

# Wildcat Community News

## STUDENTS LAY WREATH AT ARLINGTON TOMB



FJHS students Bekah Fletcher, Gunner Blevins, McKenna Tyjewski, and Kaylee Harville won the 8th grade history department essay contest and earned the privilege of participating in a wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The 8th graders' annual trip took them to the Capitol, Lincoln Memorial, Smithsonian, the Vietnam Memorial, Gettysburg, and other historic sites. PICTURES COURTESY OF FJHS

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### 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.

### FINE ARTS DATES\*

FHS Choir Concert	Dec. 4
FHS Band Concert	Dec. 10
FJHS Choir Concert	Dec. 11
FHS Winter Play	Dec. 13-15
FJHS Band Concert	Feb. 20
FHS Band Concert	Feb. 27
FHS Choir Concert	Mar. 4
FJHS Spring Musical	Mar. 7-8
District Art Show	Apr. 11-12
FHS Spring Musical	May 2,3,4
FHS Band Concert	May 6
FHS Choir Concert	May 8
FJHS Spring Concert	May 14

\*DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE. NOT A COMPLETE LIST.

## EXPO SHOWCASED FCS PARTNERSHIPS

Students and families packed the FHS Commons in late September to meet and learn more about the dozens of area organizations who support our students.

Invited partners included Scouting America, Angel Shop, Franklin First United



Methodist Free Clinic, Franklin First Responders, YMCA Child Care, New Vine Help Center, International Learning Center, Literacy Connections (formerly Warren County Adult New Readers), Aspire English Language Classes, Career Connections, Easter Seals, Ohio Means Jobs, Super Saturday Program, Miami University Regionals ECA, Cincinnati Mensa, the Franklin-Springboro Public Library, the Franklin Area Historical Society, Franklin Area Community Services, Franklin Carlisle Rotary, and the Franklin Elementary PTO. Franklin Food Service offered samples, and building princi-

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# 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](http://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-schools/)

**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. Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 2:35 p.m.

**Franklin Junior High School, 750 E. Fourth St.**, (937) 743-8630 or 8632. Alicia Mailhot, Principal. Garrett Luther, Assistant Principal. Grades 6-8. Hours: 7:20 a.m. to 2:20 p.m.

**Franklin Intermediate Campus, 752 E. Fourth St.**, (937) 743-8660. Kim Irgens, Principal. Erin Truesdell, Assistant Principal. Grades 3-5. Hours: 8:40 a.m. to 3:25 p.m.

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

Grade 1. Hours: 8:40 a.m. to 3:25 p.m.

**Hunter Elementary, 4418 W. State Route 122**, (937) 743-8655. Jeremy Ward, Principal. Grade 2. Hours: 8:40 a.m. to 3:25 p.m.

**Wm. C. Schenck Elementary, 350 Arlington Ave.**, (937) 743-8665. Josh Pohl, Principal. Grades Pre K and Kindergarten. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Pre-school Hours: AM: 9:20-11:50 a.m. PM: 1:15-3:45 p.m.

**Welcome Center Central Registration Office, 754 E. Fourth St.**, (937) 743-8602. Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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

# FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

Franklin City Schools is participating 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.

## SHOWCASE continued

pals were also on hand for a meet-and-greet.

Additional organizations were available for students and families to connect to resources to increase postsecondary success for employment, independent living, and higher education. Those included Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, Ohio Means Jobs, Sinclair Tartan TOPS, Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities, and Project Excel with Mount St. Joseph University.

Student volunteers provided invaluable help with set up and tear down.



The next expo has been tentatively set for Oct. 15, 2025. For more information about the Expo, email Dawn Harris, [dmharris@franklincityschools.com](mailto:dmharris@franklincityschools.com) or Debbie Erwin, [derwin@franklincityschools.com](mailto:derwin@franklincityschools.com).



# ENROLLMENT INFO

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.

