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## Interior design of new Franklin High School taking shape

Interior designs of the new Franklin High School are taking shape and district architect SHP has presented conceptual renderings to the Board of Education. **Please note that all of the pictures shown are conceptual only, and not the final, adopted design.**

Wildcat red and black are used throughout the building, with gray and wood tones as accents. Staff and administration who gave input into the new building design emphasized the desire for natural light. This has been accomplished with large exterior windows. Glass is used in the connecting walls between the

cafeteria and the main gym, giving the feeling of open, continuous space.

Construction is underway on the new bus garage (behind the current high school) and construction for the new high school will begin this spring. Renovating the current high school in to a grade 6-8 middle school will happen simultaneously.

Both the new high school and renovated middle school are scheduled to be ready for students in the fall of 2023.

# News from Franklin City Schools

## Kevin Hawley joins Wildcat family as district treasurer

Kevin Hawley, in his first year as FCS treasurer, joined the Wildcat family after stints at the Warren County ESC, North College Hills City Schools, and Loveland City Schools. He's a Miami grad with B.S. in Business Economics and a minor in Public Law. He earned his CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ certification in 2014.



Hawley frequently uses the word community, including when explaining why he became a school treasurer. "The biggest joys I have being a school treasurer are supporting and being a part of a community. I take a lot of joy in being a part of providing the educational needs of students. I firmly believe I would not be in the position I am in today if it were not for the opportunities I was given during my younger years and the teachers that encouraged me to do greater things. I am proud to be a part of that process for our students and love to see our students succeed in whatever future goals they are pursuing."

He added, "The ultimate motivation for me to become a school treasurer was not just a career choice but also the belief in the power of education and to serve local communities. My family always put an emphasis on education and made many sacrifices to give my brother and me every opportunity to get a great education. I wanted to use my prior private sector experiences and educational background to help lead a school district in their financial goals and to value the sacrifices that so many of our community members make to provide for their families daily."

The Ohio Department of Education stipulates the requirements to be a licensed as a school treasurer. Since Hawley already had a business degree, he needed three additional semester hours

each in school law and school finance. His field experience requirement was fulfilled by a 300-hour internship in the treasurer's office at the Warren County ESC. Continuing education is required for license renewal every five years.

Hawley recognizes the challenge of explaining the complexities of school finance. He noted that Ohio requires local communities to shoulder much of the burden of financing their school districts meaning districts must periodically ask voters to increase taxes. Hawley noted the difficulty this causes in communities but added that districts strive to be good stewards of public monies.

He says he's a huge sports fan and roots mainly for the Bengals and Liverpool (the other kind of) Football Club. Hawley and his family—a wife of nearly 15 years and three daughters—love to travel to different destination every year. They enjoy getting a Christmas ornament in each place and reminiscing about their travels as they decorate the tree. The family is working on an international adoption and waiting for COVID-related travel restrictions to lift. The family is actively involved in their church.

When asked what his favorite thing was about Franklin City Schools he said, "The one word that I would use to describe Franklin City Schools, which is also one of my favorite things about it, is the word 'family.' This is a very close-knit community and there is something special about this place. I am constantly running into people who either work for the district or are actively involved who are originally from Franklin. That may seem like an obvious trait of a community but from my experience, it is incredibly unique and rare. I love that there is an identity and a passion about this city and its members that people continue to stay connected and invest in this community. I regularly hear 'Once a Wildcat, Always a Wildcat' and from my observations, it could not be truer."

## "Thank you for your service"

**Pennyroyal Elementary** observed Veterans Day with an assembly and service project.

The annual event, organized by teacher Stephen Lake II, included the Pennyroyal student council, musicians from Franklin High School, an honor guard from the Warren County Sheriff's Honor Guard, and representative from Adam's Hope, a Germantown-based non-profit that provides care packages members of the military.

The keynote speaker was Vickie Lucas (Lieutenant Commander, Retired, U.S. Navy Police). The assembly ended with a flag folding ceremony by the Honor Guard, with the flag presented to Lucas.

Students donated items and raised funds for Adam's Hope, with a Turkey Trot ending the week.



