



FALCON FEATURES

Volume 26, Issue 1

August 2024

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



The start of the school year is always an exciting time filled with a wide variety of emotions. While we hate to see Summer go, I know there is an unmistakable energy that builds in our community in anticipation of everything a school year holds. Every school year is unique and special in many ways, but I know the 2024–2025 school year will bring opportunities for our students and community unlike any other year.

As we begin the school year, I am humbled to share several initiatives that are focused on supporting our students and families in life. While we are ultimately here to educate our students, we will never lose sight of our obligation to care for our students as people first and foremost. It is imperative we work to pave a path for our students that will lead them to success well beyond their time at Fairfield Union.





We are proud to announce the implementation of the CEP program that will allow the District to provide free meals for all students every day of the school year. Providing this basic need for all students will be a catalyst to help students realize their full potential on a daily basis. I am also encouraged by the response we have seen from our students and families with the start of our driver's education program. It will always be a driving force for this district to remove any and all obstacles that may prevent a student from realizing their dreams for the future, and helping students take this first step of securing a driver's license will serve as a springboard for future success. Finally, I am honored to welcome new partners to our District, like the Lancaster YMCA, that will help provide support for families through our before and after school care program at Bremen and Pleasantville Elementary Schools.

The 2024–2025 school year is truly set up to be one of the greatest years in our District's history. With a clear vision of providing for the whole child in schools, the opportunities and support our students will receive in the coming year are unparalleled. Whether it is in the classroom, on the stage, or on the field of play, our District will continue to show that ***Every Day, In Every Way, Excellence is a Way of Life!***

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 p.m.** on the following dates:

-  **High School — Tuesday, August 13**
-  **Rushville Middle School — Tuesday, August 13**
-  **Bremen Elementary — Monday, August 12**
-  **Pleasantville Elementary — Monday, August 12**

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**.

Please visit this site for school news and regular updates.



Welcome
back to
school!

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH AND BREAKFAST PROGRAM/FOOD SERVICES

We are proud to announce the implementation of the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program for the 2024-2025 school year, which means **all students will be provided breakfast and lunch for free** in the coming school year. In order to maintain the CEP program in the future and secure Federal Title Funds for our school, it is critical for all families to complete the Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application. The Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application can be filled out electronically through your PaySchools account or the application can be found on our District web page (under the Parent tab). Fairfield Union will also provide a hard copy to any family that requests an application.

PLEASE NOTE: If you have received a Direct Certification letter through the mail, a new free and reduced-price meal application



PAYMENT OF FEES/WORKBOOKS

As a sign of support and thanks to the Fairfield Union community, the Fairfield Union Board of Education has again elected to waive all classroom fees for the 2024-2025 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!

does not need to be completed for the 2024-2025 school year.

A la carte items will still be available for purchase by students and adult lunches will continue to be \$5.00.

Fairfield Union is also proud to continue our partnership with Chartwells, a Food Service Management Company. Chartwells is an industry leader in overseeing food service programs and currently works with organizations such as The Ohio State University. By partnering with Chartwells, our district has experienced an improvement in the quality and consistency in our menu offerings.

Chartwells will continue to use its purchasing power, experience, and resources to lower food costs for the District and provide meals that will excite our student body. Chartwells also served as a valuable resource for our District during the application process for the CEP program.



STUDENT TIME SCHEDULES

The time schedules for the 2024-2025 school year are:

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

MISSION STATEMENT

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

STAFF CHANGES

Retirements

The following employees have retired: **Lori Byers**, High School Language Arts Teacher; **Teri Hunt**, Rushville Aide; **Dan Gallagher**, Pleasantville Custodian; **Mary Beth Marcinko**, Rushville Intervention Specialist; **Carole Osborne**, School Nurse; **Marcia Pugh**, High School Assistant Maintenance Employee.

