# Vildcat Community News

The Franklin City Schools Board of Education cordially invites you to the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Franklin High School Sunday, September 12. 2021, 2:00 p.m.

Franklin Junior High School, 136 E. Sixth St., Franklin (rear lawn)

Please RSVP by Sept. 3rd to pjeromos@franklincityschools.com Please plan to park at Hampton Bennett, 150 E. Sixth St., Franklin, OH 45005

# Welcome to a new school year! New FHS groundbreaking Sept. 12

# Superintendent's message

reetings from Franklin City Schools! Speaking for the staff, administration, and board of education, we're eager to kick off the 2021-22 school year.

We love seeing our students when school begins every fall; this year, we're excited that all students will have in-person instruction and we look forward to resuming activities and events that we couldn't do last year. We applaud our staff's work to make last school year as normal as possible and appreciate how staff and students acted together to keep everyone safe.

We've worked with the Warren County Health District and the other Warren County school districts to develop reopening guidelines. The guidelines are designed to protect the health and safety of students and staff and follow the guidance set out by Ohio and Warren County health authorities and the Ohio Department of Education. The guidelines are a living document and may change based on health recommendations, state guidelines, or district needs. The most up-to-date version of the document can always be found on our website.

During the '20-'21 school year, our students received many honors and accolades, including the Class of 2021 earning over \$3.4 million in scholarships. The class included 29 students in the Principal's 30+ Club (earning a score of 30 or higher on one or more sections of the ACT). Graduates are headed to careers, the military, or higher education at colleges/universities as diverse as University of Cincinnati, Sinclair College, and D'Youville College.

Franklin students also took top honors in the arts, with FHS students winning both Best of Show and the President's Award at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Miamisburg Art Gallery student show. Our students showcased their talents at athletic events, academic competitions, con-

certs, dramatic productions, and at the district's student art show in April.

While our classroom buildings are normally quiet in the summer, that's not the case this year. With the closure of the Franklin Junior High, a temporary junior high is being built behind the current high school building. You may have seen the modular classroom units moving onto that site, and a construction driveway being added on the east side. Additionally, Hampton Bennett will no longer house kindergarten students; they'll be absorbed into the neighborhood elementary buildings. Modular units have been added to Hunter, Gerke, and Schenck to house 6th graders. Pennyroyal and Anthony Wayne had room for the kindergarten students without adding modular space.

We're excited that groundbreaking for our new high school will be Sunday, Sept. 12, 2 p.m. in the lawn behind the Franklin Junior High (136 E. Sixth St.). The event will include the band, drumline, and a high school vocal group. It's open to the public, and we'd love an approximate count of attendees (continued p. 3)



# **Important District Information**

# Stay connected with us!

**Board of Education** 

Andrew Fleming, President Bob Knipper, Vice President

Lori Raleigh

Rachel Ruppert-Wolfinbarger

**Chris Sizemore** 

District Administration

**Dr. Michael Sander**, Superintendent **Robyn Donisi**, Assistant Superintendent

**Kevin Hawley**, Treasurer

Rodney Roberts, Business Manager

District contact information

Superintendent's Office, (937) 746-1699

Assistant Superintendent's Office, (937) 743-8601

Business Manager's Office, (937) 743-8600

Treasurer's Office, (937) 743-8603

Transportation Office, (937) 743-8670

Department of Special Services, (937) 743-8602

Franklin High School, (937) 743-8610 or 8611

Franklin Junior High School, (937) 743-8630 or 8632

Anthony Wayne Elementary, (937) 743-8640

Gerke Elementary, (937) 743-8650

Hunter Elementary, (937) 743-8655

Pennyroyal Elementary, (937) 743-8660

Wm. C. Schenck Elementary, (937) 743-8665

Welcome Center Central Registration Office, (937) 743-8602

### The latest district news

For the most up-to-date information about district news and happenings, follow our district on its social media pages.

Twitter handles are:

@HunterElemNews @GerkeElementary @PennyroyalElem @AdminsFHS @FJHSOH

@Schenck\_Elem @FCSWildcats (District)

Instagram: fcswildcatpride (District)

Facebook: facebook.com/FranklinCitySchools/

Website: franklincityschools.com

# Enrolling your child in school

You may enroll your child in school at the FCS Welcome Center Registration Office, 150 E. Sixth St., in the Hampton Bennett Building, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

For your convenience, and to minimize waiting time, a parent/ guardian must contact the Welcome Center Office to schedule an appointment to complete the registration process in person.