# News from Franklin City Schools

## FJHS student wins state competition

Jacob Lyninger has made a habit of impressing and inspiring his teachers and peers. This habit is proving hard to break, even as he transitioned to **FJHS**. Jacob was announced as the winner in the statewide theme competition for the Ohio Braille Challenge.

The Ohio Braille Challenge is part of a national competition held each year at Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired. It's the only national reading and writing challenge for students learning braille. It serves to encourage visually impaired students to fine-tune their braille skills, which are essential to their academic and employment success in a sighted world. The competition is set for February 24, 2022; students all around Ohio in 1st-12th grades attend and/or compete in the event.

One of the highlights of the Braille Challenge is the theme. This year, Clovernook Center held a theme contest open to students. The contest had over 70 submissions and the themes were voted on by the Braille Challenge committee. Jacob submitted the winning entry, entitled, "Camping on the Braille Trail."

Jacob's theme will drive the entire Braille Challenge and inspired the challenge's logo. The logo will be on t-shirts given to participants and activities during breaks will be based on camping skills. The Braille Challenge committee also named Jacob the Braille Camp Director. He will assist with various activities and help open and close the Braille Challenge ceremony!



For his achievement, Jacob was honored at a school-wide assembly (where he received a standing ovation from his peers), and by the FCS Board of Education. (see page 7) Of course, Jacob is far more than a master theme creator. As his teachers can attest, he is quite the student.

This is how his former teacher, Ms. Katie Bell, described Jacob, "He's capable of just about anything he puts his mind to. One of my favorite things about him is how much he loves teaching other people about his exceptionalities and teaching them about how he's able to read/learn with his classmates. He will always jump on any opportunity to help someone and always motivates his classmates when he can."

Lisa Milliron, FCS' Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments, added, "Jacob is an impressive young man who works hard and likes to learn new things. As a middle school student, Jacob is taking ownership of his learning and is not only learning braille for literacy but is also learning the braille code for math instruction. What makes Jacob even more outstanding is that he is a dual media learner; not only does he learn Braille for instruction, but he

## Athletic Boosters at a crossroads

Franklin Athletic Boosters (FAB) is at a crossroads." We are a program for the students and the schools' athletic department. We want to make Franklin Athletics the best it can be," said Boosters' president Matt Green. This year, the group purchased over \$40,000 of items for FCS teams and offered \$6,000 in scholarships. However, FAB has been accomplishing a lot with a little and are seeking other folks to get involved.

Items funded this year included golf bags and umbrellas (\$3,500), a breakthrough banner for football (\$1,000), training bibs for girls soccer (\$1,320), CATS flags for cheer with the new district logo (\$2,500), and other items based on team wish lists that are outside the Athletic Department's budget.

"Right now," said Green, "we have roughly 300 high school athletes, yet we only have 5-6 'active' members who work tirelessly to achieve our goals. Think of how much we could accomplish if we had just one parent involved from a quarter of those athletes."

Approximately 18 varsity and several junior high team accounts fall under the Boosters' umbrella. The group's primary focus is to provide teams with items that give them a competitive advantage (advanced equipment for practicing, strength and conditioning equipment, etc.) but are outside the district's athletic budget. Stadium concessions is by far the biggest fundraiser.

Teams formerly fended themselves for fundraising, but Green and FAB VP Ivan Madden decided to get teams involved in all-inclusive fundraising that allowed them to do more with more people. They've added a golf outing and a beef raffle (which raised \$17,000 the first year but considerably less the second) and hope to add a scholarship dinner with a big-name keynote speaker.

When distributing funds, FAB considers how much teams participated with fundraising and concession work, how much teams have received in prior years, and how much money teams require.

The group has an 11-member executive board with four elected officer positions: president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary. Members are not required to have a student involved in district athletics. Green noted, "If new people don't get involved there may be a dissolution and team funds will go back to the athletic department and schools to handle."

Meetings are held monthly on the first Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in the FHS media center. Any changes of time or location are announced at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

Learn more about the group at their website, <https://www.franklinathleticboosters.org/> and at their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/franklinathlet2>

is learning to use assistive technology to complete and turn in instructional assignments.

