

SEPTEMBER 2015

Small Schools, Big Futures

LANCER & LETTER

AMESVILLE & COOLVILLE ELEMENTARIES • FEDERAL HOCKING MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL



Congratulations 2015 Graduates!

The Class of 2015 truly exemplifies our mission: we strive to help our young people to become democratic citizens and life-long learners. Through their actions and words they have left a legacy of scholarship, service, and kindness.

We're proud of their many accomplishments during their time at Federal Hocking High School. While here, they scored the highest of any group of Federal Hocking sophomores on the Ohio Graduation Tests. They had the highest collective ACT scores for a class and provided yet another candidate for the prestigious Cutler Scholarship at Ohio University. They had two valedictorians, both with a 4.0 grade point average, and had ten students inducted in the National Honor Society. They also received the most distinguished Senior Projects and Portfolios in quite some time.

In fact, over 83% of the 63 graduates in the class are heading to a post-secondary school, taking with them over \$265,000 in scholarship money to help in these efforts. They are heading to schools such as Furman, Heidelberg, Marietta, and Ohio University. Three of our graduates will continue their athletic careers in college as they were given scholarships to compete in basketball, track, and cross country at Rio Grande, Shawnee State, and Ohio Valley College.

THE HIGHEST
COLLECTIVE
ACT SCORES
FOR A CLASS

COMMITTED TO SERVING THEIR SCHOOL,
THEIR COMMUNITY, AND THEIR COUNTRY

This has also been a very giving group, committed to serving their school, their community, and their country. Many senior projects were service oriented, from coaching young people and organizing fundraisers for those in need, to raising awareness about homeless animals, bullying, and cancer. They demonstrated not only that they could fulfill the requirements of the senior project, but also help people in the process.

Three of the seniors achieved the status of Eagle Scout. One of the many requirements for this is to plan and carry out a community service project and they did this through projects that helped to make their school, parks, and community a cleaner and better place. In addition, four members of this class will continue in this spirit by serving their country as they have enlisted into the armed forces, one in each of the major branches: Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines. There are very few more selfless acts than serving your country and having four members of this small class doing so is just another indication of the giving nature of this class.

While we're sad to see them go, we're happy knowing that they are prepared for whatever lies ahead. We have nothing but pride for our Federal Hocking Class of 2015.

FH Grad Leads At Amesville Elementary

A familiar face is in the principal's office.

Cathe Blower was a student at Amesville and, back when her last name was Glass, graduated from Federal Hocking High School in 1986. While Cathe was tapped to begin as Amesville principal last March, she begins her first full year this fall.

Cathe has been teaching in the Federal Hocking District since 1990, starting as a first grade teacher at Coolville. After three years she moved to Amesville, where for 21 years she has taught in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades as well as a multi-aged classroom. Her teaching degree and her Master's degrees both were earned at Ohio University.

Cathe comes from a long line of Federal Hocking students. Both of her parents, Jimmie and Dorothy Glass, are graduates of Ames-Bern High School and still reside in Amesville. Her grandparents were also graduates of Amesville High School before Ames and Bern townships merged.

Looking back over her years as a student in Amesville Cathe said that "some of my fondest memories at Federal Hocking include being able to walk to elementary school, the Amesville School Spring Carnival, and learning to play the tenor saxophone and traveling with the marching band." Already she has begun to initiate new traditions at Amesville, including last spring's "Moving Up Day" where children met the teachers they will have next year and 6th graders did school service projects.

Cathe is married to Mitch Blower and, with their two twins, Wyatt and Laura, live on a farm just outside of Amesville. She enjoys gardening, photography, and hiking with her family. When asked about becoming principal, she offered the following: "I am very excited to watch students and teachers learn and grow each day, as I continue to do just that in this new role as well. I



"I feel fortunate for the connections I have with families of our school"

feel fortunate for all the time I had in my own classroom and for the connections I have with families of our school, and feel that experience will serve our building well. Words cannot express how fortunate I feel to be able to continue to serve our small school. I am truly grateful for the opportunity!"

Library Renovations for Amesville Elementary

Thousands of new books, new programs and better floor plan.

Over the last year or so, the library at Amesville has undergone some major restructuring and renovation! Under the direction of volunteer librarian Linda Cochran, retired children's librarian for Athens County Libraries, and an extensive

group of volunteers, the library has seen its collection move into the 21st century with \$21,500 worth of new books being purchased. Donors to the library include: The Epstein Teisher Foundation in New York (\$10,000), Athens Rotary and the Rotary Foundation (\$10,000), O'Bleness Foundation (\$1,000), and Ameriprize Jeff Chadock (\$250). Several other donations are in the works!