Transfers

The following employees will be transferring within the school district as follows: **Taryn Anderson** from Rushville Cook to High School Head Cook, **Pam Dickson** from Rushville Tutor to Rushville Intervention Specialist, **David Getz** from Bremen Assistant Maintenance Employee to High School Assistant Maintenance Employee, **Molly Green** from Bremen Grade 2 to Bremen Intervention Specialist, **Brianna Hoffman** from Bremen



Intervention Specialist to Bremen Grade 2, **Trent Johns** from Grade 5 Math to Elementary Dean of Students, **Annamarie Khan** from Rushville Intervention Specialist to Rushville Reading Teacher, **Devan Lewellen** from Grade 6 Math to Grade 5 Math, **Stacy Spicer** from Pleasantville Intervention Specialist to Rushville Intervention Specialist, **Abby White** from Pleasantville Grade 2 Teacher to Elementary Reading Teacher.

New Employees

We welcome the following new employees to the Fairfield Union family: **Laura Alford**, Bremen Intervention Specialist; **Brittnee Bukey**, Pleasantville Intervention Specialist; **Elly Diehl**, Grade 8 Language Arts Teacher; **Veronica Dalrymple**, Rushville Tutor; **Channing Fortney**, Pleasantville Grade 2 Teacher; **Todd Holbrook**, Bus Driver; **Luke Horn**, High School Language Arts Teacher; **Amanda Kolbe**, Grade 6 Math Teacher; **Angela Lewis**, Rushville Aide; **Jennifer Neitzel**, Pleasantville Kindergarten Teacher; **Christopher Turner**, High School Agriculture Education Teacher.

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.

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.



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.

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

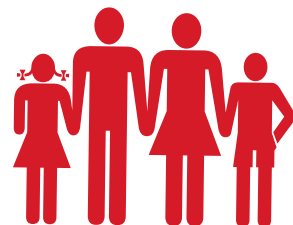


Non-Discrimination/Title IX

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.

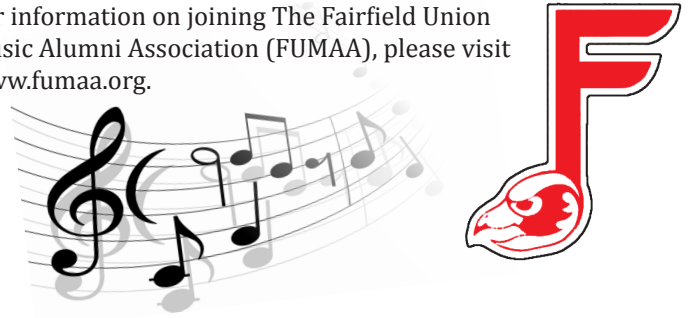


MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

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."

The Music Department would like to invite all parents to be active participants in the Music Booster program. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month in the high school choir room.

For information on joining The Fairfield Union Music Alumni Association (FUMAA), please visit www.fumaa.org.



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. There will be six meetings each year on the fourth Wednesday of the dedicated month. (Exception: A special meeting may be substituted for a regular meeting to avoid conflicts and/or holidays.) Meetings will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. and will be held in the Fairfield Union High School Library, unless stated otherwise. A list of all meeting dates can be found on the school website under "Athletics" and "Athletic Boosters."

Mid-State League Admission Prices (Subject to Change)

All Adult High School Tickets: \$7.00

All Adult Middle School Tickets: \$5.00

All Student Tickets (Home and Visiting Students): \$3.00

Please note: To make reduction of student ticket pricing possible, the Fairfield Union Athletic Boosters have made an incredibly generous donation to help reduce the overall cost of operating our Athletic Department.

Fairfield Union will offer the following special rates for **home** events only:

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 2024-2025 Fall and Winter Seasons

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

Andy Clark — Football

Brian Oliver — Boys Golf

Ty McCafferty — Girls Golf

Jerrold Redding — Boys Soccer

Casey Bischof — Girls Soccer

Rob Myers — Cross Country

Holly Culver — Volleyball

Brooke Cvetan — Fall and Winter Cheerleading

Travis Shaeffer — Boys Basketball

Keith Barr — Girls Basketball

Donald Welsh — Wrestling

TBD — Girls Swimming

TBD — Boys Swimming

Bailey Conrad —
Athletic Trainer



2024-2025 BUS ROUTES

The 2024-2025 Bus Routes will be posted on the school website at www.fairfieldunion.org. All student bus routing is carried over from year to year. Parents/Guardians should fill out a Transportation Request or Change form **ONLY** if there is a change to the routing from the previous year. Fifth grade parents who have a student who lives within the village of Bremen or Pleasantville are reminded that you must fill out a change request form since you are changing your building of attendance to Rushville Middle School. 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 District Office at 740-536-7384.