In addition to your completed registration packet, the following documents must be provided for enrollment in the Franklin City School District:

- Original Birth Certificate
- Custody Papers/Court Ordered Placement (if applicable) (Divorce Decree, date stamped and signed by judge/magistrate). Note: If you are in the process of acquiring custody, you must have documentation from the court confirming legal proceedings have been initiated. There is a 60-day legal completion process for the student to continue enrollment at Franklin City Schools.
- Shot/Immunization Records
- Parent/Guardian Driver's License
- Proof of Residency (Rental/Lease agreement, Settlement Statement, Land/Purchase Contract, Copy of Deed, Electric or Water Bill. Items listed are the only items that will be accepted.
- IEP/504/MFE (if applicable)
- Transcript from previous school attended (Grades 9-12 only)

When all documents have been verified you will be directed to contact your child's assigned school building to complete the enrollment process for orientation, scheduling, and transportation. You may also be required to complete additional building forms.

We want to make your child's first day a positive experience; therefore, we need time to prepare for him/her to join our classes. Due to scheduling and transportation, students enrolled may start the day after registration requirements have been met.

More details are available on the district website at www.franklincityschools.com/departments/enrollment-5/

Begin the online registration process at https://registration.franklincityschools.com.

# Senior Citizen Activity Passes

Senior citizens (age 62+) living in the Franklin City School district may pick up a pass in the Superintendent's office that will allow them to attend school-sponsored activities, including sporting events and arts performances, at no charge.