Circulation of books has increased drastically due to new and updated titles and students can select up to three books at a time instead of one. Some favorites include books on countries from around the world (our original section was published well before the 1970s).

The physical arrangement of the library has also been updated with shelves moved for a growing collection of fiction

and non-fiction books alike and a more open space for guest readers and volunteers reading to large groups of students. Beautiful color images of our Amesville students reading (captured by Ohio University photography students on special assignment) are prominently displayed on the library walls.

The Lancer Welcome Wagon helps to organize a monthly Story Hour in the library as well, where our littlest learners can come to visit, explore, play, and hear fantastic stories.

During the last two summers, Open Library was held throughout the summer with various weekly programs about gardening, snakes, hula hooping, and other topics. We invite everyone to visit the library soon!



Coolville Kids Keep Learning All Summer!

Teachers and community develop reading incentives for elementary students.

As the 2015 school year wound down, the Coolville staff worried that the gains in reading made by students over the school year would be lost during the summer. Reading is something you get better at with practice, and often students lose skills when not in school. So, rather than just express our worry and discuss this concern among ourselves, we decided to do something about it!

The staff at Coolville Elementary partnered with the Coolville Library and Athens County Children Services in a program where students kept track of the minutes they read and earned prizes as the read more and more over the summer. Staff met students at the Coolville Library every week; helping students pick out books and record their minutes. It was a busy, happy, and exciting community time each week as children, teachers, parents, grandparents, and friends gathered at the Coolville Library.

Over the summer we have had over 80 students participate in the program, with 33 of them reading over 500 minutes and earning a t-shirt, 19 students reading over 1000 minutes and earning lunch with the principal, and 14 students reading over 2000 minutes and earning a gift certificate to the book fair.

One child close to the 2000 mark said, "I've probably never read over the summer, but I am reading like crazy and going for the top!"

A special thank-you goes to the Coolville staff, who volunteered their time to be at the library, greet our students, and help them choose books. Also thanks to the staff at the Coolville library and Children Services.

We know that our combined effort made a difference for our students! We also thank our parents, grandparents, and friends who made sure our children read over the summer. We look for great results when we return this school year!



Coolville Elementary staff volunteered their time at the library, greeting students helping them choose books. Many thanks to them, the Coolville Library and Athens Children Services.

Welcome Wagon: Free activities for young ones

Children ages birth to four are often not part of a school district's programs—but they are at Federal Hocking. The Welcome Wagon is a free program for young children that provides literacy resources, access to community programs, and events at our schools.



Former FH teacher Mary Louise Phillips coordinates the program, overseeing a dedicated group of more than two-dozen volunteers. These folks also take 'gift bags' to children at each birthday, including books, learning games, and even FH themed bibs and tee shirts.

A family Story Hour is held once a month at both Amesville and Coolville Elementary School libraries from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. A Fall Family Festival is coming soon.

For more information or to sign up your child, call Mary Louise at 740-662-6691, ext. 4. We hope to see you at our next event!

New Teachers Tour District

George Wood introduces staff to our community.

Teachers new to Federal Hocking had a tour of the community and schools on Friday, August 14. After meeting at Amesville they loaded up on the bus and ran some of the bus routes, finishing at Coolville. "We want our new staff to know all they can about our community, and this is a way to introduce them to who we are," said Superintendent George Wood.



Going along on the trip, from left to right (with their teaching assignments and graduation year for FH grads) were: Lindsay Endick (Coolville, 4th grade, FH Class of 2005), Cliff Bonner (FH Middle/High School Principal), Connie Jackson (Coolville, Pre-school), Rebecca Castelino (Middle School, Science), Molly Mason-Hurst (Amesville, Early Childhood Specialist), Bethany Burley (Amesville, 3rd grade), Sarah Lathrop (Amesville, 1st Grade), Levi Thompson (Middle School Math), Emily Dunfee (Coolville, Physical Education, FH Class of 2009), Mary Mitchell (Coolville, Principal), Natasha Schall, (Amesville, 6th Grade, FH Class of 2008), Cathe Blower (Amesville, Principal, FH Class of 1986), Lindsey Hoffman, (Amesville, Music), Susan Borghese (Coolville, Intervention Specialist).

Keep Public School Free

Once again there will be no school fees charged at any Federal Hocking School. This is the third year for 'fee-free' schools.

"We believe in a free public education, and that includes not charging school fees," announced Superintendent Wood at the July FH Board meeting.

