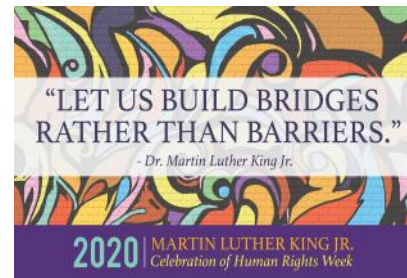


January 2020

Volume 1, Issue 4

# STEELER Nation News



## January: School Board Appreciation

**Month, *SNN* writer, Jordyne Scott interviews FASD Board President, Mr. Terry Harrison**

"January is a great time to celebrate your hard-working school board members and educate the public about the important role that a school board plays in our communities and schools. Although showing appreciation should be a year-round process, taking advantage of the designated School Board Recognition Month assures that these important people receive some of the thanks they deserve."

Mr. Terry Harrison is our school board president. He has been the president of the school board for ten years and a member for fifteen years. He became the president in 2009. The board members elected him to the office of President. In 2005, he was voted to become a member and he wanted to help build a strong program to establish equality in the school district.

The board's roles and responsibilities are to set policy and conduct interviews for the district. All school board meetings are open to the public/community. The meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of every month. The school board members should work closely with the superintendent of the school district. The vision for education in the com-

**HARRISON continued on Page 2**



**NHS President, Camryn Gipson, and Secretary, Faith Zagotti** show "thank you" video and distribute gifts to board members during January meeting.

### Inside this issue:

Students of the Month / Student Spotlights	2
Teacher Spotlight / Golden Girls	3
MLK Day / NY 2020	4
Cheerleading / Seniors	5
Basketball / Scholarship / Alt School	6
Connections	7
Farrell photos	8

## FHS represents at MC Band Fest



**Band members:** (back row) Lavar Hightower, Jada Williams, Jacara Green, Tyleigh Stinedurf, Maria Haynes and (front row) Demario Norris, LaShawn Williams, McKenzie Ulan, Chyna Butler and Stephanie Montgomery, ready to perform at Mercer County Band at Grove City College. **Article on page 3.**



### Mark your calendars:

**Feb. 14—Valentine's Day / Act 80—No School for students**  
**Feb. 17—President's Day—No School**  
**Feb. 16-17—Random Acts of Kindness Day**



Winners receive a cash reward of \$100 funded by Mr. Ted Pedas. Mr. Pedas has been generously funding this award to Farrell Students for the past 15 years.



**December Students of the Month** are, from left to right, Ryan Stewart 8, Andrea Walters-7, Brian Hilton-12, Julian Scarborough 10, Makyah Burns-11, Tajmere Gibson-9

## Aunesty Myers sworn in - US Navy

*"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."*

-- John Quincy Adams



Senior, **Aunesty Myers**, swore in to the US Navy on Friday, December 12, 2019. Aunesty's decision to join this branch was encouraged and supported by her parents. She is the first female in her family to join the military; however, she follows in the footsteps of several uncles that served before her. Aunesty is excited about getting to swim in the ocean although expresses that she is a bit nervous about basic training. Best of luck Aunesty and thank you for choosing to serve!

### HARRISON contd.

munity is for all students to go to post secondary schools such as college, trade school, and life skills programs. The board represents the community because the community votes for the members. Thus, the relationship between district/board, community, parents, and families should be good.

Mr. Harrison defines a successful board meeting as one where voices come together to form a consensus and the superintendent carries out the ideas and opportunities to the district. The reason school boards are necessary is because they govern oversight and give directions. There are not many challenges but the state level can create challenges, such as when the state puts a freeze on the monies given to the

school.

The school board had come to the conclusion to renovate the school to save money in the long term. The school renovation was very positive. The S.T.E.A.M lab brings students up to date on technology in order to be competitive.

Mr. Harrison's proudest accomplishment is being part of this third renovation, students going to post secondary education, and of being a 1979 FHS Alumnus. There are no specific goals to speak of at this point, just having a group of kids moving on. Mr. Harrison's hobbies outside of school are pastoring and serving on five additional boards.



Senior, **Camryn Gipson**, designed this new logo for PENDOT snow plows this past summer. Way to show Farrell Steeler pride and impressive engineering and design talent! Great work Camryn!

