

Wildcat Community News

FHS AMONG NATION'S BEST HIGH SCHOOLS



Franklin High School was recently named one of the best high schools in the country by *US News & World Report*.

Per their website, "The U.S. News Best High Schools rankings include data on nearly 25,000 public high schools in 50 states and the District of Columbia. Nearly 18,000 schools were ranked on six factors based on their performance on state assessments and how well they prepare students for college."

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SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! We're excited to see students in the buildings and look forward to a great school year.

This fall will bring the biggest changes the district has seen in decades. We've closed two elementary buildings, reorganized elementary students by grade level, and moved grades 6-8 into the newly renovated junior high building. The movement and reconfiguration have altered start times and bus routes; thank you for your patience as we all adjust to the changes.

Like many of you, I love the concept of neighborhood schools, but there's no doubt that they're more expensive to operate than grade level buildings. However, I think realignment presents new opportunities. At grade level buildings, students will meet and interact with their entire grade level and begin to make life-

long friendships that aren't limited to kids in their neighborhood. Being together from kindergarten also eliminates the awkward transition from elementary school to junior high. Teachers of the same grade will be able to collaborate for increased student achievement.

Students in grades 6-8 will enjoy newly renovated space in the junior high building: new flooring, newly painted walls, new chairs, new white boards and View-Sonic boards. Staff will also have new desks. Work is on track to be finished by mid-August.

Speaking of buildings, we've heard nothing but compliments about the new high school. It looks beautiful as you drive into Franklin. Students seem to love it, too, and there've been fewer discipline incidents since the move. Everyone loves the spaciousness, the natural light, and the courtyard. The commons

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CLASS OF 2024 FACTS

- Earned \$7,304,086 in scholarships.
- Accepted to dozens of colleges and universities including UD, Wright State, Ohio State, Bluffton, Harvard, Earlham, Sinclair, Wittenberg, Miami (Ohio), Valparaiso, Ashland, Taylor, NKU, and Wilmington.
- Earned academic letters = 63
- Earned honors diplomas = 42
- Named SWBL scholar/athletes = 41
- Were red cord graduates (blood donors) = 30

ACTIVITY PASSES

Senior citizens (age 62+) living in the Franklin City School district may pick up a pass in the Superintendent's office (754 E. 4th St.) that will allow them to attend school-sponsored activities at no charge.

Residents should take a driver's license with them to confirm their address. The pass never expires and is good for any home game (excluding tournaments) and high school plays.



STAY CONNECTED

Board of Education

Lori Raleigh
President

Rachel Ruppert-Wolfinbarger
Vice President

Andrew Fleming
Bob Knipper
Chris Sizemore

Board meeting information is on the district website, www.franklincityschools.com

District Administration

Dr. Michael Sander, (937) 746-1699
Superintendent

Robyn Donisi, (937) 743-8601
Assistant Superintendent

Kevin Hawley, (937) 743-8603
Treasurer

Kelli Fromm, (937) 743-8600
Business Manager

Jim McFarland, (937) 743-8602
Director of Student Services

Social Media

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/)

LinkedIn: [Franklin City School](https://www.linkedin.com/company/franklin-city-school)

X (formerly Twitter)

@HunterElemNews

@GerkeElementary

@AdminsFHS

@FJHSOH

@Schenck_Elem

@FCSWildcats (District)

Website:



BUILDING INFORMATION

Franklin High School, 140 E. Sixth St., (937) 743-8610 or 8611. Lori Limon, Principal. Stacy Falcone, Assistant Principal. Grades 9-12.

Franklin Junior High School, 750 E. Fourth St., (937) 743-8630 or 8632. Alicia Mailhot, Principal. Garrett Luther, Assistant Principal. Grades 6-8.

Franklin Intermediate Campus, 752 E. Fourth St., (937) 743-8660. Kim Irgens, Principal. Erin Truesdell, Assistant Principal. Grades 3-5.

Gerke Elementary, 312 Sherman Dr., (937) 743-8650. Jim Rhoades, Principal. Grade 1.

Hunter Elementary, 4418 W. State Route 122, (937) 743-8655. Jeremy Ward, Principal. Grade 2.

Wm. C. Schenck Early Childhood Center, 350 Arlington Ave., (937) 743-8665. Josh Pohl, Principal. Grades Pre K and Kindergarten.

Welcome Center Central Registration Office, 754 E. Fourth St., (937) 743-8602.