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: AROUND THE DISTRICT



Hunter Elementary's Fall Family Literacy event drew a huge crowd — 416 — who enjoyed food, a hayride, bounce houses, games, a pumpkin patch, and other family activities. PICTURES COURTESY OF HUNTER ELEMENTARY



Two students celebrated White Cane Day in classrooms on October 15. Owen Hearth (Hunter) and Killian Kinner (Gerke) taught their classmates about their white canes and why they are important for their independence. The kids got to try out traveling with a white cane and were able to ask questions about vision impairments. Our students were so supportive and cheered for Owen and Killian on their special day! PICTURES COURTESY OF FCS SPECIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT



# OUTSTANDING ALUMS: 2024 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

In September, Franklin inducted three graduates and two long-term employees into the Franklin Hall of Fame. 2024 inductees are profiled below. Picture at right courtesy of the Franklin Athletic Department.

**Chip Bonny, Class of 1981.** Chip was an accomplished student and athlete at FHS. He was President of NHS and co-valedictorian. He was an All-League basketball and football player and attended Yale University where he played football from 1981-85 and graduated with a degree in Applied Mathematics. He received an MBA from U of KY in 1987.

After college, Chip received many awards in his professional career including the Masters Club Award Winner, Champions Club Award Winner, and the Leader's Circle Award Winner. Chip dedicated much of his life to serving his community. He has held many positions within his local church; he served as a school board member and president. He's spent many years volunteering to coach youth sports. Chip and his wife reside in Lebanon and have 8 children and 12 grandchildren.

**Missy Townsend, Class of 1984.** She was an excellent student and featured twirler for the Marching Wildcats. She won numerous state and regional championships and three world titles. She was awarded a full athletic scholarship to be the "Golden Girl" with the Boston College Eagles Marching Band. She performed at the Cotton Bowl and the Kickoff Classic and led the St. Patrick's Day parade in Washington, D.C. She culminated her competitive career being named Collegiate National Champion and College Miss Majorette of America. She continued to perform after graduation for the New England Patriots and the Boston Celtics.

She began coaching baton twirling in high school and continues today; she has coached numerous state, regional, national, and world champions. She has twice served as a coach for Team USA in Norway and Holland. She has several twirlers



From left: Chip Bonny, Peggy Darragh-Jeromos, Jo Ann Feltner, Missy Townsend, and Tom Benjamin.

performing with college bands: Virginia Tech, Miami University, University of Miami, Penn State, Pitt, and Boston College, just to name a few. She is currently the competitive choreographer for Purdue University.

When Missy returned to Ohio in 1994, she began coaching the color guard and twirlers, and started the Winter Guard program in 1995. The color guard and winter guard programs have grown to include elementary and junior high programs. The high school winter guard has become nationally ranked and won their second state championship this season.

Missy currently lives in Hunter with her husband Bobby, stepson Aaron, and her two dogs, Cocoa and Mocca.

**Peggy Darragh-Jeromos, Class of 1975,** is a fourth-generation Wildcat. She received double major bachelor's degree in economics and chemistry from Earlham College in Richmond, IN, and a master's degree in public management and policy analysis from Carnegie-Mellon University's School of Urban and Public Affairs (now the Heinz School) in Pittsburgh.

Returning to Franklin in 1998, Peggy immersed herself in her hometown community. She served on Franklin City Schools Strategic Planning Team in the late 1990s and was an original member of

the district's Student Achievement Committee. Peggy worked in PR/Communications for the district from 2001 to 2004 and returned in 2009 as a Communications Consultant.

Peggy was the Executive Director of Chamber 45005 (formerly the Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce) from 2009 until April 2023. While there, she helped established the Downtown Franklin Farmers Market in 2014

She's served on various boards and committees, including the Franklin Area Historical Society, Forever Franklin, Inc., and the Deardoff Senior Center.

She received the Good Neighbor Award from the City of Franklin; the 2014 Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce Perry Maxwell Award for community goodwill (for work on the Farmers Market Committee); the 2018 Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce president's award for service to the community (along with her husband Joe); a Key to the City of Franklin for service to the community in 2023; and Warren County Foundation's 2023 George R. Henkle Philanthropy & Community Service Award.

Peggy lives in Franklin Township with her husband of 33 years, Joe Jeromos. Their daughter Taylor Jeromos and their daughter-in-law Lauren Haskins reside in Buffalo, NY.

**Coach Tom Benjamin** was hired by Franklin City Schools in 1980 as a Social Studies teacher, assistant football coach, and junior high basketball coach. He'd go on to lead both the boys and girls varsity basketball teams.