School Board Recognition Month 2020. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.tasb.org/services/communications-and-pr/recognition-programs/school-board-recognition-month.aspx>



## Mr. McCann, proud FHS Alumnus, current Band Teacher

**"Learning to play a musical instrument has so many benefits – whether it is building your confidence, enhancing your memory or widening your social circle..."**



By **MELONN WELLS**

Mr.  
McCann

joined us here at Farrell as the Band Teacher in 2017. Previously, he worked as a Title Instructional Aide for 4 years. He is an alumnus of FHS and graduated in 2008. He was also involved in band in high school. He loves teaching here at Farrell. He says "it is home."

When Mr. McCann was in

elementary and high school, he played the trumpet in Marching and Concert Band. Mr. McCann also played the bass guitar in Jazz Band here at Farrell. After graduating from Farrell High School, Mr. McCann went to Youngstown State University. His major in college was Music Education. He is also currently pursuing a master's degree in trumpet performance at YSU.

While interviewing Mr. McCann, he described his teaching and learning philosophy as the following, "Learning how music works is key." In other words, he means learning the process from pushing buttons all the way to using our emotions contribute to making music.

One of his biggest challenges was that it took a while to adjust to teaching young elementary students. Some things that can be improved with the band are the accessibility and scheduling, which make it difficult to recruit and rehearse with a consistent ensemble. Overall Mr. McCann is happy to be here. He is happy to give his time and patience to the students here at Farrell.

Roberts, M. S. (2018, January 5). 10 reasons you should take up a musical instrument. Retrieved from <https://www.classicfm.com/discover-music/reasons-to-play-a-musical-instrument/>

## Mercer County Band Fest

Contributed by: **LASHAWN WILLIAMS**

Mercer County Band Festival took place on January 8 and 9, 2020, at Grove City College. Mercer County Band is an opportunity for all of the bands from Mercer county come together to put on a concert for the public.

Only a certain number of band students are selected from each school to represent their school at the production. This year, ten high school band students and one middle school band member represented Farrell. Representatives practiced for two days with music and with the full ensembles. There were two band directors, Dr. R. Tad Grieg for the high school, and for the middle school, Mr. Eric Shrader. The music is provided by Sharon High School.

The first day of the festival is an entire school day, on the second day, students arrive there by 3 pm because the concert is in the evening. In lieu of marching band uniforms, concert dress code is formal dress in black and white. When asked about the concert, Junior Maria Haynes stated, "It was a great opportunity to meet band students from other schools, even if the performance itself was really demanding and intense."

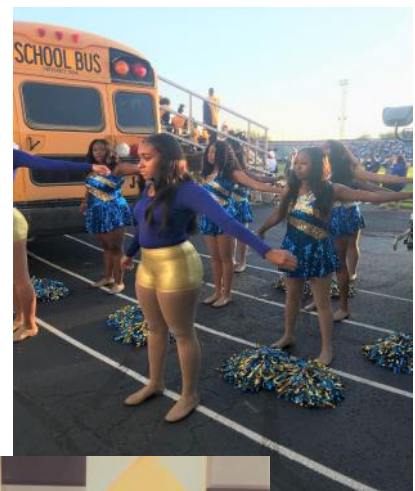
## Golden Girls dazzle Do you have what it takes?

Contributed by: **KATHLEEN DEAN**

Golden Girls, also referred to as Dance-line, was founded in the mid 1900's. A part of the band, Golden Girls includes ten members including two captains. Tryouts are held in the beginning of May. Prospective members must perform two "stand dances," which are cheers that are performed during football games.

Official practice for Golden Girls begins in early June. From the months of June to August the coach, captains, and members have three months to construct and learn four different performances: the flag, kick line, dance, and parade march.

The Golden Girls perform alongside the Marching Band during the seven-minute halftime show of the football games. In addition to the football games, the Marching Band and Golden Girls perform in Mercer County Band Night, Kenywood Founders Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day, and Light up Night Parades. If you are interested in becoming a part of the Marching Band or Golden Girls team contact Mr. McCann or Ms. Malory Lee to find out more!



Junior, Samya Moore practicing pre-game with teammates and Golden Girls dressed in antlers for the holidays take a break to pose for a photo op.

# MLK Jr. Day of Service 2020

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, What are you doing for others?"

