



THE PHOENIX

FOXFIRE MONTHLY DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

SUPERINTENDENT BLOG -**HALFTIME: ADJUSTMENTS, ENERGY, WINNING THE DAY**



Superintendent
Mr. Todd Whiteman

The Foxfire Education & Opportunities R4U!

We Are ...

Respectful

Responsible

Resilient

Students

**built on
Relationships!**

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The first half of the school year is behind us—filled with growth, challenges, lessons learned, and moments we will remember for a long time. And just like in any great game, halftime isn't about dwelling on what's already happened. It's about reflection, adjustment, and renewed purpose. As we enter the second semester, we have a powerful opportunity in front of us. Halftime allows us to pause and ask:

- *What's working well that we must continue?*
- *Where do we need to make adjustments?*
- *How do we bring new energy while staying true to who we are?*

At Foxfire Schools, this moment is not about changing our identity—it's about strengthening it. Our core values remain our foundation. They guide our decisions, our interactions, and our expectations for us and one another. Those values don't reset in January—they anchor us.

January brings new hope with a brand new fresh chapter. It is a reminder that growth is ongoing and improvement is always possible. But hope alone isn't enough. Sustaining momentum requires daily commitment, consistency, and focus.

The reality is this: the second semester will go fast—very fast. The days will blend together, milestones will come quickly, and before we know it, we'll be celebrating the end of another school year. That's why it's so important to seize each day.

At Foxfire, we talk often about "Winning the Day." Winning the day doesn't mean being perfect. It means being present. It means giving your best effort where your feet are planted. It means choosing growth—even when it's uncomfortable.

As we move through this second half, I encourage our staff, students, and families to not only stay focused on outcomes, but to capture and embrace the moments along the way—the small wins, the relationships, the laughter, the learning, and the growth that happens daily but can be easy to overlook. These moments become memories. These memories shape culture.

And this culture is what makes Foxfire special.

Let's use this halftime wisely:

- *Reflect with honesty*
- *Adjust with purpose*
- *Bring new energy with optimism*
- *And remain grounded in the values that define us*

Thank you for your continued commitment to our students and to one another. The best part of the game is still ahead—and I'm grateful to be on this team with you.

Let's make the second half count.

Let's win the day—together.

Todd Whiteman

Superintendent, Foxfire Schools

BAND PERFORMS FIRST CONCERT IN SCHOOL HISTORY

Foxfire had another first in school history as the Phoenix Band led by Director Mr. Jordan Rose performed their first concert in school history! The Performance was held during the December Parent Engagement night on December 18! The performance called “A Winter Celebration” featured performances by both members of the middle school and high school band!

The concert started with the middle school program with six members performing three features including “Rolling Along”, “Hot Cross Buns”, and “Go Tell Aunt Rhodie” .

The high school band made up of thirteen members followed that performance with three features of holiday tunes including; “First Flight”, “Jingle Bells” and “Up On the Housetop”.

Following the concert, students, families and guests were treated to Christmas cookies and pizza! We would like to congratulate Mr. Rose and all the band members for a excellent show! We look forward to the continued growth of the program and upcoming performances and competitions!



2025-2026 FOXFIRE BAND PROGRAM

Middle School Band Members

Clarinet

Lilly Hall
Bella Taylor

Alto Saxophone

Cheyenne Glass

Percussion

Delaine Robinson

Trumpet

Kaylee Robertson
Amia Sharrer

High School Band Members

Flute

Liberty Durst

Trumpet

Bryan Beaver
Hannah Bobb

Clarinet

Michael Florio & Traeh Lewis

Trombone

Miley Peterson

Alto Saxophone

Scott Dodson

Euphonium

Mireya Scott

Percussion

Mysteri Dumolt Ferrell Kai Farmer Nevaeh Perry
Isaiah Robinson Theo Vaughn

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GRIT PROGRAM & PRE-APPRENTICESHIP UPDATES

Building Futures at Foxfire: Pre-Apprenticeships & Internships

At Foxfire, students gain real-world experience through in-house pre-apprenticeships and internships that connect learning to meaningful career pathways.

We currently offer the following in-house pre-apprenticeships:

Introduction to Careers in Education

Introduction to Janitorial Services and Facility Maintenance

Nutrition Group

Screen Printing

Introduction to Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources

These programs allow students to explore careers, build foundational technical skills, and develop essential workplace habits such as teamwork, accountability, and communication—while still in high school.

