

## Heavy equipment on new HS site; bus garage nears completion

If you've ventured down Sixth Street lately, you certainly noticed earth moving equipment as work has begun for the construction of new high school. Dirt is being moved at both the Hampton Bennett and former junior high sites, with the ground being readied for the building's footers.

At a recent Board work session, board members and guests were given a "first look" 3-D walk through of the new facility from SHP Partner Charlie Jahnigen.

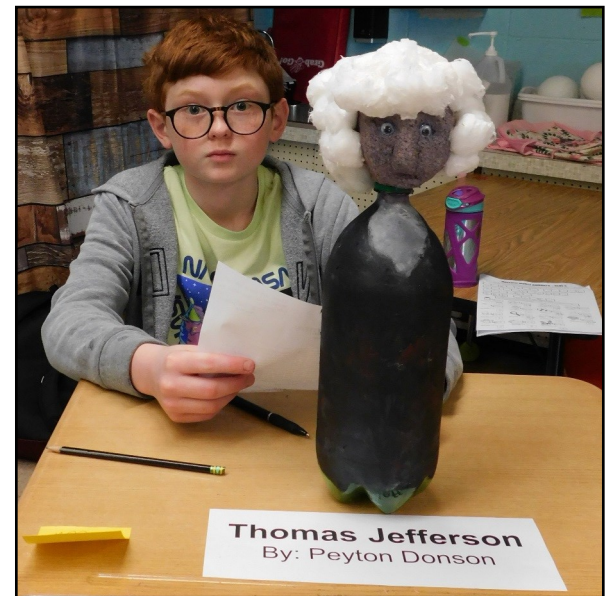
While there's still work to be done in the design process, the 3-D rendering enables everyone to see the possibilities for the district. View it at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AfGWZJBGHx4>

This new building was made possible by your overwhelming support of a bond issue that passed in November 2020. The building is slated to open in the fall of 2023. The new bus garage, being built behind the current high school on 4th St., is nearing completion.



## Gerke 5th graders create biography bottle buddies



Gerke fifth graders completed a biography project this spring that included creating a model of their chosen subject using empty 2-liter pop bottles. A wide range of historic people made appearances as biography bottle buddies including Stan Lee, Sacagawea, Nikola Tesla, Joan of Arc, Picasso, Jackie Robinson, Thomas Edison, Ronald Reagan, John Lennon, Dr. Seuss, and more.

# News from Franklin City Schools

## Outstanding Educators: Rolfes, Erwin, and Ebeling

FHS teacher Kelly Rolfes (Brock) has been named the High School Chemistry Teacher of the Year 2022 by the Cincinnati Local Section of the American Chemical Society. In its congratulatory email, the Society noted that [her] “dedication, hard work, and advocacy of science learning benefits all students and helps them to become lifelong learners, well-informed voters, and for some, future scientists.”

Mrs. Rolfes has been teaching for 28 years, 26 of those in Franklin, where she teaches Honors Chemistry II, Honors Chemistry I, and Chemistry. She received her BS from Miami University in Oxford, her Master's from Wright State, and her Master's plus 30 from University of Dayton and Universi-



ty of Cincinnati. At FHS, she serves as the science department chair, is a co-advisor of the National Honor Society, and is a member of both the building leadership team and the district leadership team.

Rolfes said her philosophy of education is that “Every student can learn chemistry; they just need someone to believe they can.” She added, “I want my students to be excited about chemistry like I am. I want them to be confident in their skills.”

Mrs. Rolfes said she doesn't know who nominated her, only that it was a member of the Cincinnati chapter of the ACS. She was honored at a meeting of the local section and will also be featured in an article of the section's newsletter, *Cintacs*.

Debbie Erwin and Eileen Ebeling have been named Franklin City Schools' 2022 Project Excellence winners.

Project Excellence, which operates under the Area Progress Council of Warren County, annually recognizes two teachers from each of Warren County's eight school districts, plus the Warren County Career Center, the Greater Ohio Virtual School, and the Warren County Educational Service Center. Teachers are nominated by peers, parents, and students. Project Excellence was established in 1988 to honor excellence in teaching throughout Warren County; since its inception, nearly 700 educators have been recognized.