Transportation Office, 760 E. Fourth St., (937) 743-8670. Tamara Centers, Transportation Supervisor.

SUPERINTENDENT continued

area is large enough that we'll be able to have just two lunch periods and return to a more traditional schedule. We'll be able to use the new gym this fall and look forward to hosting a public open house so the community can see the finished building.

You've probably heard about vouchers, which is money for students to attend private school. Frankly, I'm not an advocate of public money going to private education, but I'm also not afraid of competition. School isn't just about a test—it's about socialization and non-assessed items and experiences. If you compare a pure educational package, I don't think a private school can compete with Franklin. We provide many opportunities, clubs, sports, and ways for students to get involved. Private schools have a prescriptive way for students to think; we want to educate individuals to hear facts and be stimulated to think and draw their own con-

clusions. We also won't reject students who need more time or help; we are very inclusive and a great educational institution for all students.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please reach out to me at msander@franklincityschools.com.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael D. Sander, Superintendent



ENROLLMENT INFO AND KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

You may enroll your child at Franklin City Schools Welcome Center Registration Office, 754 E. 4th St. (new district admin offices), Monday—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).
- ◆ Social Security Card.

When all documents have been verified, you'll 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. If your child has any medical issues that need to be addressed, please contact the building nurse prior to the start of school.

Kindergarten registration for the 2024-2025 school year is now open for all students turning five by August 1, 2024.

Step One: Online

Registration is available online at <https://www.franklincityschools.com/departments/enrollment-5/kindergarten-registration-85/>

Online registration is required in order to select an appointment.

Step Two: In Person

Location: Welcome Center – located at 754 E. 4th Street.

All required documents must be brought to the registration appointment.

Not having documents at the time of the

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.

FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

Franklin City Schools will participate in the Community Eligibility Provision program for the 2024-2025 school year.

Bottom line: **All students enrolled at Franklin City Schools** are eligible for a free, healthy breakfast and lunch. Families are not required to complete an appli-

cation or pay a fee. Students may still purchase additional a la carte items; the fee for those is posted on the district website under Food Service. The CEP is part of the federally funded National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program.



D-Day Observation. Elementary music teacher **Mike Milham** traveled with the Chesapeake Community Band, based in Rising Sun, MD, to the observation of the 80th Anniversary of D-Day. They played two stand-alone concerts, one of which was in Sainte-Mère-Église (the first French City liberated by the Allied Forces) and one in Paris. They also performed in a mass band of 2,300 at the Brittany American Cemetery for the liberation memorial ceremony. Milham said, "As you walk the grounds of Omaha Beach, Utah Beach, and the Brittany American Cemetery it becomes very emotional thinking of the sacrifices that our servicemen gave to preserve our freedoms that we have today."



FHS DRAMA CLUB WINS 33 MVHSTAS



FHS's drama program received 33 awards at the Miami Valley High School Theatre Awards Showcase. The event celebrated student achievement in theatre in our region during the 2023-2024 school year. Per their website, "The Tony Awards®-inspired showcase honored schools, students, and directors for artistic excellence in high school theatre with live performances from local high schools and a tribute to the enthusiasm, dedication, and accomplishments of the area's vibrant high school theatre programs." 30 area high schools are MVHSTA members.

FHS productions earned the following awards:

- ◆ Outstanding Production of a Musical: *Mamma Mia!*
- ◆ Outstanding Production of a Play: *Trap* and *Murder on the Orient Express*
- ◆ Outstanding Ensemble in a Musical: *Mamma Mia!*
- ◆ Outstanding Ensemble in a Play: *Murder on the Orient Express*
- ◆ Merit for Ensemble in a Play: *Trap*

Outstanding Awards

- ◆ Lucas Wortylko: Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Musical for *Mamma Mia!*
- ◆ Aullie Allen: Outstanding Student Lighting Design of a Musical for *Mamma Mia!*
- ◆ Aullie Allen: Outstanding Student Lighting Design of a Play for *Murder on the Orient Express*
- ◆ Isadore Karrick: Outstanding Lead Actress in a Play for the *Murder on Orient Express* and *Trap*
- ◆ Blane Parker: Outstanding Lead Actor