In addition, Foxfire students may participate in an IT Internship, providing hands-on experience in technology support, troubleshooting, and real-world problem-solving. In addition, we are actively developing an IT Pre-Apprenticeship, with plans to launch for the 2026–27 school year. This program will expand opportunities for students interested in technology-based careers by providing structured skill development and early workforce experience.

At Foxfire, we are preparing students not just to graduate—but to leave with skills, experience, and a clear pathway forward.



Passion'e Taylor & Alivia Bell Nutrition Group



William Wolfe- Janitorial Services



Braydon O'Neill-Screenprinting



Makenna Jones-Early Childhood



Kaylee Landerman-Agriculture

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MISS NADINE'S COUNSELING

Kindness as a Resolution: Starting the New Year With Connection

As we begin a new year, many students feel pressure to “do better” or change who they are. Instead of focusing on perfection, we encourage families to consider a simple and powerful resolution: kindness.

Kindness supports mental health by reducing stress, improving mood, and helping students feel connected and valued. When students experience kindness—from peers, adults, or themselves—they are more likely to feel safe, confident, and ready to learn.

What kindness can look like, Kindness doesn't have to be big to matter:

- Younger students: sharing, including others, using kind words.
- Older students: encouraging peers, standing up for others, being respectful online.
- All ages: practicing self-kindness when mistakes happen.
- Families can support kindness by modeling patience, gratitude, and respectful communication at home. Children notice how adults handle stress and treat others.

Try a kindness challenge

As a family, try one small act of kindness each day this week—writing a thank-you note, checking in on someone, or offering help. Reflect together on how it felt to give and receive kindness. As we start the year, kindness helps build a school community where everyone feels seen, supported, and connected.

Counselor's Corner

If your child is struggling with friendships, stress, self-esteem, or emotional regulation, support is available. Please reach out to me or Ms.Dana with questions or concerns. Early support can make a meaningful difference, and we are here to partner with families in supporting student well-being.



MRS. DANA'S COUNSELING

January: Mental Wellness Month & Goal setting



January is recognized as Mental Wellness month, making it an ideal time to focus on mental health through self-care practices and reflection. This month serves as a natural pause after the holiday season, providing an opportunity for individuals to reflect on their mental well-being and set intentions for the new year.

It's important to set new goals to help motivate you to do better and live better. The benefits of setting new goals are astronomical. Goal setting helps improve performance, focus and persistence, increases motivation, increases self-determination, and increases enjoyment in life.

Setting a goal is Simple! Just use SMART Goals:

S: Specific – Goals should be clear and well-defined.

M: Measurable - You should be able to track your progress.

A: Achievable – Your goals should be realistic and attainable, considering your current resources and constraints.

R: Relevant – Ensure that your goals align with your broader objectives and values.

T: Time-bound – Set a deadline for your goals to create a sense of urgency.

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NURSE LINDSEY'S CORNER

Key Winter Viruses

Influenza: Seasonal flu, causing fever, cough, and body aches.

RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus): Can be severe in infants & older adults, leading to bronchiolitis.

Rhinovirus: The primary cause of the common cold, often circulating widely.

HMPV (Human Metapneumovirus): Another common virus causing cold-like symptoms.

Coronaviruses: Including SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) and other common cold coronaviruses.

Why They're Prevalent in Winter?

Colder Weather: Viruses survive longer and spread more easily in dry, cold air.

Indoor Crowding: People spend more time indoors in close proximity, facilitating transmission.

Illnesses Caused

Common Cold

Flu (Influenza)

Bronchitis

Bronchiolitis (especially in kids)

Impact

These viruses lead to significant healthcare burdens, with peaks in hospitalizations, especially for vulnerable populations like the elderly, young children, and those with underlying conditions.

Prevention

Vaccination (Flu, COVID-19).

Hand hygiene (washing hands).

Covering coughs and sneezes.

Avoiding close contact with sick people.

Returning to School

Fever free (under 100) for 24 hours with no fever reducing medication

No vomiting or diarrhea in the past 24 hours

Symptoms are getting better

STAFF MEMBER WINS MAKE MUSKINGUM HOME AWARD



Mr. Merryman receives a check for \$41,216 to cover student loans.

Make Muskingum Home, a post-graduation scholarship award sponsored by the Straker Foundation and Muskingum County Community Foundation is designed to retain and attract a talented workforce to Muskingum County. Recently, several professionals in the community were recognized including one of our own, Mr. Krae Merryman!

Mr. Merryman has been a dedicated, loyal and passionate educator at Foxfire for many years! Starting from a teacher to current Principal, Mr. Merryman strives daily to make a difference in the lives of his students!

Mr. Merryman received a check of over \$41,000 to cover his current student loans! Congratulations Mr. Merryman for all the hard work, commitment and the difference you make daily, we are so proud of you!