"As principals we agree with the direction of not charging fees," noted FH Middle and High School Principal Cliff Bonner. "For a lot of families fees are a hardship, and I hate having my staff be in the position of collecting money from folks that sometimes just do not have it."

Mary Mitchell, Coolville Principal, also noted that the district was committed to making sure each school had the funds for consumable supplies. "Things like printer paper, markers, art supplies, all the things children use up in school, we like to provide those as much as we can." She also noted that, for the most part, the supplies children are asked to bring with them to school are for personal use.

Many families and residents have helped with the effort not to charge school fees by sending in donations of both cash and supplies. **If you would like to help**, contact your school principal or teacher and see what you could provide to keep public education free in Federal Hocking.

FIRST DAY FUN!





Half-Million Reserve Fund

The Federal Hocking School Board has replenished its budget reserve fund with an infusion of \$500,000. Given the district's strong fiscal position, the Board felt it was time to replenish the fund that had been used in the recent building projects.

According to Board policy, this fund can only be tapped by an action of the Board and is reserved for emergencies or particular opportunities. In the past this fund has been used to cover a state-funding shortfall and, as noted, the current roof and HVAC project.

"The Board Reserve Fund earmarks dollars to be used in case of an unanticipated shortfall or, for example, a major facilities issue," said FH Treasurer Bruce Steenrod. "It shows that the Board is engaged in careful planning to protect our overall fiscal position and is prepared to meet any fiscal emergency."

\$500,000 Technology Fund

District creates new fund at Wood's request.

At its July meeting, the Federal Hocking School Board approved Superintendent Wood's request that a \$500,000 technology fund be created. The fund will be used to upgrade the technology tools available to students and teaching in all three buildings.

For the past year the district has been working with Damien Bawn, a former FH teacher and technology consultant. Based on his work with teachers and students, the district is moving to a portable, lap top style platform for all schools.

This fall all three school buildings will be piloting the use of Chrome Books for classroom instruction and student research. If successful, this pilot will be expanded using the Technology Fund.

District residents are invited to visit our schools and see the new technology at work!

Major Building Improvements

New roofing and HVAC for all FedHock buildings.

This past summer saw upgrades to all of the District's buildings. New roofs have gone on Amesville and Coolville Elementary as well as on the high school gym and the high school. Additionally, all three buildings received new HVAC systems. "These upgrades address the basic infrastructure needs of all of our buildings for the next 20 years," noted Building, Grounds, and Transportation Supervisor Pat Tabler.

The elementary roof projects were paid for through warranty claims on the prior roof installation. The new roofs are warranted through 2036.

The high school roof project and the HVAC work were financed through working with the Ohio School Facilities Council (OSFC). Local funding of \$894,402 was matched with state funding of \$567,145 in order to complete the project.

"We are very pleased that these projects did not require any additional local taxes."



"We are very pleased that these projects did not require any additional local taxes," said Superintendent George Wood. "Rather, through past savings due to utility upgrades and careful budgeting we had the local funds on hand to make this project work."

HOME COMING

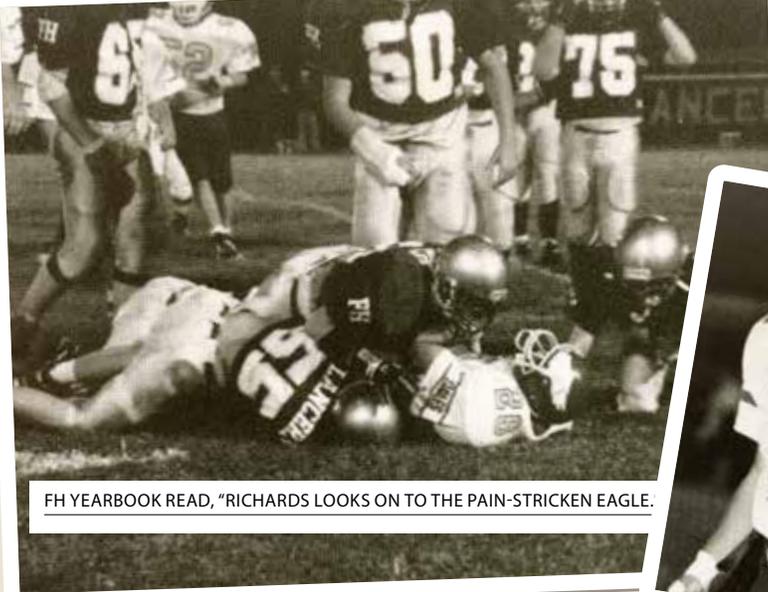
Friday, October 16th 2015
Federal Hocking High School

Steak Fry Dinner
4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

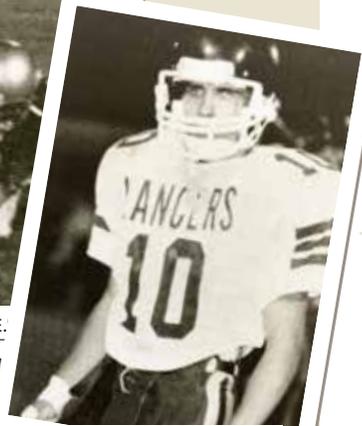
Parade 6:00 p.m.