# Fall Varsity Sports

	V * 0 10 0 1	40/07 4 D III 1
Varsity Football. Games at 7 p.m.	Varsity Coed Cross Country	10/07 A vs. Bellbrook
8/13 A vs. Miamisburg (Jamboree)	8/21 A OPEN (OSHAA preseason), 9 a.m.	10/11 H vs. Carlisle
8/20 A vs. Fenwick	8/28 A vs. Milton Union, 9 a.m.	10/12 A vs. Waynesville
8/27 A vs. Beavercreek	9/04 A vs. Lebanon, 9 a.m.	10/14 A vs. Dixie
9/03 H vs. Edgewood	9/08 A vs. Valley View, 4 p.m.	
9/10 H vs. Carlisle	9/11 A vs. Brookville, 9 a.m.	Girls Varsity Volleyball, 6:30 unless noted
9/17 A vs. Bellbrook	9/15 H OPEN (Franklin Invite), 4 p.m.	8/21 A vs. Princeton, 11:30 a.m.
9/24 H vs. Oakwood	9/18 A vs. Eaton, 9 a.m.	8/23 H vs. Milton Union
10/01 A vs. Monroe	10/2 A vs. Centerville, 9 p.m. (under the lights)	8/24 A vs. Bellbrook
10/08 A vs. Valley View	10/16 OPEN (SWBL), 9 a.m.	8/26 H vs. Hamilton
10/15 H vs. Waynesville	10/23 OPEN (Districts), 9 a.m.	8/30 A vs. Wilmington
10/21 A vs. Brookville (Thurs. Night Lights		8/31 H vs. Eaton
10/21 A V3. DIOORVIIIE (THUIS. NIGHT LIGHTS	of Liv (Negionals), 9 a.m.	9/02 A vs. Madison
Boys Soccer	Boys Varsity Golf, 4 p.m. unless noted	9/07 A vs. Dixie
	8/05 OPEN (Ryder Cup @ Beachwood), 9 a.m.	
8/26 A vs. Bellbrook, 7:15 p.m.	8/09 H vs. West Carrollton	9/13 H vs. Talawanda
9/02 A vs. Waynesville, 7:15 p.m.	8/10 H vs. Preble Shawnee	9/14 H vs. Bellbrook
9/09 H vs. Fairborn, 7 p.m.	8/12 A vs. Brookville	9/16 H vs. Waynesville
9/13 H vs. Madison, 7 p.m.	8/17 H vs. Bellbrook	9/18 A vs. Middletown, 11:00 a.m.
9/14 A vs. Valley View, 7:15 p.m.	8/19 H vs. Waynesville	9/21 A vs. Carlisle
9/16 H vs. Monroe, 7 p.m.	8/23 H vs. Carlisle	9/23 H vs. Monroe
9/21 H vs. Oakwood, 7 p.m.	8/24 A vs. Edgewood	9/27 A vs. Stebbins
9/23 A vs. Monroe, 7:15 p.m.	8/26 H vs. Monroe	9/28 H vs. Oakwood, 7:30 p.m.
9/28 H vs. Bellbrook, 7 p.m.	8/30 A vs. Bellbrook	10/05 A vs. Waynesville
9/30 A vs. Oakwood, 7:15 p.m.	8/31 A vs. Oakwood	10/07 A vs. Carroll
10/04 A vs Milton Union, 7:15 p.m.	9/02 H vs. Edgewood	10/11 H vs. Northridge
10/05 H vs Brookville, 7 p.m.	9/07 A vs. Waynesville	10/12 A vs. Monroe
10/11 A vs. Carlisle, 6:15 p.m.	9/09 H vs. Eaton	
10/12 H vs. Waynesville, 7 p.m.	9/13 A vs. Brookville	Girls Varsity Golf, 4 p.m. unless noted
10/14 A vs. Dixie, 5:30 p.m.	9/14 A vs Monroe	8/09 A vs. Miamisburg (Pipestone), 1 p.m.
то, то	9/16 H vs Oakwood	8/10 A vs. Miamisburg (Mound), 2 p.m.
Girls Varsity Tennis. 4 p.m. unless noted.	9/23 A OPEN (SWBL), 9 a.m.	8/11 A vs. Fenwick (Browns Run), 1 p.m.
8/10 H vs. Carlisle	9/30 A vs. West Carrollton	8/12 A vs. Waynesville (Armco)
8/11 H vs. Valley View	5700 71 vo. vvest outroiteri	8/17 H vs Waynesville
8/12 A vs. Preble Shawnee	Girls Varsity Soccer, 7:30 p.m.	8/19 A vs. Valley View (Jamaica Run)
8/16 H vs. Northridge	8/24 A vs. Eaton	8/23 A vs. Eaton
8/18 H vs. Valley View	8/26 H vs. Bellbrook	8/24 A vs. Middletown (Wildwood)
8/19 H vs. Bellbrook		
		- ( )
8/23 A vs. Madison	9/02 H vs. Waynesville	8/30 A vs. Carlisle (Jamaica Run)
8/25 A vs. Miamisburg	9/09 A vs. Fairborn	9/02 H vs. Eaton
8/26 H vs. Waynesville	9/13 H vs. Madison	9/09 H vs. Middletown
8/31 H vs. Greeneview	9/14 H vs. Valley View	9/13 H vs. Miamisburg
9/07 H vs. Brookville	9/16 A vs. Monroe	9/14 H vs. Valley View
9/09 A vs. Monroe	9/21 A vs. Oakwood	9/16 A vs. Carlisle (Jamaica Run)
9/15 A vs. Carlisle	9/23 H vs. Monroe	
9/16 A vs. Oakwood	9/30 H vs. Oakwood	
9/23 A vs. Carroll, 4:30 p.m.	10/4 H vs. Edgewood	

(cont. from p.1); please RSVP to pjeromos@franklincityschools.com.

If you attend, please feel free to bring a lawn chair and park in the Hampton Bennett lot. Plans for the new high school building are being reviewed by the Board, and the physical work will get underway this fall.

The district has also been working on rebranding to develop a new logo package with a Wildcat mascot that's uniquely our own, and has a standard look across the district and for all uses including print, social media, spirit wear, uniforms, etc. The new logo package will be unveiled at the groundbreaking, and we're excited to roll it out this fall.

We are also welcoming several new staff members this fall including a new treasurer, Gerke principal, and high school assis-

tant principal. Learn more about our new staff members on our district website's "Meet a Wildcat" feature and on our social media pages. The website is <a href="https://www.franklincityschools.com">www.franklincityschools.com</a>.

Educating your children would be impossible without the partnership of students, families, school personnel, and the community. Our students' successes are built on the foundation of a strong school board, faculty, staff, and administration, and is made possible by the confidence of our district voters. With this partnership, we'll continue the strong programs we have in place as we look forward to new facilities for our students.