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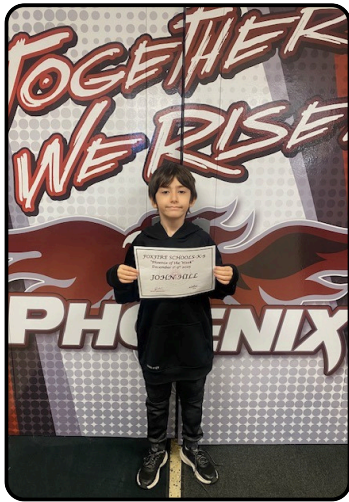
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DECEMBER PHOENIX'S OF THE WEEK

DEC 1-Dec 5



John Hill-2

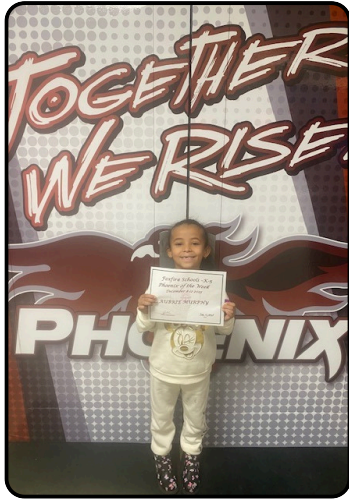


Reilly Perrin -7

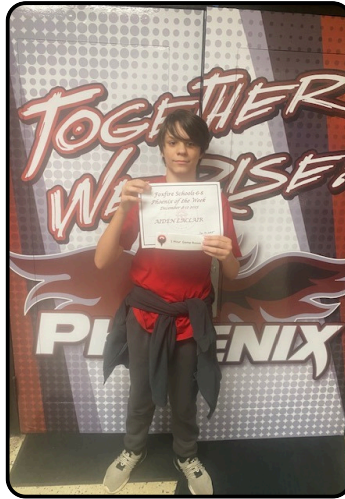


Kaylee Landerman-11

Dec 8-Dec 12



Aubrey Murphy-K



Aidan LeClair-7



Kobe Dilley-11

Dec 15-Dec 18



Givanna Bailey-5



Allie Miller-8



Isaiah Robinson-12

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FOXFIRE SENIOR SPOTLIGHT-JOEY KEETER-'24

Joey Keeter spent most of his educational years at Foxfire! Originally from North Carolina, Joey enrolled in the 6th grade! "I loved Foxfire for the like-minded people I met and the staff. Teachers were professional but so easy to go to and talk with. I met some of my best friends there!"

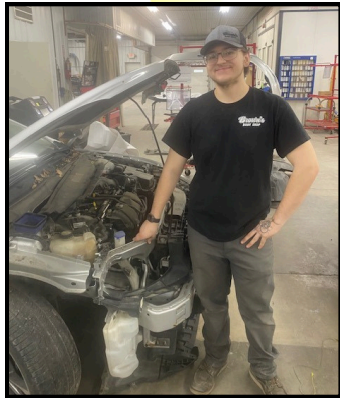
When Joey transitioned to high school at Foxfire he realized he had a unique interest in cars and enjoyed drawing them in Mr. Grayson's Art class. "I wasn't the greatest artist but enjoyed the process of seeing it come together." During his high school years at Foxfire he felt supported by teachers like Mr. Lawler and Mr. VanWye. "I enjoyed both of their classes, even when I wasn't that interested in the content."

During his Sophomore year he visited Mid-East Vocational School where he took a genuine interest in the AutoBody program. Once enrolled, Joey flourished in the program becoming a top student and leader on campus.

"After graduation I took a job at Worstall Auto Glass, where I basically replaced windows, and assisted with final touches of installation. After about 6 months I heard about an opportunity at Browns and applied."

At Browns Joey started as Detailer and was promoted to tear down technician where he received a raise! "I now earn four more dollars a hour!"

Joey has worked at Brown for over two years, and now has his own place. "I have been able to save over \$4,000!" He hopes to someday open up his own body shop and continue doing what he loves. "If I can give one piece of advice to Foxfire students, it is to find something you love to do, so you never have feel like you're working a day in your life"



Joey Keeter '24
Browns Auto Body



PBIS HOUSE TEAM STANDINGS

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (**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). Currently Grades K-5 have a slim lead over Grades 11-12!

Winning grade band will earn a trip to Magic Mountain Fun Center on May 15th! Students who are in the grade band & meet the minimal requirements for attendance, discipline & academics will get 30 tokens, two activities and pizza/drink at no charge.