For a decade, Tom led the boys varsity basketball program team to 127 wins. They captured three MML titles: 1987, 1990, and 1991. They also finished as MML runner up five times. During his tenure, the boys scored tournament wins over Dayton Dunbar, Dayton Meadowdale, Trotwood Madison, and Centerville.

For eight years Coach Benjamin led the varsity girls to 105 wins. They captured two



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: AROUND THE DISTRICT



Third graders from **Franklin Intermediate School** recently enjoyed their Franklin Walking Field Trip. Students visited the Harding Museum, the Log Cabin Post Office, the Police Station, the Fire Station, and the City Building. They had a wonderful day learning about our city! Many thanks to the community partners who helped make this a great day for our students.

## HALL OF FAME, CONTINUED

MML titles and were district runner up in 1998 to St. Ursula. One of his biggest wins came in his first year as head girls coach when they defeated Miamisburg, snapping their four-year unbeaten streak in league play.

In addition to coaching basketball, Tom was an assistant varsity football coach on the undefeated squad in 1985. He served as an assistant track coach earning an MML championship. He served as the varsity golf coach, winning two MML titles.

Coach Benjamin retired from teaching in 2013 and coaching in 2023. His career basketball coaching record is 578-257. He was inducted into the Springboro Athletic Hall of Fame in February. Tom resides in Miamisburg with his wife of 40 years, Cindy Benjamin (who teaches at Franklin). He has two daughters, Amanda, a Franklin resident, and Lauren who lives in Los Angeles.

**Jo Ann Feltner** served Franklin City Schools for more than 40 years as a teacher, principal, and school board member. She was a dynamic and enthusiastic leader and powerful voice for always doing what was best for students. She believed in working collaboratively with teachers and the community to achieve that standard and left a positive legacy that will last for generations through the students she taught and the teachers she worked with.

Jo Ann earned degrees from Ohio University, Miami University, and Xavier University. She taught at Gerke Elementary, Hampton Bennett, and Franklin Junior High. She also served as principal at both Gerke and Franklin Junior High. She was the lead director for 6th Grade Camp for over a decade. While principal at the junior high, she secured a venture capital grant that led to staff development, which switched from a traditional school day to a teacher-teaming system.

After retirement, she continued to serve the students of Franklin as a school board member and president. She served a total of 16 years on the board and had three terms as president. She was also elected to serve on the Southwest Ohio School board for 16 years with one term as president and on the Ohio School Board with one term as president. Her dedication to all students led to her being named an OSBA Master School Board Member. In recognition of her commitment to the Franklin community, the Chamber of Commerce presented her with the President's Award in 1992 and Franklin Citizen of the Year in 2014.

Jo Ann now resides in Thousand Oaks, California.



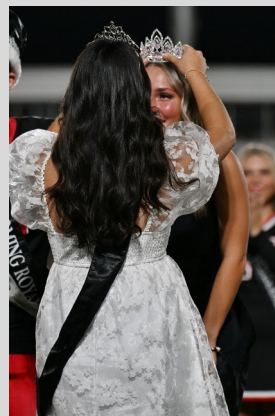
# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: AROUND THE DISTRICT



Franklin High School students recently used balloons to demonstrate the benefits of working collaboratively. Working with others, even people we may not know or like, brings diverse perspectives to problem-solving, and increases effectiveness and efficiency.

Students wrote their names on balloons, which were placed in the hallway and mixed up. They were given two minutes to try to find their own balloon. The activity was run a second time, with students picking up the first balloon they saw and reuniting the balloon with its owner. The original creator of this exercise used this metaphor: "Balloons are like happiness. Searching for happiness in isolation is useless. We will never find it if we're only looking for our own, rather if we care about others' happiness, we will find ours too."

PICTURES COURTESY OF FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL



## '24 HOCO Royalty

Top row of pictures, from left: Seniors Tucker Campbell and Alex Bates; Juniors Callen Johnson and Ainslee Lloyd; Sophomores Brady Johnson and Aliyah Donisi; Freshmen Charles Truesdell and Payton Faulkner.