in a Play for *Trap*

- ◆ Colson Littrell: Outstanding Lead Actor in a Play for *Murder on the Orient Express*
 - ◆ Zoe Back: Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Play for *Murder on the Orient Express* and *Trap*
 - ◆ Jake Eyink and Miles Bulach: Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Play for *Trap*
- ## Merit Awards
- ◆ Savannah Albaugh, Theo Hoskins, Isadore Karrick, and Grace McGuire: Merit for Lead Actress in a Musical for *Mamma Mia!*
 - ◆ Colson Littrell: Merit for Lead Actor in a Musical for *Mamma Mia!*
 - ◆ Nolan Defrates and Jake Eyink: Merit for Supporting Actor in a Musical for *Mamma Mia!*
 - ◆ Andrew Zimmerman: Merit for Student Stage Management of a Musical for *Mamma Mia!*
 - ◆ Andrew Zimmerman: Merit for Student Stage Management of a Play for *Murder on the Orient Express*
 - ◆ Savannah Albaugh: Merit for Lead Actress in a Play for *Murder on the Orient Express*
 - ◆ Theo Hoskins: Merit for Lead Actress in a Play for *Trap*
 - ◆ Blane Parker: Merit for Lead Actor in a Play for *Murder on the Orient Express*
 - ◆ Grace McGuire: Merit for Supporting Actress in a Play for *Trap*
 - ◆ Jake Eyink and Lucas Wortylko: Merit for Supporting Actor in a Play for *Murder on the Orient Express*
 - ◆ Lucas Wortylko: Merit for Supporting Actor in a Play for *Trap*



On Friday, May 24, Dewey Ely locked the door at Pennyroyal Elementary on its last day as a Franklin City Schools classroom building. Mr. Ely served as Pennyroyal's principal when it opened in 1968. He was with the district for many years and later served on the Franklin Board of Education.



Many thanks to the Franklin Division of Police and community partners including Franklin Division of Fire, Warren County Tactical Response Unit, and Warren County Child Advocacy Center, for their work at 2024 Safety Town. Students learned about safety in these areas: pedestrian, traffic, school buses, fire, pets, swimming, personal safe space, and fires. They also covered 911/dispatch rules and river and waterway conservation (keeping rivers safe from pollution.)



OUTSTANDING ALUMS TYLER & LANE IN FIRST MODERN OLYMPICS

Since the 2024 Paris Olympics are this summer, we want to share a story about Franklin's connection to the first modern Olympic Games in Greece in 1896.

There was no official team in 1896, but a contingent of fourteen men, primarily from the Boston Athletic Association and Princeton, made the 17-day journey by boat and train to represent the United States. Franklinites Francis Lane and Albert Tyler were part of the 14. Lane and Tyler were cousins who graduated from Franklin High School before attending Princeton. Lane graduated from Franklin in 1891 and Tyler in 1888.

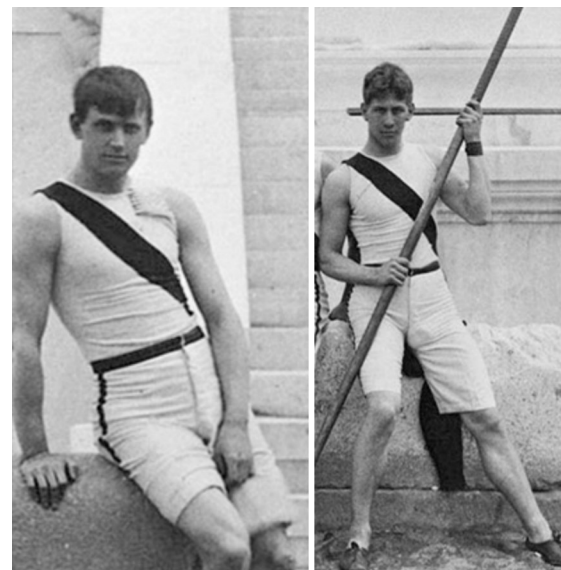
Lane competed in the 100 meters. Despite being in poor shape after suffering sea sickness on the voyage to Greece, Lane won his first heat in 12.2 seconds. (Current record is 9.58 seconds). He became the first American to compete at the Olympic

Games and the first person to ever win a 100-meter race. In the finals, he tied for third place.

Tyler played football and baseball at Princeton but participated as a pole vaulter at the Olympic Games, where he vaulted 3.20 meters to take second place. (Current record: 6.26m).

Lane graduated from Princeton in 1897 and went to medical school at Washington University in St. Louis. He later became the head of ophthalmology at Rush Medical College and Presbyterian and Illinois Central hospitals in Chicago. Tyler graduated from Princeton in 1897 and became a teacher and football official.