Final day to earn points and end of competition is May 8, 2026!

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FOXFIRE ATHLETIC FUNDRAISER AT APPLEBEE'S

On December 17, Foxfire Athletics held a fundraiser at Applebee's in Zanesville. The fundraiser was held all day at the restaurant on that date. Those who brought in a flyer of the fundraiser mentioned they were there for the fundraiser, had 25% of their check prior to taxes donated to Foxfire Athletics.

For the day we totaled **\$689.11 in sales**, which means Foxfire will receive a check for **\$172.28** that will go to the Foxfire Athletics general fund to support athletic needs for all of our programs.

We want to thank everyone who took the time to visit Applebee's on that day and support Phoenix Athletics!



Local Applebee's sponsors fundraiser



Athletes and parents at Applebee's fundraiser

PHOENIX FOOTBALL VOLUNTEERS DURING HOLIDAYS

Foxfire football took time this holiday season to give back to the community who has so graciously supported the Phoenix the past two years!

For four days in December returning Foxfire football players manned the Salvation Army kettles at the South Zanesville Walmart. Two players volunteered at both entrances of Wal Mart from 4 to 6 pm on those days.

During their time volunteering they rang the bells for donations that goes to support the Salvation Army, greeted customers and passed out flyers for the Athletic Applebee's fundraiser.



#99-So. Ishaan Bowen



#6-Jr. Wesley Clark



#77-So. Hunter Wilcox
& #32 Fr. Blaze Hook



#40-Fr. Tysean Bash

FOXFIRE STUDENTS WRESTLE IN TOURNAMENT



Michael and O'Arien Myers

Michael and O'Arien Myers both students at Foxfire recently competed for their home school Tri-Valley in a wrestling tournament.

Michael wrestled in the Jr. Class and O'Arien competed in the 6 & 7 year old division. We are so proud of them for being involved in athletics, competing and stepping out of their comfort zone!

FOXFIRE WINTER SPORTS & ATHLETICS UPDATE



MS Basketball versus Maysville 6th Grade All-Stars



Varsity Cheer after win versus Franklinton Academy



Coach Tharp & the Phoenix in time out at Marburn Academy

As we close out 2025 school year, basketball season has kicked off for both high school and middle school programs. Currently the high school program stands 2-1 on the young season and the middle school program has a record of 0-3.

The high school started the year out 2-0 with big wins over Marburn Academy 68-28 and Franklinton Academy 57-34 before falling to Columbus Arts and Academy 60-64. During this time the Phoenix have been led by **Sr. Nazir Smith** who has averaged **23.3 points** a game and **Sr. Braydon O'Neill** who has averaged **23.0 points** per game. **Sr. Karsten Rutter** leads the Phoenix with three pointers made **(7)** and is averaging **9.0 points** per game. The Phoenix will return to play January 6th at home versus Torah Academy and January 8th on the road at Oakstone Academy.

The Middle School program has played two of their three games on the road and stand at 0-3. They have been led by **8th grader Krishawn Frank** and **7th grader Carter Terrill** who leads the team with three pointers made.

The Middle School Phoenix will return to play January 17th at home against Logan-MS-Flex before closing out the season with Columbus Adventist Academy & Columbus Prep both at home.

MS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

MON	DEC	8	@ LOGAN-MS-FLEX	AWAY	6:30 PM	L- 20-35
WED	DEC	10	MAYSVILLE 6TH GRADE-ALL-STARs	HOME	6:00 PM	L- 17-36
THUR	DEC	18	@ ZANESVILLE 6 TH GRADE	AWAY	7:00 PM	L- 19-41
SAT	JAN	17	LOGAN-MS-FLEX	HOME	12:00 PM	
TUES	JAN	20	COLUMBUS ADVENTIST ACADEMY	HOME	6:00 PM	
SAT	JAN	31	COLUMBUS PREP	HOME	12:00 PM	

POWERLIFTING SCHEDULE

SAT	JAN	24	SOUTHERN OHIO REGIONAL POWERLIFTING MEET	10:00 AM
SAT	FEB	14	33 RD ANNUAL DANVILLE POWERLIFTING MEET	10:00 AM
SAT	FEB	21	MADISON PLAINS 4 TH ANNUAL 337 PUSH/PULL INVITE	9:30 AM
SAT	MAR	21	38 TH ANNUAL KENTON STATE MEET	9:30 AM



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VARSITY BASKETBALL SCHEDULE 2025-2026