Debbie Erwin has been teaching in Franklin since 1993, teaching 4th and 5th grade English language arts and social studies at Schenck. In 2020 she became the TESOL (teaching English as a second/other language) teacher for the district. She teaches all ELL (English language learner) students in grades pre-K-12 how to listen, speak, read, and write in English. Erwin has a BSED from Ohio University and a Master's in English with a specialization in TESOL from Wright State. In 2021 she received a TESOL endorsement on her teaching certificate.

Erwin enjoys “watching the students light up and get excited when they learn something new.” When asked about a memorable moment, Erwin noted that recently, “It has been amazing to teach American customs to students. We take for granted that everyone knows about Thanksgiving dinners, Santa traveling by reindeer and snow at Christmas, and trapping leprechauns on March 17. It is fun to see an international perspective on things that we think that everyone knows about.”

Erwin added, “I am very honored to be selected for making a difference in the lives of students over the past three decades.”

Eileen Ebeling has been teaching in Franklin for 14 years. She

taught 6th grade math, English language arts, and science for 11 years at Hunter. The past 3 years she's taught 8th grade math and 9th grade algebra 1. She has a BSED from Miami University with concentrations on math, reading, and science for grades 4-9 and language arts and reading for grades 4-6.

Ebeling said she teaches to make a positive difference in the lives of others. She said, “Learning is what I most enjoy about teaching. Each year I am privileged and blessed to work with amazing middle school students. I cannot be an effective educator without first learning about each student. I love getting to know their stories, where they are in their mathematics education, and their future career plans. My job is never the same since no two students are the same. Each year creates new relationships, joys, and challenges. Each year, it is amazing to witness the growth in knowledge and maturity of each student.”

When describing a memorable career moment, she mentioned the pandemic, specifically “the resilience and adaptability of my students and fellow educators in the face of all the unknowns due to COVID. We all witnessed firsthand problem solving, sacrifice, and perseverance. With countless challenges and unknowns, our Franklin community pulled together as a team and weathered the storm together. I was never prouder to be a Wildcat.”

Ebeling added, “Countless other teachers are worthy of receiving this award, which makes receiving it all the more special. I've been blessed to work with alongside a fantastic team of caring teachers at FJHS who work tirelessly every day to provide our students with the absolute best education possible. This truly is a team award. I am honored and thankful to whomever is responsible for my nomination and will continue to strive for excellence. Our students deserve nothing less.”



# News from Franklin City Schools

## Annual Wildcat Olympics: joy and fun

On a cool but gorgeous May day, there were smiles all around at the fifth annual Wildcat Olympics, which brought together the district's special education students for a parade, field events, and lunch at the stadium.

Cheering families and friends watched from the stands or lined the track as community members and FHS students assisted with events and the PA system. Classes paraded around the track with banners, then competed in a 100-yard dash, obstacle course, and long jump.

Wildcat Olympics, brainchild of teacher Abby Smallwood, is designed to celebrate students, families, and staff.



## NJHS inducts 20 new members

Franklin Junior High School recently inducted 20 students into the National Junior Honor Society, the eighth group tapped since the chapter's 2014 founding.

Inductees were from both the seventh and eighth grade classes. They included: Laila Black, Spencer Blair, Heidi Brooks, Emily Carmack, Madison Carmack, Cooper Cronk, Aliyah Donisi, Dragen Fields, Sienna Finton, Paisley Hamm, Mya Hurst, Graycen Lopez, Bella Manis, Delia Nau, Tanner Newsome, Gregory Pearson, Branson Powell, Kaitlyn Reed, Olivia Truesdell, and Bryley Wulff.

The inductees joined 25 students who were inducted in 2021 as 7th graders and are still chapter members.

The National Junior Honor Society was established in 1929. According to its website, NJHS is "one of the nation's premier organizations established to recognize outstanding middle level students." NJHS is built on five pillars: scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship.

## Students explore, create in STEAM Class

Science. Technology. Engineering. Art. Math. These diverse subjects combine to create a unique offering to the elementary students of Franklin City Schools.

