the Principal in writing.

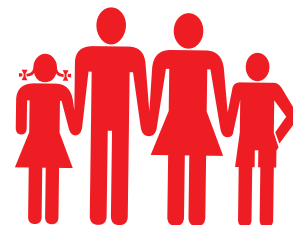
Educational records are maintained in the administrative offices of the building a child attends. Records of students no longer attending a Fairfield Union School will be located in the building the student last attended. Parents or an eligible student may review the student's educational records.

### Non-Discrimination/Title IX

The Fairfield Union School District has a policy of non-discrimination in admission services or employment with any program or activity sponsored by the school district. Inquiries or complaints should be directed to Matt Destadio, Director of Educational Services, who serves as the district's Title IX Coordinator.

### The McKinney-Vento Act

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act was designed to address the problems that homeless children and youth face in enrolling and attending school. Under this Federal law, school districts are required to designate a district liaison to help remove barriers that homeless children frequently face. If you are aware of any families in our school district who are facing this difficult problem and who have children who are not enrolled in school, please contact Christy Smith, Administrative Secretary at 740-536-7384.



## OUR VISION

EVERY DAY, IN EVERY WAY,  
**EXCELLENCE**  
IS A WAY OF LIFE.

## BELIEFS

The Fairfield Union Schools believe it is our purpose ...

- To promote lifelong learners.
- To teach all students academic skills.
- To promote good citizenship.
- To develop self-confidence and a positive self-image in students.
- To provide a safe, healthy environment.
- To teach functional life skills.
- To provide a challenging environment.

## NEWS FROM THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

### Sports Participation Fee Reminders

Each athlete is required to complete training rules and a pre-participation physical (once per year), as well as pay their Sports Participation Fee of \$50.00 for each high school sport or \$25.00 for each middle school sport. We have and will continue to make every effort to keep our rates below those of similar sized school districts in the area.

### Athletic Boosters

The Athletic Department would like to invite all parents to be active participants in the Athletic Booster program. Athletic Booster meetings are held the last Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the High School library.

### Mid-State League Admission Prices (Subject to Change)

**All High School Tickets: \$7.00**

**All Middle School Tickets: \$5.00**

*Please note:  
The Mid-State League  
no longer offers student  
rates.*

Fairfield Union  
will offer the follow-  
ing special rates for  
**home** events only:

**Student 10-Game Pass:  
\$40.00**

**Adult 10-Game Pass: \$50.00**

**Infield Parking: \$5.00**

*Senior Citizens with a Golden Buckeye Card  
will be admitted free of charge at home events.*

### Head Coaches for 2023-2024 Fall and Winter Seasons

Fairfield Union Local School District would like to welcome Scott Harris into the role of Athletic Director! Mr. Harris can be reached at the high school at 740-536-7306 or at scottharris@fairfieldunion.org.



Below is a list of Head Coaches for the Fall and Winter seasons:

**Andy Clark** — Football

**Brian Oliver** — Golf

**Jerrod Redding** — Boys Soccer

**Casey Bischof** — Girls Soccer

**Rob Myers** — Cross Country

**Holly Culver** — Volleyball

**Brooke Cvetan** — Fall and Winter Cheerleading

**Travis Shaeffer** — Boys Basketball

**Ryan Montgomery** — Girls Basketball

**Donald Welsh** — Wrestling

**Bailey Conrad** — Athletic Trainer

### 2023-2024 BUS ROUTES

To review your student's current busing assignments, we encourage you to download the free **RIDE 360** app for Android and iPhone in the Google Play App or Apple Store. Once updates for the 2023-2024 school year have been completed, routes will be updated in RIDE 360 and they will be posted on the district website under the Parents/Transportation tab or by using the website address <https://www.fairfieldunion.org/Transportation.aspx>. If you do not have internet access and would like information on bus routes that pertain to your student(s), please call the Fairfield Union Transportation Department at 740-536-7820 or the Fairfield Union District Office at 740-536-7384.