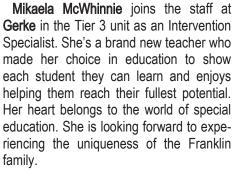
Please contact me at <a href="msander@franklincityschools.com">msander@franklincityschools.com</a> OR (937) 746-1699 or with questions or concerns you might have. Michael D. Sander, Ed.D, Superintendent Franklin City Schools

### Welcome, new staff members!

The district welcomes the many new staff members joining us this school year. More new staff members will be introduced in the next newsletter.

Josh Pohl is the new principal at Gerke. He's married and has four children, two sons and two daughters. He loves helping people and looking forward to helping students feel connected to their school and community by building new relationships. He's says excited about joining the Wildcat family because of all the great things he has heard.

Landen Brown will be an Intervention Specialist at FJHS. He's married to his wonderful wife Rebekah and has a dog named Summitt. He became an educator because of the impact teachers had on him while he was growing up. He's also entering his fourth season coaching varsity football here in Franklin and is excited to teach where he's been coaching. Welcome!



Kristina Short will join Pennyroyal as an Intervention Specialist for grades 5 and 6A. She keeps busy outside of school with the activities of her own three children. Kristina knew from a young age that she wanted to be a teacher due to her own struggles in school. She is most excited about building lifelong relationships with staff, students, and our community.

Brock Wysong is the new Assistant Principal at FHS. He's a golfer and disc golfer in his free time, and also enjoys cooking. His goal as an administrator is to make a positive impact on young people and support them as they navigate through high school. He's excited about joining a great community and culture. When he was introduced at the recent school board meeting, he said he could feel the positivity and excitement in Franklin.











Larry Cox will join the FHS staff as the BIP Coordinator; he's also our new head football coach. He's been married for 27 years and has two daughters who are also teachers. His goal in education is to help kids become better versions of themselves and to inspire them to continually put in hard work to improve. He's excited to work with the staff and students and loves the passion our community has for the schools.

Paige Baldrick will join FJHS as an Intervention Specialist. She has two children of her own, Chayton (6) and Brynn (almost 2). She loves learning and helping others learn. Her brother is on the autism spectrum and serves as her inspiration for finding creative ways to help others. She's looking forward to getting to know the community.

Lindsey Sandhoff will be a K-2 intervention specialist at Anthony Wayne. Her family loves to be outdoors exploring new places. She enjoys teaching and seeing the students grow and learn each day. She is looking forward to joining our Wildcat staff and meeting AW students.

Chelsea Jewell will be an Intervention Specialist at FJHS. She is married with a daughter named Josie and has two dogs, Captain and Leia. She works in education for the ability to make a difference. She is most excited about getting to know everyone and becoming part of the community.

Kimberly Irgens has been teaching in the district for 21 years, but is moving into a new role as Assistant Elementary Principal serving primarily **Hunter** and **Gerke** Elementaries. She loves working with children and families and feels it's an honor to be part of a child's educational process. She loves being a part of the Wildcat family and looks forward to starting a new phase in her career with Franklin.

Sarah Cumby will be an Intervention Specialist at Pennyroyal. She and her husband Brad have been married 10 years and she has two elementary-aged children. She always knew she wanted to teach. She was a Wildcat for 6 years before deciding to stay home with her children. She's eager to rejoin the Wildcat family.













### District wins chamber award

FCS was a cowinner with Carlisle Local Schools at the Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce's annual award ceremony on June 22.

FCS received the Chamber's President's Award, which is given for service to the community and/or the chamber. The district was honored for stepping up to



ensure that students had access to meals when the pandemic shut down schools in March 2020.

The award reads: "In March 2020, when a global pandemic forced the closure of Ohio's schools, Franklin City Schools immediately stepped up to serve one of our community's most vulnerable groups: students who depend on schools for their meals. Within days of the shutdown order, Franklin City Schools had developed a plan to ensure that students had access to food. They served thousands of meals to area children through the spring. The district's actions made the pandemic shutdown less stressful to area families; Franklin City School District is truly a community asset."

Dr. Mike Sander, Board member Lori Raleigh, and Business Manager Rodney Roberts accepted the award on behalf of the district, and said that that credit went to the district staff who made this happen and served nearly 100,000 meals to Franklin students.