Lancers vs Falcons
Football Game 7:30 p.m.

Don't miss the **Steak Fry Dinner**, a delicious way to help our students in the Internship Program! Hosted in the high school commons from 4 to 7 p.m., we'll offer your choice of steak or chicken, plus salad, roll, and your choice of dessert. Tickets are \$10 at the door, or buy yours in advance from any intern and we'll save you a seat!



FH YEARBOOK READ, "RICHARDS LOOKS ON TO THE PAIN-STRICKEN EAGLE."



KASLER, A FOUR YEAR LETTERMAN

FH Alumni Lead the Lancers

New football coaches for both middle and high school.



Luke Richards is the new coach at the helm of the Lancer varsity football team this fall. A 1995 graduate of Federal Hocking High School, Luke brings new energy and experience to the sidelines of Lancer Stadium. Luke played college football at Urbana University and graduated in 2001 with a

degree in Business Administration and a minor in History. Over the next 14 years, Richards gained valuable experience while coaching football, baseball, and softball at both Mechanicsburg High School and Harrison High School near Cincinnati. Richards' coaching philosophy is, "to provide a fun, safe atmosphere where players receive disciplined instruction that promotes every student athlete involved to grow and mature into young men with character within the school and community." Richards currently resides in Amesville, Ohio.



Brad Kasler, a long-time teacher and Amesville resident, heads the middle-school program. Brad is a 1986 graduate of Federal Hocking where he was a four year letterman in football. After graduating from Ohio University in the spring of 1992, Brad began

teaching at Federal Hocking that fall and is currently beginning his 24th year at the school. His daughter, Jenna, will be a senior this year at Federal Hocking and son, Gabe, will be in 7th grade. Kasler has coached in the bid league for the past two years and when it comes to football, he believes, "practices should be fun, energetic, and a place where players can learn those fundamental skills necessary to play the game well. If that happens, winning will follow."



CROSS COUNTRY ON HOME TURF!

For the first time in Federal Hocking history, Lancer's will host a Cross Country meet at home. Come out and cheer for the Lancer harriers at the Middle/High School grounds. Good luck to Coach David Miller and team!

LANCER INVITATIONAL TUESDAY, SEPT. 22 AT 4:45 P.M.

LANCERS

2015 FALL SPORTS SCHEDULE

Schedule changes due to weather will be posted online:
www.fedhock.com

JV/VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

				GAME TIME	BUS DEPARTS
Tues	Aug. 25	Meigs	Home	6:00 p.m.	
Mon	Aug. 31	River Valley	Away	6:00 p.m.	4:00 p.m.
Wed	Sept. 2	Logan	Away	6:00 p.m.	4:00 p.m.
Thur	Sept. 3	Eastern	Away	6:00 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
Tues	Sept. 8	Belpre	Home	6:00 p.m.	
Wed	Sept. 9	Meigs	Away	6:00 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
Thur	Sept. 10	South Gallia	Away	6:00 p.m.	3:30 p.m.
Mon	Sept. 14	Wellston	Home	6:00 p.m.	
Tues	Sept. 15	Waterford	Home	6:00 p.m.	
Thur	Sept. 17	Wahama	Away	6:00 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
Sat	Sept. 19	River Valley	Home	1:00 p.m.	
Mon	Sept. 21	Southern	Home	6:00 p.m.	
Tues	Sept. 22	Miller	Home	6:00 p.m.	
Thur	Sept. 24	Trimble	Away	6:00 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
Mon	Sept. 28	Eastern	Home	6:00 p.m.	
Tues	Sept. 29	Belpre	Away	6:00 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
Thur	Oct. 1	South Gallia	Home	6:00 p.m.	
Tues	Oct. 6	Waterford	Away	6:00 p.m.	4:00 p.m.
Thur	Oct. 8	Wahama	Home	6:00 p.m.	
Mon	Oct. 12	Southern	Away	6:00 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
Tues	Oct. 13	Miller	Away	6:00 p.m.	4:00 p.m.
Thur	Oct. 15	Trimble (Senior Night)	Home	6:00 p.m.	