Dean Rarey
Transportation
Coordinator



2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR

New Teacher Orientation	August 8 & 9, 2024 (THURSDAY & FRIDAY)
Teacher Work Day — Classroom Preparation	August 12 (MONDAY)
Convocation/Teacher Professional Development Days	August 13 & 14 (TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY)
First Day for Students	August 15 (THURSDAY)
Labor Day	September 2 (NO SCHOOL)
Teacher Professional Development Day	September 20 (NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS)
Teacher Professional Development Day	September 23 (NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS)
Fairfield County Fair	October 7 – 11 (NO SCHOOL)
End of 1st Nine Weeks — Two Hour Late Arrival	October 25 (FRIDAY)
Comp. Day for Parent Teacher Conferences	November 27 (NO SCHOOL)
Thanksgiving Break	November 28 & 29 (NO SCHOOL)
Last Day Before Christmas — Two Hour Early Dismissal	December 20 (FRIDAY)
Christmas Break	December 23 - January 3, 2025 (NO SCHOOL)
School Resumes	January 6, 2025 (MONDAY)
End of 2nd Nine Weeks — Two Hour Late Arrival	January 17 (FRIDAY)
Martin Luther King Day	January 20 (NO SCHOOL)
Presidents Day	February 17 (NO SCHOOL)
Teacher Professional Development Day	March 21 (NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS)
Spring Break	April 18 – 21 (NO SCHOOL)
Last Day for Students — Two Hour Early Dismissal	May 22 (THURSDAY)
Teacher Work Day — Records	May 23 (FRIDAY)
Graduation Exercises	May 25 (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 20, February 17, March 21, April 21, and May 23.

2. The District may also utilize remote learning or blizzard bags, as permissible by law, to make up missed instructional time.

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 21, November 25, March 18 and March 20

Fairfield Union High School & Rushville Middle School:

November 19, November 25, March 18 and March 20

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

Bremen & Pleasantville Elementary Schools: August 12, 2024

Fairfield Union High School & Rushville Middle School: August 13, 2024

LATE ARRIVAL DATES

Friday, October 25, 2024
(Grading K-12)

Friday, January 17, 2025
(Grading K-12)

EARLY DISMISSAL DATES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Thursday, May 22, 2025



District Board of Education
6417 Cincinnati-Zanesville Rd NE
Lancaster, OH 43130

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2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Receipts

Local Sources

Property Tax	\$8,740,403	30%
Income Tax	7,146,845	24%
Other	1,354,726	5%
Total Local	17,241,974	59%
State & Federal Sources	12,061,112	41%
Total Receipts	\$29,303,086	100%

Expenditures

Employee Salaries/Wages	\$13,719,520	47%
Employee Benefits	5,898,823	20%
Purchased Services	2,771,357	10%
Supplies	1,804,499	6%
Capital	0	0%
Other/Transfers	4,954,357	17%
Total Expenditures	\$29,148,556	100%

Beginning Cash Balance July 1, 2023	\$17,396,070
Receipts	29,303,086
Expenditures	29,148,556
Ending Balance June 30, 2024	\$17,550,600

DIRECTORY

Board of Education

Tami Conrad-Zangmeister, President
Kevin Kemmerer, Vice President
Todd Hoffman
Tina Johns
Jeff Schmelzer

Administration

Chad Belville, Superintendent
(740) 536-7384

Courtney Roberts, Treasurer
(740) 536-7384

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

Amy Noland, Assistant Treasurer
(740) 536-7384

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

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

Scott Harris, Athletic Director
(740) 536-7306

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

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

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

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

Dean Rarey, Transportation
(740) 536-7820

Diana Browning, Food Service
(740) 536-7384

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