September 2026 Volume IV Issue 28

THE PHOENIX

FOXFIRE MONTHLY DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

SUPERINTENDENT BLOG-*WELCOME BACK TO THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR*



Superintendent
Mr. Todd Whiteman

The Foxfire Education & Opportunities R4U!

We Are ...

Respectful

Responsible

Resilient

Students

built on Relationships!

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@foxfire_schools
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As we begin the 2026-2027 school year, I want to welcome our students, families, staff, and community back to Foxfire Schools. Every new school year brings a fresh opportunity to grow, to improve, and to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the students we serve. I truly believe this year has the potential to be one of our best yet.

One of the exciting changes this year is the addition of Mrs. Ryanne Hartman as our Intermediate School Director. Mrs. Hartman has a deep understanding of our students, our staff, and the unique mission of Foxfire. Her passion for serving students and supporting teachers makes her an outstanding addition to our leadership team, and I am excited to see the positive impact she will have on our Intermediate School.

This year also marks the launch of our new four-day instructional week, an innovative step designed to better meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of our students while creating additional opportunities for personalized learning, intervention, enrichment, and staff collaboration. This change reflects our commitment to continually improving how we serve students and families while supporting the well-being of our staff.

While some things are changing, our mission remains exactly the same.

Our priorities continue to be simple and focused:

Get everyone to come to school.
Get everyone to grow.
Get everyone to have a positive experience.

These priorities guide every decision we make and every opportunity we create for our students. To accomplish these goals, we will continue emphasizing three key strategies:

Maintain high expectations for every student.
Actively engage students in meaningful learning every day.
Provide the extra help and support students need to be successful.
This year we will also continue building a culture centered on a growth mindset, encouraging students and staff to embrace challenges, learn from setbacks, and recognize that growth comes through effort, perseverance, and continuous improvement.

Equally important will be our continued focus on the 4Rs. These principles help define the positive culture we strive to create throughout Foxfire and remind us that strong relationships, personal responsibility, mutual respect, and resilience are essential to student success both inside and outside the classroom.

At Foxfire, we know success is measured by more than test scores. It is measured by students who choose to come to school, believe in themselves, achieve academic growth, and leave each day knowing they are valued, supported, and capable of accomplishing great things.

Thank you to our families for trusting us, our community for supporting us, and our incredible staff for your dedication to our students. Together, we will continue creating opportunities, changing lives, and ensuring every student has the chance to succeed.

Welcome back, and let's make the 2026-2027 school year our best one yet!

Todd Whiteman
Superintendent-Foxfire Schools

FOXFIRE ADDS LIFE SKILLS CENTER





Foxfire Schools is excited to open its new Life Skills Lab during the 2026–2027 school year. This approximately 500-square-foot learning space will provide students with hands-on opportunities to develop the practical skills needed to become more independent and successful after high school.

The Life Skills Lab will provide a real-world learning environment where students can practice essential skills such as personal hygiene, laundry, household cleaning and organization, budgeting, and other daily living skills. Rather than simply learning about these skills in a traditional classroom, students will have the opportunity to practice them in a setting designed to resemble a home.

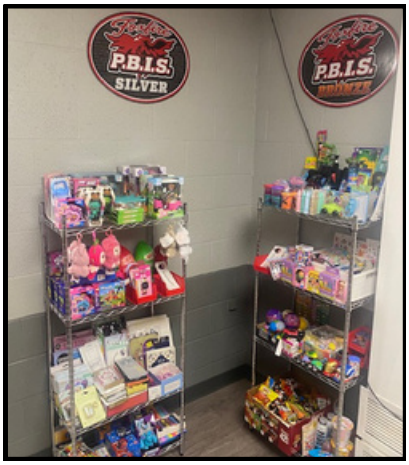
This project was made possible through the generous support of the Straker Foundation, along with donations and assistance from Big Sandy Superstore, Lowe's, and Lavy's Flooring. Their contributions have helped provide the building, appliances, cabinetry, flooring, furniture, household items, and other materials needed to create a functional learning environment for Foxfire students.

We are extremely grateful to the Straker Foundation and our community partners for investing in our students and helping make this opportunity possible.