# FHS Spanish language students score well

Several Spanish language students from **Franklin High School** attained national recognition for excellent performance on the 2021 National Spanish Examinations. 58 Franklin students stepped up to take the optional exam in Spanish classes 3, 4, and 5 in March 2021.

The National Spanish Examination ranks students participating in the examination within their different levels. 43 of the 58 Franklin students taking the exam ranked in the top categories of excellence of Spanish language learners in the nation within their level. Students from Franklin High School earned a total of six gold (95-100 percentile), six silver (85-94 percentile), and 11 bronze medals (75-84 percentile) along with 20 honorable mentioned medals (50-74 percentile).

"Attaining a medal or honorable mention for any student on the National Spanish Examinations is very prestigious," said Kevin Cessna-Buscemi, National Director of the Exams, "Because the exams are the largest of their kind in the United States with over

## District presents diplomas to two veterans





The Board of Education had the pleasure of granting diplomas to two men whose education was interrupted by military service.

At its April 26 meeting, the Franklin Board of Education presented a high school diploma to veteran Floyd Clay Cassidy (above right). Cassidy was drafted by the United States Marine Corps on January 29, 1954; he withdrew from Franklin High School just days later, on Feb. 2. He had a three-year commitment with the Marines and following his active duty, became part of the Marine Reserves. He was honorably discharged from the Reserves on Jan. 28, 1962.

He attended Lemon-Monroe High School as a freshman and enrolled at Franklin in the fall of 1952, where he attended until being drafted. Following his service, he was employed by Sorg Paper Company.

At its March 22 meeting, the Franklin Board of Education presented a diploma to veteran Arthur Greene, Jr. (above 1eft). Greene, 76, of Franklin Township, should have graduated with the Class of 1963 but left school to work on his family's Robinson-Vail Road farm and then was drafted before he could complete the credits required to earn his high school diploma.

Greene served in the Army in Vietnam, where he was a watercraft operator and earned several medals before being honorably discharged in 1971.

As he handed Greene his diploma, Board President Andy Fleming congratulated Greene for being the first graduate of the Franklin High School Class of 2021.

Ohio law permits public school districts to confer a high school diploma to veterans who served in any branch of the United States Armed Services between September 16, 1940, and the end of the Vietnam War.

140,000 students participating in 2021."

Students from Franklin High School have a long history of high achievement on these exams and were taught by Spanish teachers Veronica Kiefaber and Tracy Linder.

### Board honors students for achievement

At its May 24 meeting, the Franklin Board of Education honored nine students for achievement.

Three members of the FHS Class of 2021, Tanner Biltz, Jeffrey Davis, and Zachary Osborne (who was unable to attend the meeting), were honored for earning their Eagle Scout rank. Approximately 8% of Scouts achieve the prestigious Eagle rank; one requirement is to develop and complete a service project. Jeffrey Davis completed a project mapping veterans' graves at Woodhill Cemetery. Both Tanner and Zach completed projects for Hope United Methodist Church: a peace pole (Zach)



**FJHS** students Beckett Burlile Suni Lin were honored as the 7th grade Wildof the cats Year: Annie Bales and Trent Lewis



Tanner Biltz (left) and Jeffrey Davis.



From left: Annie Bales, Luke Eyink, Beckett Burlile, Trent Lewis, Audrey Sove, and Suni Lin.

were honored as the 8th grade Wildcats of the Year. Wildcats of the Year are chosen for their all-around attitude, maturity, and character.

**FJHS** students Luke Eyink and Audrey Sove were honored for winning the Archie Griffin Award. This award, sponsored by the Ohio High School Athletic Association, is given to students who demonstrate sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity.

The district established the Student Achievement Award in 2001; hundreds of students have been honored since its inception.

Student Achievement Committee members include parents, community residents, board members, administrators, and students; they meet during the school year to evaluate nominations which may be submitted by students, teachers, administrators, or community members.

Award criteria and a nomination form are available on our website at www.franklincityschools.com/departments/curriculum-3/student-achievement--78/

### Rebranding update

A team of parents, staff, admins, alumni, a board member, and community members has been meeting since April to work on a brand refresh for our district logo and branding package.