Matt Slone is a former 5th and 6th Grade ELA teacher who has been teaching the STEAM special for the last three years. In this class, students get to become master builders, thinkers, and problem solvers with a focus on real world applications and technology mastery. Kindergarten and first grade students explore the world of coding with Angry Birds and Google Music, while working on presentation skills using Google Slides! Second and third graders learn about resource management designing playgrounds and zoos. Fourth grade students tackle the unique engineering problems of roller coasters, while fifth graders tackle human habitation on Mars in conjunction with NASA scientists. Sixth graders hone their math skills by practicing angles of reflection with cardboard mini golf courses.



The students have been very receptive of the program and most would rank it as their second favorite (next to gym or music). Mr. Slone is glad that the district has placed so much emphasis on engineering and the creative arts by giving students this opportunity in STEAM.

The students pictured are Kindergarteners and 1st graders at **Gerke** practicing teamwork by building with different materials and pictures of 6th graders at **Anthony Wayne** demonstrating their mini mini-golf projects.

## 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 at no charge.

Residents should take a drivers' license with them to confirm their address.

The pass never expires and is good for any home game (excluding tournaments) and high school plays.

## 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](#) (District)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/FranklinCitySchools/](#)  
Website: [franklincityschools.com](#)

Twitter handles are:  
@HunterElemNews                      @GerkeElementary  
@PennyroyalElem                      @AdminsFHS  
@AnthonyWayneEle                      @FJHSOH  
@Schenck\_Elem                         @FCSWildcats (District)

# News from Franklin City Schools

## FHS Esports team finishes inaugural season

It turns out that the kids were right all along: Video games are not a waste of time. In fact, competitive video gaming, known as electronic sports or esports — is one of the hottest new school sports activities, and one that can pay off financially: US colleges awarded \$16 million in esports scholarships in 2020, contributing to its popularity at the high school level.

This spring, Franklin City Schools' newly established esports team completed its first-ever season. They headed to Miami University Oxford for the regional tournament on May 14-15 and had the chance to experience a university-level esports arena. The state competition is in June.

Franklin's young team, coached by Matt Slone and Amy Hudson Estep, competed twice per week, playing *Fortnite* (a survival game) on Mondays and *Rocket League* (basically, soccer played with cars) on Wednesdays. Esports Ohio is the state-level managing organization, and Ohio's teams follow a fixed schedule, with specific sports played on set days. Games can be watched on Twitch, the video-streaming platform that allows the players to interact with their audiences. Anyone interested in seeing what a match is like is welcome to check out the team's YouTube channel: [www.bit.ly/eSportsFHS](http://www.bit.ly/eSportsFHS)

Schools may field a team in each game (Ohio has eight games, with two played each day, Monday through Thursday). There are three levels of competition, club, jr, and varsity; and two seasons, spring and fall.

The National Federation of State High School Associations first recognized esports as an official sport in 2018. Ohio jumped in the same year with 16 pilot schools. Now more than 8600 high schools have video-gaming teams. In Ohio, 146 schools have teams and 249 are developing programs.

A 2021 National Education Association article discussed es-

ports' explosive growth — partially driven by the lure of college scholarships but also noted the appeal to a wide cross section of students (not surprising given that an estimated 90% of teens play video games).

Getting a team started can be challenging, as funding can be hard to secure. Franklin's team has received donations from several local companies and individuals. A district Spark Grant will be used to purchase broadcast equipment (which will also be available for academic uses).

In Ohio, thirty-nine colleges/universities have esports programs. Miami University was an esports pioneer, launching their varsity program in 2016, the first Division I school to do so. They also offer a Master's in Esports Management.

While the game doesn't require cleats and padding, students develop teamwork strategies along with the best of other team and group activities: leadership, collaboration, communication, shared goals, flexibility, and critical and strategic thinking. Those skills translate well to life after high school and it's not surprising that the Ohio Army National Guard is a partner of Esports Ohio.

FHS sophomore David Walton initially joined the esports team to be a media manager. However, he had the chance to be team captain for *Fortnite*, and noted, "[it] is such a great honor working with my team to improve their skills in-game while having fun competitively!" He said the

best aspect of being a part of the team is making new friends and meeting people from other schools. "I definitely plan to be on this team next year," he said.