SAT	NOV 22	@ HORIZON SCIENCE ACADEMY-SCRIMMAGE (VS. FRESHMEN)	AWAY	11:00 AM	
MON	DEC 24	COLUMBUS ADVENTIST ACADEMY-SCRIMMAGE	HOME	6:00 PM	
MON	DEC 1	@MARBURN ACADEMY	AWAY	6:00 PM	W-58-28
TUES	DEC 9	MOHICAN ACADEMY	HOME	6:00 PM	PP
THURS	DEC 11	FRANKLINTON ACADEMY	HOME	6:00 PM	W-57-34
TUES	DEC 16	COLUMBUS ARTS & TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY	HOME	6:00 PM	L-60-64
TUES	JAN 6	TORAH ACADEMY	HOME	6:00 PM	W-58-53
THURS	JAN 8	@OAKSTONE ACADEMY	AWAY	6:30 PM	
TUES	JAN 13	MARBURN ACADEMY	HOME	6:00 PM	
THURS	JAN 15	@CORNERSTONE ACADEMY	AWAY	6:30 PM	
WED	JAN 21	@OSD ACADEMY	AWAY	6:00 PM	
MON	JAN 26	CORNERSTONE ACADEMY	HOME	6:00 PM	
TUES	JAN 27	@MOHICAN ACADEMY	AWAY	7:00 PM	
TUES	FEB 3	@ARTS & TECHNOLOGY (@HORIZON SCIENCE)	AWAY	6:00 PM	
WED	FEB 4	@FRANKLINTON ACADEMY	AWAY	6:30 PM	
THURS	FEB 5	@TORAH ACADEMY	AWAY	6:00 PM	
MON	FEB 9	OSD ACADEMY	HOME	6:30 PM	
TUES	FEB 10	OAKSTONE ACADEMY (SENIOR NIGHT)	HOME	6:00 PM	
FEB	17-19	UNITED LEAGUE TOURNAMENT	TBA	TBA	

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DECEMBER PHOENIX'S OF THE MONTH

FOXFIRE HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

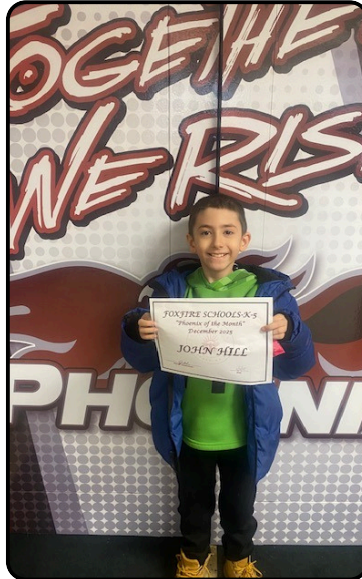
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Mr. Robert McClelland

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VACANT

Board Member:
Mrs. Lindsay Daniels

Board Member:
Mrs. Keely Warden



John Hill-2



Allie Miller-8



Kaylee Landerman-11

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Vice President:
Mr. Mike Ziemer

Board Member:
Mr. Derek Boothe

Board Member:
Mr. Adam Davenport

Board Member:
VACANT



#TOGETHER WE RISE

HS WINTER E-SPORTS SCHEDULE

Week of January 5th

Monday-Fortnite
Tuesday-Practice
Wednesday-Mario Kart

Week of January 12th

Monday-Fortnite
Tuesday-Practice
Wednesday-Mario Kart

Week of January 18th

Monday-Fortnite
Tuesday-Practice
Wednesday-Mario Kart
Week of January 5th

Week of January 26th

Monday-Fortnite
Tuesday-Practice
Wednesday-Mario Kart

Week of February 2

Monday-Fortnite
Tuesday-Practice
Wednesday-Mario Kart



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FOXFIRE JANUARY CALENDAR



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Winter Break Happy New Year	2 Winter Break	3
4	Students Return 5	VBB vs. Torah 6 Academy 6:00 PM	7 HS Arena Check In	8 HS Arena Check In VBB @ Oakstone Academy 6:30 PM	9 HS Arena Check In	10
11	12	VBB vs. Marburn 13 Academy 6:00 PM	14	VBB @ Cornerstone 15 6:30 PM	No School 16	17 MS BB LOGAN 12:00 H
18	MLK DAY 19 No School	20	21 VBB @ OSD 6:00 PM	22	23	Southern Ohio 24 Powerlifting Meet Piketon
25	26	VBB @ Mohican 27 Academy	28	Staff Mtg. 3:15-4:15 Parent Engagement 5:00-6:00 29	30	31 MS BB Columbus Prep 12:00 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 MENU:

WWW.FOXFIRESCHOOLS.NUTRISLICE.COM



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