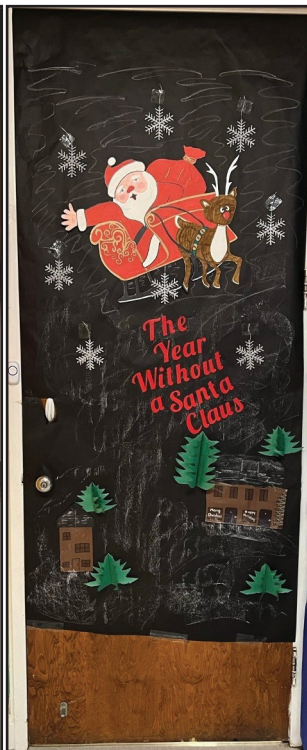
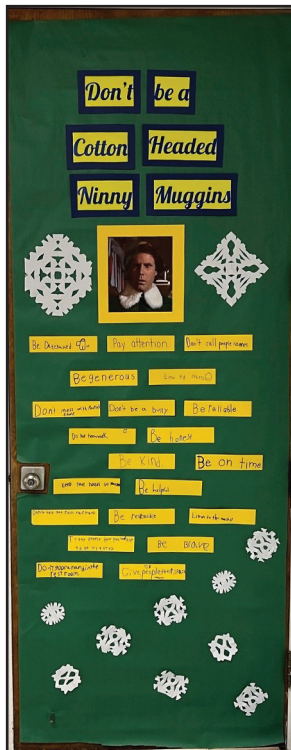
Simply put ... Jacob is one impressive kid!" We could not agree more.

# News from Franklin City Schools



At **Anthony Wayne**, Blue Star Moms donated books to the K-2 students; the books were distributed at a special visit from Santa Claus. 5th and 6th graders completed a science unit on geology and made models of sedimentary rocks. 6th graders also graduated from DARE and enjoyed a visit from the always-popular K9 unit. (all pictured above).

Other activities that kept **AW** students busy have been animal reports (following a trip to the zoo last fall), reading a book called *The Cool Bean* and learning that it's cool to be kind; learning about Christmas Around the World and how other countries and cultures celebrate Christmas; and a Polar Express Day to celebrate the season that tied in reading, writing, and math activities.



At **Gerke**, pumpkins were a key part of lessons last fall. Students used pumpkins to practice their weighing and measuring skills. Pumpkins were also rolled down the hall for another measuring lesson. All classes had a chance to problem-solve how to protect pumpkins to survive a drop. The Franklin Fire Department was enlisted to drop pumpkins from their ladder truck to see which class's pumpkin survived.

In December, classes had a door-decorating contest, based on movie themes. Sixth grade students served as judges. Students also made models of the solar system and holiday cards for residents of Sherman Glen and the Carlisle nursing home.

# News from Franklin City Schools



## FJHS art project serves veterans

Veterans receiving care at the Dayton VA center received hand-painted tote bags created by FJHS art students.

Students decorated 100 bags with positive messages and images; the Blue Star Families organization filled the bags with toiletries and other goodies. The bags were distributed the week after Thanksgiving.

One delighted recipient was WWII US Army Staff Sgt. Edmond H. Vernot (pictured).

Molly Bender is the FJHS art instructor.

Per their website, The Blue Star Families group was “Founded in 2009 by military spouses with you in mind, we empower military and Veteran families to thrive by connecting them with their civilian neighbors — both people and organizations — to create strong communities of mutual support.” <https://bluestarfam.org/>



Activities that kept Hunter students engaged recently included:

- a visit by the 8th grade choir for 5th and 6th graders (who enjoyed seeing Hunter students in the group); several current students were inspired to sign for next year,
- a 2nd grade project-based learning activity creating gingerbread house
- DARE (6th graders)

- a building-wide food drive
- a Thanksgiving celebration

Pictured above left: the sixth grade classes had a book drive and invited younger students to pick out a book.

Pictured above right: Ohio State Troopers, including a former Hunter student, visited 2nd and 3rd grades to discuss their jobs.