~Martin Luther King Jr.

By OMAR STEWART

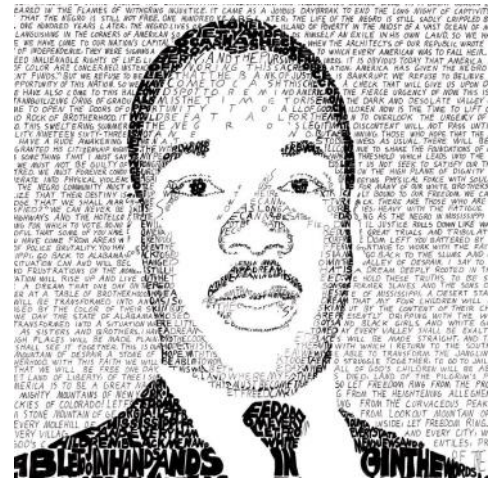
MLK Day is a day to appreciate Martin Luther King Jr., a man who had a famous speech and stood up for what he thought was right. Even though he went through tough times, he still did not give up on what he believed. MLK is observed as an off day for most people but day of work and service for others. In this way, MLK Day is not just about Martin Luther King Jr., but about what everyone can do to serve others.

Mr. Burda our African American History Teacher spoke to me about his thoughts on MLK Day. Mr. Burda explained that MLK day is important because it is commemorating a man who gave his life to pursue equal rights for so many people who did not have them. Mr. Burda explained Martin Luther King played a big part in the world and history. He has inspired people many people from many different backgrounds to

work together.

In his class at Farrell, Mr. Burda initiates discussions about MLK's method of nonviolent, direct action. They also discuss the types of protests that he would organize. African American History plays an important part in American History. Mr. Burda explained that, oftentimes, African American History is left out of books and has been overlooked for a long time. Mr. Burda and students at Farrell honor African American History month by researching and presenting influential African Americans in our own community here in Farrell.

Mr. Burda named several other African Americans as extremely influential in our history, such as former President Obama and Maya Angelou. One influential African American that Mr. Burda listed that most people do not know about is William Still. Mr. William Still was a conductor on the



@artofwords.com

Art I and II students studied micrography, including this portrait of MLK Jr., by artist, Daniel Duffy, and discussed the power of words. Students then produced their own artwork that included text.

Underground Railroad in Philadelphia, and helped many slaves to freedom. Everyone knows about Harriet Tubman but very few know about William Still.

## New Year, New YOU? 2020 Resolution Survey Results are in!

By JORDYNE SCOTT

New Year's Eve and Day are special days for people as it marks the beginning of the New Year and they welcome the upcoming year in their own special ways.

After the Christmas celebration, people wait for the night of the 31st with anticipation. This is the day when we bring up all the good and bad memories of the whole year and say goodbye to this past year. This year's overall mood of FASD participants surveyed was excitement although some also expressed hopefulness for what is to come.

The *Steeler Nation News* Staff surveyed the students and staff to find out about their traditions and New Year's Resolutions.

Most participants surveyed marked that their New Year's resolution is to get fit and healthy. People tend to think that they are not in shape and need to start changing their diet and/or eating habits. So get out there and renew those gym memberships or maybe try a new diet app to help you meet your goals!

New Years is a time for everyone to stay up late to watch the ball drop and start planning his or her resolutions, New Year, New Me! That is exactly what most of us did, although a couple surveyed participants actually fell asleep. Maybe that was the teachers!

For New Year's, 31% of staff and students want to change about them-

selves for the year 2020 is to improve their focus. A couple of suggestions to help accomplish this might be to regulate your screen time, pop out the earbuds and mark up your daily agendas with your "To do" list. Good luck everyone!

The worst New Year's Eve nightmare is to have to work. Most people say that working on New Year's Eve is the worst because everyone wants to be home with their families or enjoying the night at a party.

**Happy NEW DECADE everyone and thanks for your participation!**



**FHS Cheerleading: *hard work and dedication***

Contributed by: **MARIONNA DIETZ**

High School Cheerleading is where all the fun begins. There are games, pep rallies, and other exciting events. Not only are the simple features of High School Cheerleading exciting, but you also experience what it is like to cheer at games full of screaming fans. You hold a very important job as a high school cheerleader and you become a role model to those around you. I am going to take you through a life of a High School Cheerleader.