Dean Rarey  
Transportation  
Coordinator

## 2023-2024 SCHOOL CALENDAR

New Teacher Orientation .....	August 10 & 11, 2023 (THURSDAY & FRIDAY)
Teacher Work Day — Classroom Preparation .....	August 14 (MONDAY)
Convocation/Teacher Professional Development .....	August 15 & 16 (TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY)
First Day for Students .....	August 17 (THURSDAY)
Labor Day .....	September 4 (NO SCHOOL)
Teacher Data Day — Professional Development .....	September 22 (NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS)
County Professional Development Day .....	September 25 (NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS)
Fairfield County Fair .....	October 9 – 13 (NO SCHOOL)
End of 1st Nine Weeks — Two Hour Late Arrival .....	October 27 (FRIDAY)
Comp. Day for Parent Teacher Conferences .....	November 22 (NO SCHOOL)
Thanksgiving Break .....	November 23 & 24 (NO SCHOOL)
Last Day Before Christmas — 2 Hour Early Dismissal .....	December 19 (TUESDAY)
Christmas Break .....	December 20 - January 2, 2024 (NO SCHOOL)
School Resumes .....	January 3, 2024 (WEDNESDAY)
Martin Luther King Day .....	January 15 (NO SCHOOL)
End of 2nd Nine Weeks — Two Hour Late Arrival .....	January 19 (FRIDAY)
Presidents Day .....	February 19 (NO SCHOOL)
End of 3rd Nine Weeks — Two Hour Late Arrival .....	March 22 (FRIDAY)
Spring Break .....	March 29 – April 1 (NO SCHOOL)
Professional Development for Staff .....	April 2 (NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS)
Last Day for Students — Two Hour Early Dismissal .....	May 23 (THURSDAY)
Teacher Work Day — Records .....	May 24 (FRIDAY)
Graduation Exercises .....	May 26 (SUNDAY)

### NOTES

1. The first 39 hours (1 day = 6.5 hours) of missed school due to closure or delay will be forgiven. After 39 hours of missed school time, days will be made up in the following order: January 15, February 19, April 1, and May 24.

2. The District may also utilize remote learning to make up missed hours of instruction.

3. Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held during evening hours (4:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.) as follows:

**Bremen & Pleasantville Elementary Schools:**

November 16, November 20, March 12 and March 14

**High School & Rushville Middle School:**

November 14, November 20, March 12 and March 14

4. Open House and Orientation — 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**High School & Rushville Middle School:** August 14, 2023

**Bremen & Pleasantville Elementary Schools:** August 15, 2023




LATE ARRIVAL DATES

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**Friday, October 27, 2023**  
(Grading K-12)

**Friday, January 19, 2024**  
(Grading K-12)

**Friday, March 22, 2024**  
(Grading K-12)

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EARLY DISMISSAL DATES

**Tuesday, December 19, 2023**

**Thursday, May 23, 2024**



## 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

**Beginning Cash Balance July 1, 2022** .....\$15,061,103

### Revenues

Property Tax.....\$8,202,202

Income Tax.....\$7,048,663

State Aid.....\$11,238,210

Other.....\$941,614

**Total** .....\$27,430,688

### Expenditures

Employee Salaries/Wages.....\$12,766,331

Employee Benefits.....\$5,373,502

Purchased Services .....\$2,698,536

Supplies.....\$955,385

Capital.....\$66,098

Other/Transfer to Debt Payments.....\$3,235,869

**Total** .....\$25,095,722

**Ending Cash Balance June 30, 2023**.....\$17,396,070

## DIRECTORY

### Board of Education

- Jeff Schmelzer, President
- Tami Conrad-Zangmeister, Vice President
- Todd Hoffman
- Tina Johns
- Ben Myers

### Administration

- Chad Belville, Superintendent  
(740) 536-7384

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- Courtney Roberts, Treasurer  
(740) 536-7384

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- Matt Destadio, Director of Ed. Services  
(740) 536-7384

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- Amy Noland, Assistant Treasurer  
(740) 536-7384

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- Matt McPhail, Principal-High School  
(740) 536-7306

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- Travis Shaeffer, Asst. Principal-High School  
(740) 536-7306

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- Scott Harris, Athletic Director  
(740) 536-7306

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- Tricia Haughn, Principal-Middle School  
(740) 536-7249

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- Dawn Rice, Asst. Principal-Middle School  
(740) 536-7249

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- Roger Nott, Principal-Bremen  
(740) 569-4135

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- Lydia Tokarz, Principal-Pleasantville  
(740) 468-2181

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- Dean Rarey, Transportation  
(740) 536-7820

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- Diana Browning, Food Service  
(740) 536-7384

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Published by the Fairfield Union School District  
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