# News from Franklin City Schools

## FCS expands vocational skill development experiences for students

During the 2021-2022 school year, FCS has expanded vocational skill development for our high school students with disabilities. This has included an investment in personnel, services, and partnerships all aimed at strengthening our student's preparation for life after high school. Within a variety of environments, students are learning work-based skills that will better equip them for the demands and tasks of the modern workplace.

On any given school day, Jenny Dameron, the district's Transition Coordinator, can be found working directly with students, communicating with families, and coordinating with agency and business partners. In her role, Jenny assists staff, students, and families by providing information and resources related to students' post-secondary transitions. While graduation is the goal for all of our students, the district also works to promote students' long-term success after graduation through career-readiness skill development.

Also with Jenny's assistance, the district is able to connect students and families to agencies that promote post-secondary success including the Office for Ohioans with Disabilities, Ohio Means Jobs, and the Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

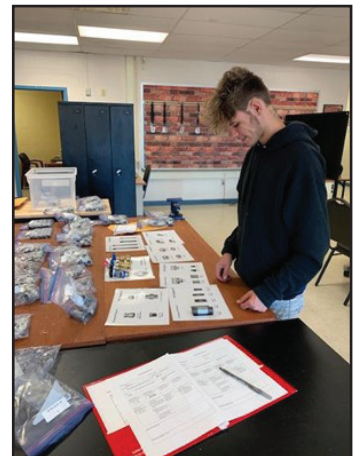
Beyond agency connections and in addition to students' academic coursework, Jenny and the FCS special education department have created real world job experiences embedded inside and outside of the high school building.

Within the building, in partnership with Pam Bishop and the FHS kitchen staff, students now have the opportunity to learn essential life and work skills. Moving through multiple task rotations, students can be seen working daily within the cafeteria independently running the washroom, cleaning trays/equipment, and stocking supplies. These job assignments provide students the opportunity to fine tune their workplace skills within a familiar and supportive environment.

Through a business partnership with the Springboro Skyline (picture at right, top), students are able to leave campus and receive hands-on training and task experience within the restaurant

industry. This enables students to learn to manage job-related tasks and how to communicate with supervisors and co-workers. For many students, this opportunity is their first experience working outside of their home.

FCS is also participating in an exciting new learning opportunity through the Warren County ESC. Known as the PAES (Practical Assessment Exploration System) Lab; this program (picture at right, bottom) provides a hands-on comprehensive work-development curriculum. The lab creates a simulated workplace environment where students act as employees in an environment supported by teachers. This allows students to explore new career vocational areas and learn more about their work-based strengths. It aligns with the pre-employment skills necessary for success in the postsecondary world and supports the transition goals and activities each student is working on. Visiting the lab every Tuesday, nine FHS students from Ms. Montz's class explore various jobs using real tools, and developing proper work behaviors in the areas of Computer Technology, Business/Marketing, Construction/Industrial, Consumer/Service, and Processing/Production. The lab allows the students to discover their strengths, develop work-related problem-solving skills, learn proper work behaviors, and engage in career exploration.



## FJHS to present Seussical Jr. the Musical Jr.

FHJS is reviving its drama program with a first—a musical. As far as can be determined, FJHS has done many plays but has never presented a musical. *Seussical Jr. the Musical* will be March 18 and



19, 7 p.m., in the FHS McDade Auditorium. The show is under the direction of Carolyn Kennedy. Tickets will be available at the door, with presale tickets available at [www.fhsdrama.boottix.com](http://www.fhsdrama.boottix.com)

## The latest district news

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

Instagram: [fcswildcatpride](https://www.instagram.com/fcswildcatpride) (District)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/FranklinCitySchools/](https://www.facebook.com/FranklinCitySchools/)  
Website: [franklincityschools.com](http://franklincityschools.com)

Twitter handles are:

@HunterElemNews  
@PennyroyalElem  
@AnthonyWayneEle  
@Schenck\_Elem

@GerkeElementary  
@AdminsFHS  
@FJHSOH  
@FCSWildcats (District)

# News from Franklin City Schools

## Board honors students for achievement

At the November 29 Board meeting, the Franklin Board of Education honored a number of students for achievement. 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. Students unable to attend the board meeting received their certificates later.