Looking ahead to the fall season, Hudson Estep said, "We'd love to have more students participate. Those who should contact Matt Slone at [mclone@franklincityschools.com](mailto:mclone@franklincityschools.com) or Hudson Estep at [ahudsonestep@franklincityschools.com](mailto:ahudsonestep@franklincityschools.com)



## Kindergarten Registration open for fall 2022

Kindergarten registration for the 2022-23 school year began 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

## Job Fair connected seniors, local employers

With graduation just days away, FHS seniors were busy exploring post-high school options. For those looking to enter the workforce, the job fair on May 5 put students face-to-face with local employers looking to hire.



Some of the organizations at the fair and the career paths they represented include:

- Warren County Community Services (Franklin and Warren County, early childhood education)
- The City of Franklin (Franklin, summer positions in parks and recreation and fire/EMS jobs)
- Huhtamaki (Franklin, manufacturing nested food containers)
- Atlas Roofing (Franklin, manufacturing roofing materials)
- Otterbein Senior Living (Lebanon, healthcare)
- Sun Chemical (Franklin, manufacturing food-grade ink for food packaging)
- Easterseals Career Connection (Butler/Warren Counties, internships at a variety of employers)
- EnviroControl Systems (Dayton, HVAC systems)

This was the second annual job fair, and was organized by FHS teacher Tonija Fidler.



## Life Cycle of Butterflies

This spring, Schenck first graders in Amber Long's class studied the life cycle of Painted Lady Butterflies. They received caterpillars in mid-April and began keeping observation journals. The gorgeous butterflies were released on May 3.



Schenck students in Mrs. Pecor's second grade class completed a research and writing project about penguins.

## Celebrating 100 and 101!

Earlier this spring, Hunter students in kindergarten and first grade celebrated the 100th and 101st days of school, respectively.

Kindergarten students dressed up like they were 100 years old and 1st graders dressed up as 101 Dalmatians.

Both groups did activities throughout the day centered around the numbers 100 and 101 in relation to their grade-level math standards.



# News from Franklin City Schools

## Band Boosters raising funds for box truck

Marching bands have a lot of equipment. When Franklin's marching band takes the field at a competition or halftime show, students and volunteers carry and roll out stands, instruments, props, flags, and other gear. Moving it all is a logistical challenge. Right now, the band uses a trailer; they'd like to add a box truck and the Band Boosters hope to raise \$15,000 toward its cost.

According to FHS band director Josh Long, the band has a nice trailer, "which is three years old and has been a blessing. But to pull the trailer, we have to depend on a parent or volunteer to use their vehicle." He noted that a lot of the equipment is heavy and a light-duty truck or SUV can't handle the weight. "We've been fortunate right now, but given the direction the band is going with competitions, props change and a box truck would allow us to haul props without worrying about the weight."

He noted that for football games, the band is prepared to perform both in the stands and on the field, which requires almost twice as much equipment than a competition show. "There are times when we'd like to use both a box truck and the trailer."

The Band Boosters will hold the title to the new truck and will be responsible for the license, maintenance, and making sure it's ready to go. Long noted that attending band competitions has given band parents a chance to see what other bands are using, which has been helpful in determining the best size truck to purchase.

Long praised the Boosters, noting, "Parent volunteers are extremely important for all of the extracurriculars. For band, with so many things going on, we do need parent volunteers. The parents really keep the engine oiled for what we do: providing snacks and organizing extra events for the students and staff that help make this program what it is." Long noted that band parents take on

tasks, such as providing food at band camp, that allow him and the staff to concentrate on educating and supporting students.

The Boosters, a 501(c)3 non-profit, have been raising money with a variety of fundraisers; those who are interested in supporting the Band Boosters or who have questions should contact Sarah Ross at [sarahmarieross@yahoo.com](mailto:sarahmarieross@yahoo.com) or 513-594-5664.

## Rotary Club Dictionaries

The Franklin-Carlisle Rotary Club continues to be a wonderful partner to our district through their annual third grade dictionary project. Students in every elementary are thrilled to receive their own dictionary to keep and use throughout their school years.