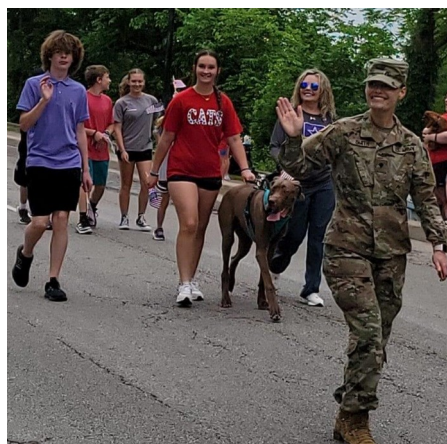
Article and photos courtesy of Franklin Area Historical Society.



1896 Olympians Albert Lane (left) and Francis Tyler



FHS Tier III students attended the Daylight Prom at the Savannah Center in West Chester. Before they left, they posed in front of Franklin High School's 2024 Prom photo background. Little Miami Schools hosts this event.



Purple Star students from Franklin City Schools participated in the community's Memorial Day Parade. The Purple Star designation recognizes students and families connected to the nation's military.

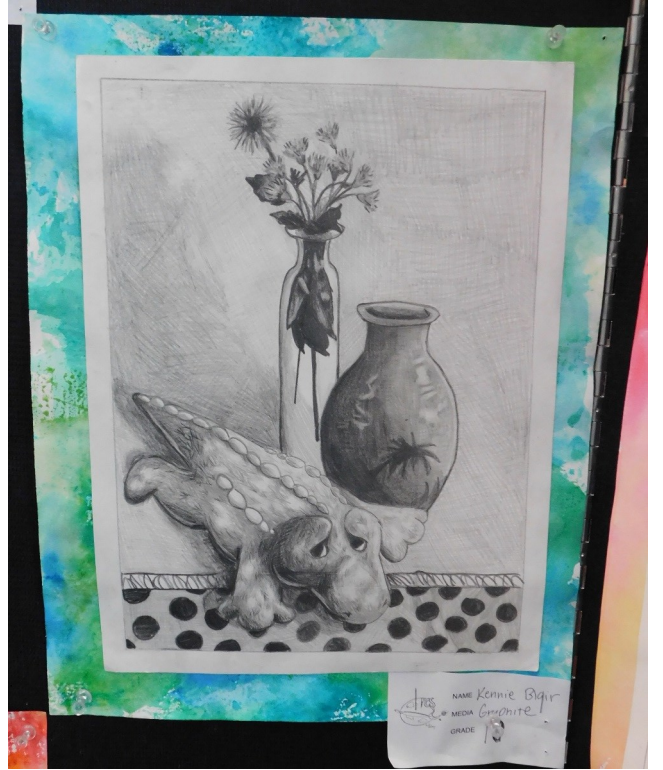
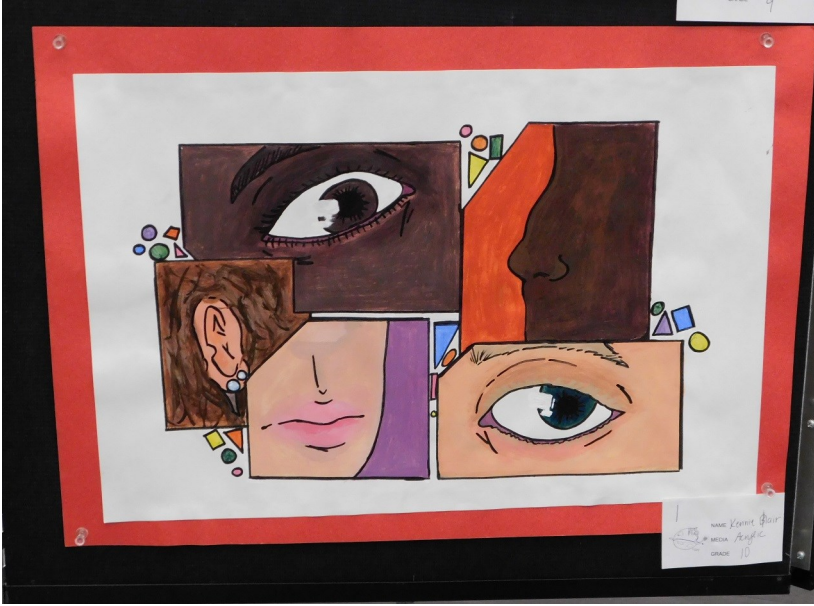


Jay Patel, who just completed 5th grade at Anthony Wayne, received the VIP treatment as a Dayton Dragons MVP. He and his family received tickets to a game, a hat, a baseball, and was escorted onto the field by a player to the pre-game umpire meeting. Jay, who is fluent in Gujarati and English, is a first-generation US student in the district's English Language Learner program. Teacher Ann McHenry nominated him saying, "He is an amazing example of a Franklin Wildcat. He comes to school every day with a desire to learn new things. He has a strong work ethic and pushes himself every day to do his best. He is respectful to his teachers and friends and a true example of a great leader. Having students like Jay in class makes me love being a teacher."