FOXFIRE PBIS STORE OPENS IN SEPTEMBER

Foxfire's new PBIS store will open in September! The space located in the back area of the front offices now has three tiered shelving for more space & efficiency for all four levels of awards (Platinum, Gold, Silver & Bronze). Students who earn a check will now go to the store and cash in their checks they have earned from Live School points.
The store replaces the traveling carts that used to visit the classrooms monthly.





2026-2027 FOXFIRE CAREER PATHWAYS

Foxfire Schools continues to offer career pathway opportunities for students during the 2026–2027 school year. Our goal is simple: every student graduates with a plan, skills, and experiences that prepare them for what comes next.

Students have opportunities to explore careers, receive individualized career coaching, participate in work-based learning and pre-apprenticeships, and earn industry-recognized credentials. Pathways and credential opportunities include **construction, healthcare, information technology, business and customer service, logistics, agriculture, and skilled trades.**

Students can earn credentials such as **NCCER Core, OSHA-10, forklift and lift certifications, STNA, CPR/First Aid, Adobe certifications, Rise Up credentials,** and other industry-recognized certifications. Foxfire also continues to build partnerships with local employers, colleges, training providers, and community organizations to connect classroom learning with real-world opportunities.

Through career exploration, hands-on training, industry credentials, work experience, and individualized career planning, Foxfire is working to ensure that students don't simply graduate—they graduate to something: employment, additional training, college, an apprenticeship, or the military.



Forklift & Lift Certifications



Foxfire State Tested Nursing Assistants



Agriculture

career pathways
EXPERIENCE | LEARNING | SUCCESS

STAFF VISIT FAIR TO SHARE THE FOXFIRE EXPERIENCE

Foxfire Adminstrative and teaching staff visited the 180th Muskingum County fair for the 2nd year in a year to showcase to visitors the Foxfire Experience. Located in the Veterans building staff provided information about how to enroll, brochures about Athletics, PBIS and Pathway opportunities.

There was also a running video that on display that demonstrated Foxfire students and their successes, that included Red Carpet Night, Graduation and Athletics. Those interested in enrolling could make an apointment to begin the intake process as well as information on how to enroll in Final Forms.

MISS NADINE'S COUNSELING

Welcome Back to School

As we begin another exciting school year, I want to welcome all of our students and families! Whether you entering kindergarten, starting middle school, beginning high school, or returning for another year, a new schoolyear brings fresh opportunities to learn, grow, and build meaningful connections.

While new beginnings are exciting, they can also bring mixed emotions. It's completely normal for students—and parents—to feel excited, nervous, uncertain, or even overwhelmed during the transition back to school. Adjusting to new teachers, classmates, schedules, and expectations takes time, and that's okay.

One of the most important things we can do is prioritize our mental wellness. Just as we encourage healthy eating, exercise, and good sleep, taking care of our emotional health is essential for success in school and in life.

Here are a few ways families can support a positive start to the school year:

- Establish consistent routines for bedtime, waking up, homework, and meals.
- Encourage open conversations about feelings by checking in with your child each day.
- Celebrate effort and progress rather than focusing only on grades or performance.
- Help students balance school responsibilities with time for family, friends, hobbies, and relaxation.
- Model healthy ways to cope with stress, such as taking breaks, practicing gratitude, exercising, or spending time outdoors.

Students, remember that you don't have to face challenges alone. Everyone experiences difficult days, and asking for help is a sign of strength—not weakness. Whether you are feeling worried, stressed, lonely, or struggling with friendships, schoolwork, or other concerns, there are caring adults at school who are here to listen and support you.
As one of your counselors at Foxfire, please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you need to talk. Parents and caregivers play a very important role in supporting children & well-being. If you notice changes in your child's mood, behavior, sleep, appetite, or interest in activities they normally enjoy, please reach out for help.

Working together, we can help students work through challenges early and connect them with the support they need. This year, let's continue to build a school community where kindness, inclusion, and compassion are part of every day. Small acts of kindness, encouraging words, and a willingness to support one another can make a lasting difference. Remember our 4 R's; respect, responsibility, relationships and resilience.

I look forward to working with our students, families, and staff to make this a safe, healthy, and successful school year for everyone.

Welcome back!