**Franklin Junior High** student Jacob Lyninger was honored his winning theme for the Clovernook Braille Challenge theme contest; Jacob's theme, "Camping on the Braille Trail," will be the theme for this year's statewide braille challenge. (story page 3).

The **Franklin High School** marching band was honored for earning grand champion status at the Kings Invitational Band competition, the first time the band had received a top score in competition.

The band's seniors accepted the award for the band. The band is directed by Josh Long; Missy Townsend directs the Color Guard and Kendra Parker-Humphrey is the percussion instructor



Above right, Jacob Lyninger is pictured with Lisa Milliron, FCS Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments.



At left, Franklin High School marching band seniors. Front row, from left: T.J Steele. Lucinda Curry, Mariah Stewart, Samantha Phillips, Erin Phillips, Rebecca Walker, Emma Ambro. Back row: Alton Banks, Kyle Lawson, Jeremy Dunn, Lyrick Faulkner, Braden Rogers, Garrett Trett. Seniors not pictured: Aiden DeFrates, Cameron Hamilton, James Martz, and Gabe Shumard

## Bubblegum, Bubblegum in a Dish. I Worked Hard to GROW, and I Granted My Wish!

**Schenck** students have been excited to show their growth from their recent MAP testing. Students were given a "gumball" sticker to add to the giant bubblegum machine in the front hallway for every point that they increased in reading and math between fall and winter testing.

The goal is to fill up the mural with gumballs after the students are tested again in May, as students grow even more to meet their goals between winter and spring. Pictured from left, are third graders Ella Woods, Chandler King, and Bailey Gordon.



## Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for the 2022-23 school year will begin April 4, 2022, for all students turning five by August 1, 2022.

**Step One: Online.** Registration will be available online at <https://www.franklincityschools.com/departments/enrollment-5/kindergarten-registration-85/> beginning April 4, 2022. Online registration will be required in order to select an appointment.

**Step Two: In Person.** Location: the Welcome Center located inside the Hampton Bennett building, 150 E 6th St.

All required documents must be brought to the registration appointment. Not having documents at the time of appointment will require a new appointment to be scheduled at a later date.

The following documents are required for registration: Original Birth Certificate; Custody Papers/Court Ordered Placement (if applicable); Shot/Immunization Records; Parent/Guardian Driver's License; Proof of Residency.

We strongly encourage families to complete the registration of their kindergarten students as soon as possible to assist in the proper placement of all students. If you have any questions, please call the Welcome Center at 937-743-8602.

# News from Franklin City Schools

## FHS IT students will benefit from OSLN grant

Franklin High School students will be able to do more realistic web and database management applications thanks to a \$5000 grant from the Ohio STEM Learning Network (OSLN). OSLN is sponsored by Battelle. Grant money will be used to purchase a server.

Brett Kottman, in his second year with FHS, secured the grant. He's employed by the Warren County Career Center as a satellite teacher (one who teaches at a location other than the WCCC); he currently teaches Intro to IT, Computer Programming, Networking, Database Management, and Web Development. Students will benefit because current projects can't be kept year over year.

Kottman, who spent 25 years working in IT before he started teaching, explained how the server will enhance student learning. "Students work on a variety of projects: building web pages (small businesses, community organizations, etc.); database applications like small business inventory and college administration; computer network design and management; programming in Java and Python for topics like Data Science and mathematical computations; and introductory topics in the IT field for the Intro to IT class. The server will allow us to have cooperative projects among the classes, where the Web Development class builds a front end for a database-driven application that is built by the Da-

tabase Management class. [Since] we can now keep projects across academic years, classes can build on the work of previous classes to experience what it is like to expand and maintain existing applications."

Two Warren County schools were among the 151 Ohio classrooms that received the grant, whose goal is to fund development or expansion of sustainable STEM education programming. Funded projects fell into one of these categories. Community Problem Solving; STEM Career Exploration; Building STEM Mindsets, and Design Thinking and Infrastructure.

The server will be housed in the WCCC server room and is initially designated for use by FHS instructors only; other schools may have access later once the usage is determined.

An example of a student-built webpage is shown at right.



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