



FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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News Release: Industry 4.0 Grant~Firelands Local School District
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Firelands Awarded Largest Grant in District History

The Firelands Local School District (FLSD) is proud to announce that we have received the largest grant funding in the history of the district! **Due to the dedication of Mr. Chuck Latto and Mrs. Lori Roemer, Firelands has received \$487,829.44 through the Ohio's Career Technical Education Equipment Grant.** The grant was awarded on March 4th by Governor Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted.

The purpose of this grant is to establish or expand Career Technical Education (CTE) programs in schools. This CTE grant will play a crucial role in preparing middle school and high school students for successful careers by providing access to specialized training, preparing students for the workforce, facilitating career exploration, promoting college readiness, supporting personalized learning, all while addressing high-skill, high-wage workforce needs in various industries. This grant will assist the district in preparing students for some of the highest projected growth industries in Ohio.

420 students at Firelands Middle School will be impacted from this funding. All middle school students will have the opportunity to participate in the Industry 4.0 pathways. This class will be part of the assigned wheel of exploration and will grow over the next several years. The course will expand to Freshmen as well through the Industry 4.0 Fundamentals program. The advanced program includes the opportunity to earn SACA Certifications to better prepare our students for the workforce and beyond. The programs will help students prepare for multiple careers where 4.0 skills are commonly used and increasingly required such as: Manufacturing, Construction, Biotechnology and Healthcare, Information Technology, Logistics, Transportation, and Agriculture.

Mr. Latto, FLSD 6-12 Computer Science Teacher stated, "Bringing Industry 4.0 and Advanced Manufacturing training to Firelands is a thrilling opportunity to help prepare our students for the future. Manufacturing technology is evolving at an exponential pace, and it is important to provide our students with experiences that will prepare them for high-demand careers that involve key areas such as Cyber-Physical Systems, Internet of Things, Cloud Computing, and AI. It is exciting to be able to introduce these topics in middle school, while providing additional opportunities for high school students to earn industry recognized micro-credentials through SACA."

More

www.firelandsschools.org

Firelands will be supported by Amatrol and Buckeye Educational Systems. The work-based curriculum (a combination of classroom, online and hands-on learning) will provide technical depth to learn and understand the industry needs and requirements. Over \$450,000 worth of machinery, software, classroom supplies, curriculum and instructional materials will soon arrive at the Firelands campus to support learning in the areas of construction technology, health and biomedical, Information technology, manufacturing, logistics and supply chain, transportation technology, software developing, agriculture and more. Buckeye Educational Systems will support the curriculum and work in partnership with Amatrol and Firelands Local Schools in order to maximize the potential of growth within our students.

Lori Roemer, Director of Educational Services said, “expanding courses for our students in the field of industry and advanced manufacturing will empower them. This new course is not just an opportunity, but a promise of their limitless potential. With this grant we pave the way for their academic journey for many possibilities while igniting passions that will shape their future.”

174 districts applied for funding and Firelands is one of 56 that were selected for this groundbreaking initiative. The grant funding, according to Governor Mike Dewine, “will give young people the abilities and tools to meet the needs of incoming Ohio businesses. Students across the state of Ohio will be better equipped to secure well-paying jobs, possibly even before they leave high school.”

This new funding will also support one of the high school graduation seals. A graduation requirement states that students must demonstrate readiness as a part of their pathway to earning a high school diploma. To demonstrate readiness, students must earn at least two seals, one of which must be a state-defined seal. This grant will allow our students to work towards earning The Industry-Recognized Credential Seal, a state-defined seal that recognizes careers that are considered in-demand in Ohio.

About Firelands Local Schools: FLSD is a Purple Star recognized district that is made up of five consolidated communities. The district expands 95 square miles, making the school the center of the community. Our FFA is nationally ranked, our music program is Grammy recognized, and we are proud to offer many hours of CCP, on campus. With the opening of our new high school, our school buildings are now located on one campus. We are working to create a community of lifelong learners that will function as responsible, self-sufficient citizens of a global society.

Photograph attached

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