Miss Nadine

School Counseling

FOXFIRES ENERGY BUS CULTURE RETURNS

This year begins year three of the Energy Bus Culture here at Foxfire! Based on The Energy Bus, the mega best-selling book by Jon Gordon, the Energy Bus for Schools program is designed to fuel Foxfire, our teachers and students with positive energy. Research clearly shows that culture and leadership greatly influence a school's learning environment and students' academic success. That's why the Energy Bus works hand in hand with the schools to create a school culture where school leaders, students and educators develop as positive leaders and energize the school culture together.

The Energy Bus believes in enjoying the ride and hopes our school does too! Positive school climates are linked to increased high school graduation rates, turnarounds in low-performing schools, reduced school violence, and increased communication among students, families and faculty.

10 RULES FOR THE RIDE OF YOUR LIFE

1. You're the Driver of the Bus.
2. Desire, Vision and Focus your bus in the right direction.
3. Fuel your Ride with Positive Energy.
4. Invite People on Your Bus and Share your Vision for the Road Ahead.
5. Don't Waste Your Energy on those who don't get on your bus.
6. "No Energy Vampires Allowed" on your bus.
7. Enthusiasm attracts more Passengers and Energizes during the ride.
8. Love your Passengers.
9. Drive with Purpose.
10. Have Fun and Enjoy the Ride.



On **September 4th**, Foxfire will kick-off the Energy Bus with a School-wide PBIS Assembly that will include a presentation on the 10 Rules and recognition of students who are displaying those rules already in the school year. The assembly will focus on the Energy Bus principles and bringing positive energy!

Each student will receive a Bus Ticket that may earn a seat for them on our Bus Murals in the hallways. Students who have 90% attendance, show growth academically and behaviorally can have their ticket placed on the bus. If they get a seat on the bus, they will earn a special check for our monthly cart incentives and extra points in their Live School account!

Mr. Lee will also explain how classrooms will be monitored with the lights outside the classroom doors (Green, Yellow, Red) and in the hallway that demonstrates if the classroom or grade band is meeting our attendance mark, are growth mark and having a positive experience that day.









NURSE LINDSEYS CORNER

Welcome Back to School Reminders

Reminder that students in 7th and 12th grades (even if they aren't in the building) who received vaccination letters over the summer need to have those completed or an exemption on file by 8/26 to continue to attend school. Please call if an appointment has been made but is after this date.

Foxfire partners with Muskingum Valley Health Center (MVHC) to provide a School Link Health Program for your student to receive medical, dental, and/or behavioral health care during the school day if needed. You can get more information and the forms to enroll by visiting MVHC's or Foxfire's website or email/calling the school nurse.

MVHC

Kindergarten and 1st grade vision and hearing screenings will be completed soon. If you do not want your child (K-12) screened please notify the nurse so the appropriate paperwork can be sent home to sign.

With mental health conditions on the rise I wanted to be sure our families know about two important resources for immediate help, Mobile Response and Stabilization Services and Cedar Ridges Mental Health Urgent Care. Please check out the links below as these services are very beneficial and can help your student when in crisis or when they cannot wait months for an appointment.

https://www.allwell.org/Services/Mobile-Family-Crisis-Services/

https://www.crbhs.org/services/mental-health-urgent-care

Ways to contact Nurse Lindsey:
740-453-4509 Option 2
labella@foxfireschools.com
Class DoJo

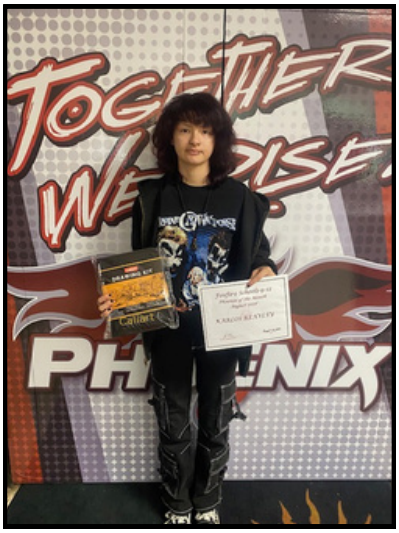
PHOENIX OF THE MONTH-AUGUST



K-5-Amilia Dunkle-1



6-8-Kysen Jones-7



9-12-Karlos Reavely-10

RESPECTFUL RESPONSIBLE RESILIENT RELATIONSHIPS

EARN YOUR DRIVERS LICENSE FREE WITH FOXFIRE

Foxfires driving program has been very successful in providing students with the opportunity to earn their license. If you are interested, these are the steps for any student who wishes to take driver's education at Foxfire High School.