Shown here are Rotary Club members with Hunter third grade students.



The local dictionary project is a reflection of the long-term commitment that Rotary International has to worldwide literacy efforts.

## Pennyroyal 6th graders visit GABP Museum



The Great American Ballpark Museum was a great experience for Pennyroyal 6th graders earlier this school year. Students learned about all aspects of the game of baseball, highlighted around the Reds. Students engaged in various interactive exhibits like the broadcasting booth, where they could dress up and sit in the broadcasting seat while experiencing live video via large TV

screens. Several exhibits created cultural relevance for 6th grade students as they could see who pioneered the way for this generation in spite of the hardships they endured. Students learned the game of baseball even played a major role in post war time as all-star teams traveled globally and were accepted as a way to join together for healing and entertainment.

# News from Franklin City Schools

## Board honors students for achievement

At their meetings on Feb. 28, March 21, and April 25, 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. The Board has noted that this is one of their favorite parts of board meetings.



Picture 1, from left, **FHS** senior Nina Lin was honored for her ACT scores, which earned her a spot in the Principal's 30+ Club. **FHS** senior Braden Rogers was honored scoring at the 99th percentile on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test. Emma Burnett (**Hunter**) was honored for earning straight As for 10 quarters.



Picture 2, **FHS** senior Rachel OBryan (left) was honored for having her oil painting selected for the Middletown Art Center's Tomorrow's Artists Today show and **FHS** senior James Gross was honored for being a finalist in the Midwest Instaband Battle of the Bands contest. Picture 3, **FHS** senior Natalie Reed was honored for first place in the figures category at the Miamisburg Art Gallery Student Art Show; Rachel OBryan was honored for 1st place in the portraiture category in the same art show.



Picture 4, **FJHS** students were honored for 10 quarters of Straight As and for being part of the cast of the junior high drama club's first-ever **FJHS** musical. From left: Mackenzie Prickett (A's), Peyton Everitt (A's), Benjamin Kendrick (musical), Timothy (Asher) Osner (A's), Peyton Hall (A's), Izabelle Hubbard (musical), and Rebecca Roberts (musical).

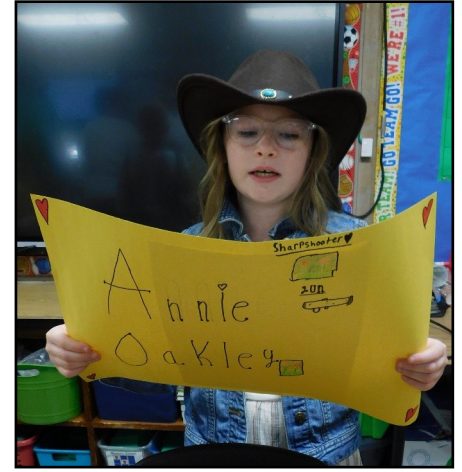


Picture 5, from left: Reagan Todd and Eva Fleming (**Pennyroyal**); Kelsey Riley, Paisley Steed, Payton Faulkner, Madison McClain, Meryn Berry, and Holden Turnmire (all **Hunter**) were all honored for 10 quarters of straight A's.



# News from Franklin City Schools

## Anthony Wayne fourth graders study Ohio history



Field trips and hands-on projects are part of 4th graders' study of Ohio History. In April, **Anthony Wayne's** classes explored Dayton's Carillon Historical Park, a 65-acre open-air history museum, to learn about the history and importance of the Dayton region.

In May, students capped off the year with their annual Ohio State Greats Wax Museum. Students chose a famous Ohioan to research and represent for families, guests, and fellow students.

Visitors encountered Maya Lin, Neil Armstrong, Annie Oakley, Elizabeth Blackwell, Jerrie Mock, the Wright Brothers, Pete Rose, Halle Berry, Anthony Wayne, Johnny Appleseed, LeBron James, Judith Resnick, Dave Thomas, Jesse Owens, R. L. Stine, Thomas Edison and Mary Grossman; the fields they represented included aerospace, architecture, law, medicine, entertainment, the military, sports, and research.



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