First are tryouts. Tryouts are a very exciting way to start a new cheer season. Cheer tryouts are scheduled anytime from late winter to early spring, and it usually lasts an entire week. This tryout week begins with learning a cheer, a dance, stunt, and jumps. On the day of tryouts, it is important to be well rested and energized. Participants are to be neatly dressed with all jewelry removed. There is a group of about 3 judges who will score each participant on criteria such as enthusiasm, eye contact, sharpness, and ability level.

Scores are then called out letting everyone know who made the team or not.

In most cases, practice is after school, four times a week. Practice usually lasts a couple hours and can consist of stunt, dance, and cheer practice. The season lasts from summer, all the way through the end of basketball season, making it extremely time intensive.

Cheering at games is what high school cheerleading is all about. Many alumni and fans attend our games to support the Cheerleaders. Cheering at games is all about school spirit. No matter how little or big a school is, or the number of athletes, the spirit should always be top-notch. There will be pep rallies that not only students attend but teachers and even parents. It is the job as a Farrell High Cheerleader to provide good Farrell High spirit and get everyone excited to come out to our games to give support and have fun.



## Seniors look towards final months at FHS: SP due dates, class trip plans and more...

**Contributed by: Senora Torres**  
**Senior Project Due Date:**  
**Thursday, March 12, 2020.**  
**Location & evaluators TBA.**

### Senior Picks 2020:

**Class Song - "Started from the bottom" Drake**

**Class Colors - Navy Blue, White, Silver**

Class Flower - Morning Glory

**Class Motto** - "Hold the vision; trust the process."



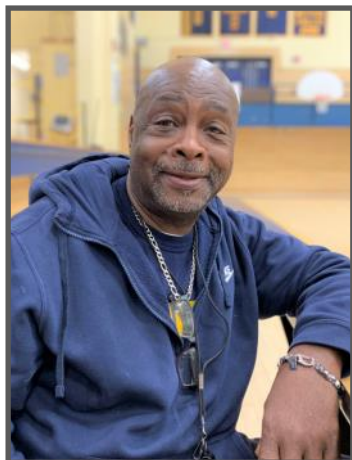
**FHS Class of 2018** poses in front of the Washington Monument during epic Senior Class Trip. Students cited trip as one of most memorable experiences in high school.

## Get your *Insta Stories* Ready...

This year's Senior Class travels on Saturday, May 2. Trip highlights include a tour of the **National Mall** and **Ford Theatre**, as well as photo stops at the **Capitol** and **White House**. Students will also visit the **National Museum of African American History and Culture**, **Jefferson Memorial** and **Arlington National Cemetery** prior to a visit and dinner at the **Pentagon City Mall**.

# Coach Stewart weighs in on the 19-20 Boys' Basketball Season

By **DASHAWN RICHARDSON**



Winter sports are upon us and with that, we reached out to Mr. Robert aka Bobby Stewart. Coach Stewart is the head coach of the Varsity Boys' Basketball team. He describes his coaching style as positive and aims to surround his program with expert, quality staff. Coach Stewart cited his goal for his team this year as winning D10 region and the state championship.

He says the most re-

warding part of coaching is, "seeing our young boys becoming young men."

He also stated that coaching is not only about coaching on the court but off the court is the key. He gets the boys active during the off-season by having them work in lawn care services to keep them active. They also put in work at the gym, for example, cardio drills, and going over fundamentals.

I asked him about the bond he creates with his players. He says that he has a bond and that trust develops over time.

We talked about one of his proudest moments as a coach. He said that the 2015 state runner-up season was significant to him because it allowed him to look back at when he went to the states in high school. Stewart has been coaching for 25 years and he would like to continue for five more years.



Senior, **Eric Hopson**, becomes the 15th Boys Basketball player from Farrell High School to mark 1,000 points this January 2020. Congratulations Eric!

## David Elias Memorial Scholarship

The Guidance Office has information about a scholarship being offered by Mrs. Kladitis and her family. This scholarship is to honor a family member who has passed away.

The David Elias Memorial Scholarship Fund is an essay scholarship. The **deadline for entry is Friday, March 13, 2020**. This scholarship is open to Farrell Area School District Seniors only. Applications may be obtained from the Guidance Office, Mr. Dye or Mrs. Smith.