7/8TH VOLLEYBALL

				GAME TIME	BUS DEPARTS
Wed	Sept. 2	Logan	Away	6:00 p.m.	4:00 p.m.
Thur	Sept. 3	Eastern	Away	6:00 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
Tues	Sept. 8	Belpre	Home	6:00 p.m.	
Thur	Sept. 10	South Gallia	Away	6:00 p.m.	3:30 p.m.
Thur	Sept. 17	Wahama	Away	6:00 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
Mon	Sept. 21	Southern	Home	6:00 p.m.	
Tues	Sept. 22	Miller	Home	6:00 p.m.	
Thur	Sept. 24	Trimble	Away	6:00 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
Mon	Sept. 28	Eastern	Home	6:00 p.m.	
Tues	Sept. 29	Belpre	Away	6:00 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
Thur	Oct. 1	South Gallia	Home	6:00 p.m.	
Thur	Oct. 8	Wahama	Home	6:00 p.m.	
Mon	Oct. 12	Southern	Away	6:00 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
Tues	Oct. 13	Miller	Away	6:00 p.m.	4:00 p.m.
Thur	Oct. 15	Trimble	Home	6:00 p.m.	

VARSITY FOOTBALL

				GAME TIME	BUS DEPARTS
Tues	Aug. 18	Scrimm-Park Catholic	Away	6:00 p.m.	4:00 p.m.
Fri	Aug. 21	Fort Frye (Jamboree)	Home	7:30 p.m.	
Fri	Aug. 28	Alexander	Home	7:30 p.m.	
Fri	Sept. 4	South Gallia	Away	7:30 p.m.	4:00 p.m.
Fri	Sept. 11	Belpre	Home	7:30 p.m.	
Fri	Sept. 18	Eastern	Away	7:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
Fri	Sept. 25	Wahama	Away	7:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
Fri	Oct. 2	Southern	Home	7:30 p.m.	
Fri	Oct. 9	Vinton County	Away	7:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
Fri	Oct. 16	Miller (Homecoming)	Home	7:30 p.m.	
Fri	Oct. 23	Waterford	Away	7:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
Fri	Oct. 30	Trimble (Senior Night)	Home	7:30 p.m.	

7/8TH FOOTBALL

				GAME TIME	BUS DEPARTS
Mon	Aug. 31	Parkersburg Catholic	Home	6:00 p.m.	
Thur	Sept. 3	South Gallia	Home	6:00 p.m.	
Thur	Sept. 10	Belpre	Away	6:00 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
Thur	Sept. 17	Eastern	Home	6:00 p.m.	
Thur	Oct. 1	Southern	Away	6:00 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
Thur	Oct. 15	Miller	Away	6:00 p.m.	4:00 p.m.
Thur	Oct. 22	Waterford	Home	6:00 p.m.	
Thur	Oct. 29	Trimble	Away	6:00 p.m.	4:30 p.m.

CROSS COUNTRY

				GAME TIME	BUS DEPARTS
Sat.	Aug. 29	Golden Rocket Invt'l	Away	10:00 a.m.	7:30 a.m.
Sat.	Sept. 5	Vinton Co. Invitational	Away	9:00 a.m.	7:00 a.m.
Wed.	Sept. 9	Invitational	Away	4:30 p.m.	3:00 p.m.
Sat.	Sept. 12	Fort Frye Invitational	Away	1:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m.
Tues.	Sept. 15	Nelsonville-York Invt'l	Away	4:45 p.m.	3:00 p.m.
Tues.	Sept. 22	Lancer Invitational	Home	4:45 p.m.	
Wed.	Sept. 30	Meigs Invitational	Away	4:30 p.m.	3:00 p.m.
Wed	Oct. 7	Spartan Invitational	Away	4:30 p.m.	3:00 p.m.

GOLF

			COURSE
Thur	Aug. 6	Waterford, FH, Wahama	Lakeside
Mon	Aug. 10	Wahama, FH, Miller	Mason
Thur	Aug. 13	SG, FH, Southern	Cliffside
Tue	Aug. 18	Belpre, FH, Waterford, Trimble	Oxbow
Tue	Aug. 25	FH, Belpre, Southern	Oxbow
Wed	Aug. 26	Belpre, FH, Wahama, East	Oxbow
Thur	Aug. 27	Eastern, FH, Waterford	Pinehurst
Mon	Aug. 31	Miller, FH, East, Trimble	Forest H.
Wed	Sept. 9	Belpre, FH, SG, Miller	Oxbow
Thur	Sept. 17	Southern, FH, Trimble	Green H.

Federal Hocking Local Schools
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