First the student must get their permit that can be done when they reach the age of 15 1/2. Once having their permit, they must fill out a PRC form that Foxfire submits to Job and Family Services to see if they qualify for them to pay for it. If not, no worries because Foxfire will take care of the cost at the school.

Students then fill out two applications. Once Foxfire receives those applications then the instructor can get the student started on the online classes. After completing 24 hours of online classes and passing the test, students then will do eight hours of behind the wheel training with Mr. Nichols. These sessions will be four drives at two hours per drive.

Once driving hours are completed, students will receive a certificate of completion and they can schedule their driver's test after that. So far this school year, Foxfire has had 15 students complete the program and go on to get their driver's license. Mr. Nichols encourages any student who attends Foxfire to consider the program at no cost to obtain their license.

Contact: Mr. Nichols
740-453-4509
jnichols@foxfireschools.com



PBIS & LIVE SCHOOL CONTINUES TO IMPACT FOXFIRE CULTURE



Positive **B**ehavioral **I**nterventions and **S**upports **(PBIS)**, an evidence-based framework used in schools to create positive learning environments by proactively teaching, supporting, and reinforcing desired student behaviors, focusing on social, emotional, and academic success for all students through a tiered system of support. Foxfire is currently a Gold Level program in the state of Ohio! The highest honor a district can receive!

Students earn points daily from **Live School** for attendance, behavior and the 4 R's **(Respect, Resilience, Responsibility and Relationships)**. Students are divided into four teams (K-5, 6-8, 9-10, & 11-12). Grade Band point standings are updated in a live scoring format on 4 Televisions though out the school building. Students are recognized for top points at our assemblies and earn their shopping checks with points earned with Liveschool! Live School points begun August 24th! Parents can check their students account by downloading app and using their student code. Please see your students teacher for the QR code.

LiveSchool

Winning grade band will earn a trip at the end of the school year! Students who are in the grade band & meet the minimal requirements for attendance, discipline & academics in previous years have earned trips to Sunrise Bowl & Putt Putt and recently Magic Mountain Fun center in Columbus!

PBIS
POSITIVE BEHAVIOR
INTERVENTION AND SUPPORT

FOXFIRE ATHLETICS UPDATE

Foxfire begins it third year of providing athletics for their students! Eleven athletic teams in grades 6-12 will compete in competivie athletic competition in 206-2027. This includes eight varsity teams and three middle school teams. This fall, 62 student athletes will participate in Varsity Football, Varsity Girls Volleyball, Fall Cheer, Middle School Flag Football & MS Flag Football to kick off our athletic year!

Varsity Football has already played two games in August and has a active roster of 22 players! The Phoenix are currently are 1-1 and will play four games in September before finishing the year on October 2nd. Volleyball is currently 0-1 after falling on the road at Marburn Academy in three sets. They have a roster of 14 players. Middle School Flag football kicks off their season in September with a roster of 11. Fall Varsity Cheer will cheer at all home football games (4) and currently has 9 on the roster. MS Co-Ed Soccer with a roster of 12 players will begin their season on September 21st.



2026-2027 Foxfire Football Team



2026 Volleyball Team post game at Marburn



2026-2027 Foxfire Fall Cheer Squad



2025-2026 MS Flag Football Team



2025-2026 MS Soccer Program

RESPECTFUL RESPONSIBLE RESILIENT RELATIONSHIPS

VARSITY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE 2026-2027

Day	Date	Opponent	Time	H/A
Sat	Aug 8	@*Columbus Crusaders W/Millersport *(Scrimmage)*	11:00 am	A
Sat	Aug 15	@West Union *('26 Early Kick-Off Classic)*	2:30 pm	A
Thur	**Aug 20**	**Expression Prep Academy, WV** *(Rise Up Sponsor Night)*	**6:00 pm**	**H**
Sat	**Aug 29**	***Noblesville, IN** *(MS Flag / Youth Cheer Night)*	**4:00 pm**	**H**
Sat	Sept 5	@Peebles	3:30 pm	A
Sat	Sep 12	@*Middletown Christian (C-4)	6:00 pm	A
Thur	**Sept 17**	**Jefferson Township** *(OHSAA D VII Region 28)* *(Homecoming 2026)*	**6:00 pm**	**H**
Sat	Sept 26	@North Adams	5:00 pm	A
Fri	**Oct 2**	**Berea Community, KY** *(Senior Night)*	**6:00 pm**	**H**