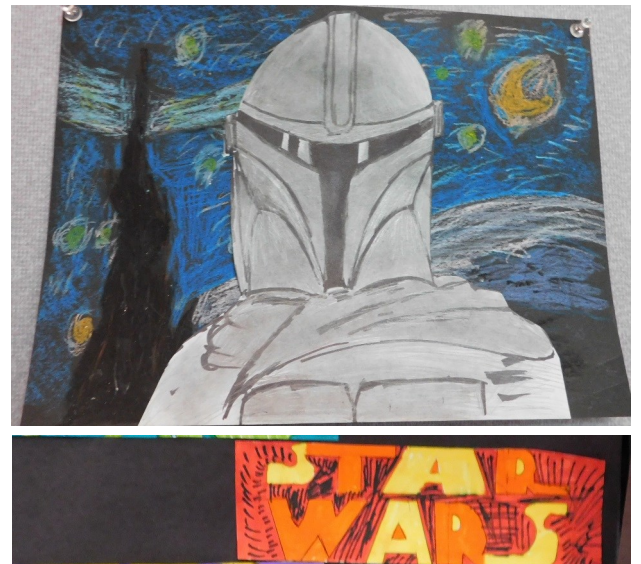
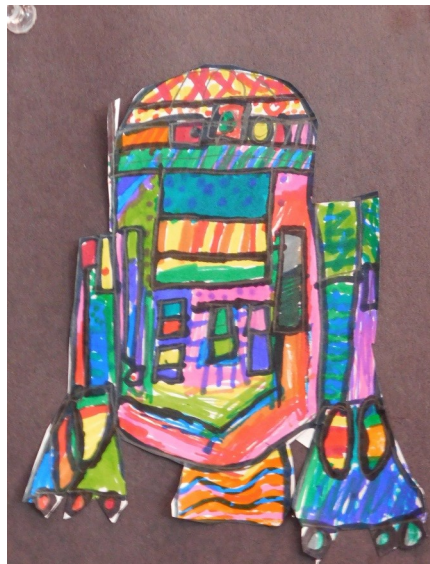
Picture courtesy of the Dayton Dragons.



STUDENT TALENT SHOWCASED AT ALL-DISTRICT ART EXHIBIT



Above, Art One students (FJHS) studied the work of Derrick Adams, a contemporary artist from Brooklyn. Adams' work focuses on the importance of Black representation in contemporary art. Students studied his work to learn how to draw a basic portrait using shapes and how to use color theory to mix a wide range of skin tones. At right, Art One students also studied the work of California-based Anna Valdez, whose art includes paintings, collages, and sculpture. She explores the relationship between people, the things they own, and their stories. Students chose an object that had sentimental meaning to them to photograph and draw using graphite pencil. Below: The date of the event, May 4, influenced the show's theme, "May the Fourth Be With You," and many students' art was Star Wars-inspired.



DISTRICT GUARDS HOLD LOCAL, STATE, NATIONAL RANKINGS

They take the field in the summer at band camp, kicking off a season that ends the following spring. At home, they perform at parades and football games. During competition season, their audience is mostly strangers as they travel for local and regional competitions. In April, they perform at the World Championships in Dayton. Yet, despite being national-



ly ranked, Franklin's Color Guard and Winter Guard, some of the hardest working student groups in the district, mostly fly under the radar.

Depending on your age, you may remember drill teams that performed routines during football halftimes in the '70s and '80s. The current color guard/winter guard groups have grown and morphed into this year-round commitment, and one that is very successful: Last season, competing as a marching band in the Mid-States Circuit, the Franklin color guard was the top auxiliary in AA Class at every competition including championships which had over 20 bands. At several competitions, they were the top scoring guard of all the band classes.

Missy Townsend has grown the program, which she started in the fall of 1997. She said, "The then-flag corps was very small and not achieving at a high level. I started building the program, and a year later, I started the winter guard [which] took the place of the drill team that was with the band in the 80's when I was in school."