Prior to the committee starting, over 1000 people answered a survey about our school system's brand and community. The wordle below shows their responses, with the size of the word indicating how often it was mentioned.

Honoring the community's sense of who Franklin City Schools is has been the foundation of the committee's work. The committee is excited for you to see the new Wildcat logo, one that is absolutely unique to our district, but that respects our traditions. The logo will be approved by the board, then officially unveiled at the groundbreaking ceremony on Sept. 12.



# Franklin HS, Franklin JHS, 1921-2021

After being Wildcat Country for 100 years, the last students to ever attend class in the building exited the **Franklin Junior High** on May 28.

Next fall, 7th and 8th graders will be in a temporary junior high facility behind the current Franklin High School, which is

being renovated into a 6-8 building; the renovation will occur simultaneously with the construction of the new high school. (Picture above courtesy of FJHS).





### District Art Show highlights students' talents

Artwork of hundreds of FCS students was displayed at our annual student art show. Pictures below are a sample of students' talents.



Ethan Rebholz, FHS, Grade 11



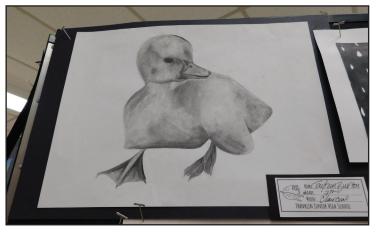
Harper Threnhauser, Anthony Wayne, Grade 3



Sara Krasniqi, Pennyroyal, Grade3



Mallory Weidle, Anthony Wayne, Grade 1



Taytem Burton, FJHS, Grade 7

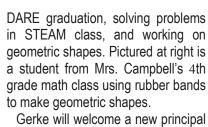
### Around the district

At **Schenck**, Miss Masters' and Mrs. Pecor's classes researched and studied dinosaurs, ending their unit with a "Dinosaur Dig." Students became paleontologists as they donned safari hats, went outside, and used various tools to dig out unique toy dinosaurs encased in individual clay eggs. Students were able to match their dinosaur to an

information card and keep their treasures.
Schenck's 6th Graders participated in the

Schenck's 6th Graders participated in the building's DARE graduation and then made new friends at Camp Kern with all 6th grade students from the District. (picture above right).

Gerke students ended the year with Career Day with speakers from Wright Patterson Air Force Base (held virtually), an outdoor



Gerke will welcome a new principal this fall. Learn more about Josh Pohl on page 4.

Students at the Early Childhood Center had an ABC countdown to



end the school year. Starting in late April, they celebrated each day with a letter of the alphabet and activity. The 26 activities ranged from an art project on A Day, wearing your favorite sports jersey on J Day, ending the day with quiet reading on Q day, to eXtra recess/field day on X day. In 2021-22, kindergarten students will attend classes at their neighborhood elementary buildings.

### More news from around the district

Hunter students had a fun May with celebrations of academic

success, achieving behavior goals, and meeting fellow 6th graders at 6th grade camp.

6th graders completed their DARE classes (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) and police brought the drug dog for a demonstration. 6th graders also had a "clap out" cele-



bration to end their years in elementary school.

Hunter 4th graders celebrated Earth Day with a field trip to the Township Park in Hunter. Every grade enjoyed a COVID-safe field day, and students who earned the 4th quarter PBIS reward celebrated with a Kona Ice treat.

The building held a friendly MAP-incentive competition between grade levels to see who could have the most students meet their growth goals for the year. Ms. Johnson's first grade class won a pizza party as a reward.

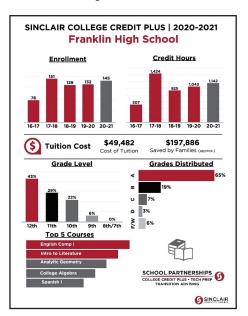
### CCP = A win for students/families

Through partnerships with local colleges, FHS offers dual en-

rollment courses (students earn both high school and college credit) in English, Math, Foreign Language, Engineering, and Theatre Appreciation.

College Credit Plus permits qualified students in grades 9-12 to earn credits through the successful completion of college courses.

'20-'21 statistics from CCP partner Sinclair Community College show 145



FHS students earned 1142 credit hours and saved families approximately \$197,886 in tuition.

Franklin schools

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