VARSITY VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE 2026-2027

Monday	August 31	@Marburn Academy	Away 6:00
Wednesday	**September 2**	**Ohio School for Deaf**	**Home 6:00**
Wednesday	**September 9**	**Columbus Torah Academy**	**Home 6:00**
Friday	**September 11**	**Franklinton Prep**	**Home 6:00**
Monday	September 14	@Ohio School for Deaf	Away 6:30
Wednesday	September 16	@Cristo Rey	Away 6:00
Monday	September 21	@Columbus Torah Academy	Away 6:00
Friday	**September 25**	**Franklinton Prep**	**Home 6:00**
Wednesday	September 30	@Oakstone Academy	Away 6:00
Friday	**October 2**	**Cornerstone Academy**	**Home 6:00**
Monday	**October 5**	**Academy of Urban Scholars**	**Home 6:00**
Wednesday	**October 7**	**Columbus Arts & Technology** *(Senior Night)*	**Home 6:00**
TBA	*TBA*	*United League River Division Tournament*	*TBA*

United League-Rail Division

United League -River Division

RESPECTFUL RESPONSIBLE RESILIENT RELATIONSHIPS

MS CO-ED SOCCER SCHEDULE

Monday	September 21	Bishop Fenwick	Home	5:30 pm
Wednesday	September 23	Shenandoah	Home	5:30 pm
Monday	September 28	Maysville	Home	5:15 pm
Wednesday	September 30	Cambridge	Home	5:30 pm
Monday	October 5	New Lexington	Home	5:15 pm

MS Co-Ed scoccer is part of the Maysville Soccer League and all games are hosted at Foxfire's High School Stadium.



MS FLAG FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Saturday	September 19	TBA	Away	10:00 am
Saturday	September 26	TBA	Away	10:00 am
Saturday	October 3	TBA	Away	10:00 am
Saturday	October 10	TBA	Away	10:00 am
Saturday	October 17	TBA	Away	10:00 am
Saturday	October 24	TBA	Away	10:00 am
Saturday	October 31	TBA	Away	10:00 am

MS Flag football games are part of the United League. All games are held at Cornerstone Academy. Cornerstone is located at 615 E. Walnut Street in Westerville, Ohio 43081

#TOGETHER WE RISE

FOXFIRE HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

President:
Mr. Bob McClelland

Vice President:
Mr. Dave Lewellen

Board Member:
Mrs. Kelly Murvine

Board Member:
Mrs. Lindsay Daniels

Board Member:
Mr. Jared Reynolds

FOXFIRE INTERMEDIATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

President:
Mr. Adam Davenport

Vice President:
Mr. Doug Sidwell

Board Member:
Mr. Derek Boothe

Board Member:
Ms. Barb Gibbs

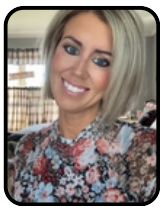
Board Member:
Mr. Mike Ziemer



FOXFIRE WELCOMES NEW STAFF


Ms. Guiler

Hello my name is Shayna Guiler and I will be the 2nd grade teacher this year. I have been in teaching field since 2011 where I have taught several grade levels from preschool to 5th grade. I have 2 boys, Carter and Cam, who attend Maysville. I spend my free time watching my boys play sports and when we can a trip to the beach. I can't wait for a fun exciting year at Foxfire.


Mrs. Saxton

Hello my name is Linsey Saxton! have been an elementary teacher for 19 years and absolutely LOVE my job. I have been married to my husband Scott for 23 years & I am a blessed mama to 2 beautiful children- Brinlynn (13) & Benson (10).I am obsessed with plants & I previously owned a Preschool Going to music concerts is my most favorite hobby. My favorite color is Green & I love Frogs. My favorite foods are Pizza & Salad. I always look foward the Fall season & my favorite sport is Baseball.