Students from kindergarten through high school can be members of guard, and the show's complexity increases with age. The youngest students (the Wildkitens in grades K through 6) don't have to try out; their focus is learning basic skills. Junior high and high school students do audition. Townsend says, "Dance is a

vital part of guard. We use basic techniques [at the] elementary [level] and the skill level increases with each program. Dance skills or gymnastic skills are a plus for sure." She added: "We train body movement. These include dance skills

and marching skills. We also train equipment skills, which begin for everyone on flag. Once they have shown the capability to move on, they move to rifle and then add saber to the list." The color guard includes dance, flag, rifle, saber, and baton. Other props may be included to help enhance the theme of the performance.

Winter guard training begins in November for competition season. The high school group trains four days/week with some practices running six hours. Most practices are three hours. The elementary and junior high groups train two to three days per week, with practices running 1 1/2 hours and 2 hours respectively.

Competition season runs late January through mid-April. All three units compete in the Mid East Performance Association (MEPA), a local circuit encompassing Ohio and sometimes Northern Kentucky. Most competitions are in the Dayton, Cincinnati,

Last season, competing as a marching band in the Mid-States Circuit, the color guard was the top auxiliary in AA Class at every competition including championships, which had over 20 bands. At several competitions, they were the top scoring guard for all the band classes. In April, the high school winter guard was crowned Scholastic A MEPA State Champions.

and Columbus areas. The high school also competes in Winter Guard International (WGI), a national and world organization, with competitions held both across the country in regional events and abroad. Dayton hosts the WGI World Championships.

These groups expect to be successful and last competition season was no exception. In January, they debuted competition shows at Miamisburg High School; the elementary team took 2nd place and the junior high and high school teams both took first place. In February, all three groups took first place at the Fairfield competition. In March, the winter guard placed third of 29 at the WGI Sport of the Arts

Regionals in Knoxville. In early April, the FHS high school winter guard was crowned Scholastic A MEPA State Champions.

At WGI Worlds in mid-April, FHS guard competed against 130 high school guards from across the country. 64 guards moved into semi-finals, and 20 into finals. In 2022 and 2023, Franklin made the semi-finals and ended in the 30's. This year, they finished in 30th place, 1.8 away from finals.

Missy's staff helps with decisions about shows for all three groups. They include assistant director Kristina Holweger and staff members John Wheeler, Cliff Gray-Huff, Micah Stewart, Heida Drake, Haley Landis, Emma Ambro, and Miesha Anderson. The high school drill designer for winter season is Wyatt Hines.

For more info, contact Missy Townsend at twirlbc88@gmail.com and winter guard at franklinwinterguard@gmail.com.



FCS PRESCHOOL EARNS 7th CONSECUTIVE 5-STAR RATING

Franklin City Schools is proud to announce that our preschool program, operated in partnership with the Warren County ESC, has earned a prestigious 5-Star Rating from Step Up To Quality (SUTQ), Ohio's quality rating and improvement system administered by the Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. This marks the seventh consecutive year that our program has achieved this highest level of recognition.

The 5-Star Rating, the highest achievement in the SUTQ system, is not just a recognition of our preschool program's quality, but also a promise to our students and their families. It signifies that our program meets rigorous quality standards well above licensing requirements, ensuring that our youngest students are equipped with the best early learning experiences, setting a strong foundation for their future success.

"We are immensely grateful to our dedicated preschool staff and educators for their unwavering commitment and hard work, which has led to this prestigious recognition for the seventh year in a row," said Jim McFarland, the Director of Student Services. "Their passion and dedication, combined with the strength of our curriculum and our ongoing commitment to creating the best possible learning environment, have made this achievement possible."

A 5-Star Rating means that our pre-

school program:

- Employs highly trained teachers.
- Uses research-based curricula aligned with Ohio's Early Learning and Development Standards.
- Maintains low staff-to-child ratios.
- Provides comprehensive family engagement and support.
- Demonstrates commitment to continuous quality improvement.

This rating assures families that our preschool program is among Ohio's highest-quality early childhood education options.

Franklin City Schools' Preschool Program is located on the district's PK-K Campus at Schenck Elementary, 350 Arlington Ave., Franklin, OH 45005. Families interested in enrolling their children in the program can contact the district's registration office via phone at (937) 743-8602 Option 1 or via email: register@franklincityschools.com.



754 E. Fourth St.
Franklin, OH 45005