In conjunction with the scholarship, anyone can participate in the **David Challenge**. He would always wear a rubber band on his wrist and would snap it if he was about to say something unkind about someone. **Commemorative bands can be purchased for \$1.00, with all proceeds going directly to this scholarship fund.**

## Alternative schooling: tough choices, tough consequences

By **DASHAWN RICHARDSON**

At this halfway point through the school year, are you reflecting on your progress throughout the past two quarters? Perhaps you feel that you are having some problems, or that you are not working to your potential. Some students have questioned whether or not alternative schooling might be right for them. Other students have been placed in another institution on an involuntary basis (the latter pertains to cases where disciplinary action has been required).

One voluntary form of alternative schooling is online schooling, also called Cyber School. In order to qualify for this option, you must be of school age and have a parent or guardian with-

draw you from your current school placement. A couple of resources that you will need to start this program are a laptop to sign in everyday and obviously an internet connection. You will be required to watch videos to learn new lessons and are able to communicate through video or email to teachers if you are having a hard time with the lesson. Many different people use this online program. At the end of the program, you will have fees to pay even if you withdraw.

A student that wants to be successful in Cyber School must have excellent time management skills and learn well autonomously. Students often find this option to be much more difficult than they had anticipated.

ed.

A second option is Crossroads School, located right here in Farrell, PA. There are several different ways to enroll or be assigned to this school. One way is to be sent there in the juvenile department, as assigned by the court. A youth agency can make the decision that this placement is in a student's best interest. Finally, a parent can voluntarily send a child to Crossroads if and when it is agreed upon by the district.

Crossroads students must be between the ages of 10 to 18 years of age. This program is great for kids who find it difficult to work or learn in a traditional classroom with many students. During the first week, a student is required to attend an

entire day program from 8 am until 8 pm. This school is broken up into two different buildings, one for boys and the other one for girls. This means that during a school day the genders are never mixed.

Keystone serves students from all different communities. This school, located in Greenville, PA, can be for kids who live there on their own or that are incarcerated there. Personally, I found Keystone to be the more rigid and severe of the two behavioral reassignment options. They have different buses that pick you up from your district and drop you off. Additionally, you can be any age to attend this school.



# Schoolwide & Community Connections

## Annual Shop with a Cop: December 2019



Students, Marissa Wise and Stephanie Montgomery, pose with Mr. Riley Smoot and Farrell Police Officers during and after annual event. Local Police force raises funds to sponsor this generous program that brightens the holiday season with a shopping spree for several local students.



Tim Wild, Lavar Hightower, Cole Summers (back), Jada Williams, LaShawn Williams, Chyna Butler (front), play for Elementary School.

Students, (left to right) Ryan Stewart—Grade 8, Charles Anderson—Grade 8, and Seth Koren—Grade 12, organize merchandise at the Sharon Salvation Army. Students learn on the job skills and contribute in a meaningful way.



HS World Language students extend culture to elementary with 2nd annual caroling event.



Marcus Green, Mariah Hopson, Gary Satterwhite, Kalia Knight, Ronald LaCamera and Saniyeh Thomas lend a helping hand during Santa's annual visit to the Elementary School.



# Fun Farrell Happenings

## Mrs. Latzoo's Sophomore Yeast Fermentation Lab



Sophomores, Diamond Lewis, Jaimen Holden, Jere Edwards, and Jaylie Green, explore the science behind pizza making during Fermentation Laboratory.

## French Club *Tableau* and Tasting Holiday Event



French Club students dabble in impressionistic painting, led by Ms. Munnal, while sampling over a dozen international foods from all over Europe and North Africa.

## FHS bids adieu to the decade...



Senior, Skylar Cordray, shows off a crafted tree ornament during HS holiday party.



Jaylie Green, Alannah Talbert, and Hailie Switz busy making cookies in Family Consumer Science Lab (Above).



Mrs. Armour's beach themed scene wins 1st place in the 3rd annual Door Decorating Contest hosted by FHS Cheerleaders under the direction of Mrs. Retone.



Senior, Chardell Stewart, Groucho or Grinch?

Students splash into break with a dip in the high school pool during afternoon holiday party (right).