Ms. Smith

Hello! My name is Claire Smith, and I'm excited to join the Foxfire family! I'm a 7th and 8th grade Intervention Specialist and co-teach ELA and Science. This is my first year teaching, and I'm eager to start my teaching career at Foxfire. I love building relationships with students and creating a classroom where everyone feels supported and welcome. I'm looking forward to a great year!


Mrs. Hughes

Hello! This is my first year teaching after deciding to leave my banking job and go back to school & become an intervention specialist. I did my student teaching in the 3-5 grade band & now am co teaching 9th and 10th grade ELA while having a case load of 9th graders. I am married to Clint & we have 2 daughters, Hannah (11) and Eva (8 1/2,) who go to Maysville. I also have an older stepson and a 3 year old granddaughter. We have a small hobby farm with chickens and beehives, which we sell honey from. Our family is actively involved in 4-H. I am excited to be joining the Foxfire family!


Ms. Ladner

Hello! My name is Miss Ladner. This is my 4th year teaching ELA to students in Muskingum County. I have two nephews, a five-year-old and an almost-one-year-old. My older nephew loves animals, we have three tree-frogs, a leopard gecko, two sulcata tortoises, a bunch of goldfish in a tiny pond right by our house, and we have very recently acquired an albino axolotl. When I'm not at work, I spend a lot of my time taking care of animals, spending time with my mom, sister, and nephews, crocheting with friends, and of course, reading books. I look forward to my 4th year in the classroom, and can't wait to get to know my peers, students, and their families this year!"


Mr. Evans

Hello My name is Mr. Evans, and I'm excited to join the Foxfire! I teach 4th, 5th, and 6th grade Science and Social Studies and graduated from John Glenn High School. In the classroom, I value strong relationships, high expectations, and lessons that keep students engaged. Outside of school, I spend most of my time with my wife and children. I also enjoy golf, coaching, and football. I'm a lifelong Ohio State fan, and fall Saturdays mean Buckeye football. I'm looking forward to a year at Foxfire.


Mr. Markley

Howdy! My name is Adam Markley, I'm excited to be here at Foxfire where I will be instructing 7th through 12th grade in the exciting fields of digital media, 3D art, and animation. I've recently moved back to Zanesville from Texas, where I went to school and had the pleasure of working for some great studios, including Rooster Teeth and Disney's Junction Point Studio. When not at school I'm spending time with relatives and friends, or finding things around the house to work on. I look forward to working with this wonderful group of educators at Foxfire and know this will be a fantastic year!

RESPECTFUL **RESPONSIBLE** **RESILIENT** **RELATIONSHIPS**

FOXFIRE SEPTEMBER 2026 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	31	1	Volleyball @ Marburn Academy **2**	**3**	PBIS KICK-OFF ASSEMBLY **4**	Football @Peebles **5**
6	**NO SCHOOL 7** Happy LABOR DAY	**8**	Volleyball Torah Academy-H **9**	***10***	Volleyball vs. Franklinton Prep-H **11** PATRIOTS' DAY	Football **12** @ Middletown Christian
13	Volleyball @ OSD **14** **Staff PD Day** Blended Learning		Volleyball @ Cristo Rey **16** Prep-H	Football vs.Jefferson **17** Township-H Homecoming	Homecoming Dance **18**	MSFlag Football **19**
20	Volleyball @ Torah Acad. **21** MS Soccer vs. Maysville -H Blended Learning	**22** 8TH Grade Mid-East Trip	MS Soccer vs. Shenandoah **23**	Staff Mtg. **24** Parent Engagement	Volleyball vs. Franklinton Prep-H **25** Picture Day Board Mtg.	MS Flag Football **26**
27	MS Soccer vs. Maysville -H **Staff PD Day** Blended Learning	**29**	Volleyball-H Oakstone **30** MS Soccer vs. Maysville-H			

FOXFIRE HIGH SCHOOL
(MORNING SHIFT)
8:00AM – 11:00AM
(AFTERNOON SHIFT)
11:30AM – 2:30PM
FOXFIRE INTERMEDIATE
8:55AM – 3:15PM
FOXFIRE ELEMENTARY
8:55AM – 3:15PM
PHOENIX PLATTER
CLICK BELOW TO SEE SCHOOL MENUE:
WWW.FOXFIRESCHOOLS.NUTRISLICE.COM

RESPECTFUL RESPONSIBLE RESILIENT RELATIONSHIPS