PICTURES COURTESY OF NO. 9 IMAGES



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: AROUND THE DISTRICT



## Board honors students for achievement

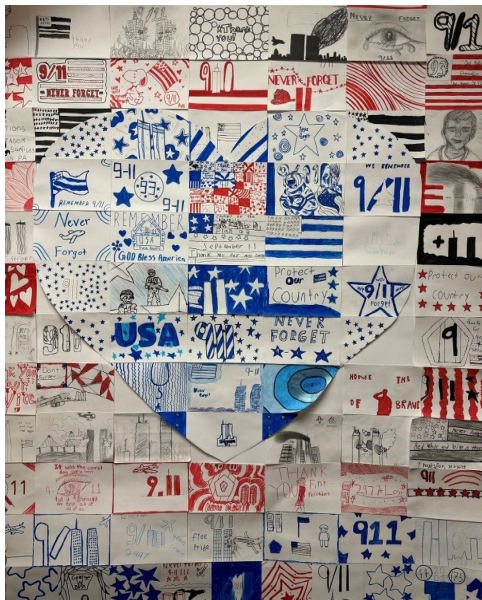
On Aug. 26, the Franklin Board of Education honored students for various achievements including earning 10 quarters of straight A's, earning a perfect score on the OST, receiving year-end awards at **Schenck Elementary**, and being selected for the Ohio High School Student Art Exhibition. Students honored include Mikayla Bray, Xavier Kakaris, Marco Solis Estrada, Jathan Seeger, Brooklyn Crase, Xavier Sparks, Samuel Stepp, Adaugo Nwoke, and Alex Kincaid.

On Sept. 23, the Board honored students for year-end achievements (2023-2024) at **FJHS**. Seventh grade Wildcats of the Year were Marilee Perkins and Daniel Tank Fedders. Eighth grade Wildcats of the Year were Samuel Tsitey and Emma Burnett. Archie Griffin Awards went to Charles Truesdell and Millicent Nau.

On Oct. 28, the Board honored four students who passed the OELPA (Ohio English Language Proficiency Assessment), which is the test that Ohio uses to determine an English

learner's progress to English proficiency: Ablaye Guisse (**Franklin Intermediate**), Jay Patel (**FJHS**), Bulut Altekin (**Hunter**), and Yu Qian "Archie" Wang (**Hunter**).

The district established the Student Achievement Award in 2001. 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. The nomination form is available on the district website under Departments > Curriculum > Student Achievement.



**FJHS** Art classes recently worked on a 9/11 Memorial collage (picture at left) and designing T-shirts for the 8th graders' Washington, D.C. trip. They'll also create Veteran Appreciation Bags for Homeless Vets with the Blue Star Family Organization. PICTURE COURTESY OF FJHS

**Gerke** (at right) students enjoyed a Science is Fun assembly, which was partially funded through a special grant from the McLane Foundation. Principal Jim Rhoades said, "I hope this sparked our young minds to take an interest in science!" McLane Foundation SPARK grants are handled by the Student Achievement committee to fund enrichment activities. PICTURE COURTESY OF GERKE



# ELEMENTARY PTO PROVIDES SUPPORT, ENRICHMENT, & FUN

With the district's move to grade-level buildings this year, one question concerned the best PTO structure: Was it better to have one PTO per building (grade) or a combined PTO for all elementary buildings? The answer turned out to be one. Over the summer, individual building PTOs restructured to form the FCS Elementary PTO. Meetings are held the fourth Monday of the month at 4:30 p.m., in the FHS Media Room, prior to the Board of Education meetings.

Organizers say their mission is to partner with the schools, principals, and staff to enhance the school experience for students. Their goal is to bridge the gap between student and teacher needs and the funding the schools have. They also hope to provide fun learning activities for students.

The group hit the ground running and worked with principals and secretaries to provide recess equipment and activities (thanks in part to some generous community donations); they also hope

to investigate indoor recess activities.

In October, the PTO had a T-shirt fundraiser for students and parents to help fund activities throughout the year. Other events/fundraisers they're planning include a Breakfast with Santa, Santa Shop, Boo Grams, Valentine Grams, and field days, plus some potential grade-specific activities. They're also working on restaurant dine-to-donate nights. Money from the previous PTOs was combined and divided between the grades and a general fund.

Two main considerations were behind moving to one group: First, to prevent the need to change a building's PTO board each year as parents will most likely move to a different building with their students. Second, to ensure that money raised in previous and future years will benefit all students regardless of the building they attend.

The board's structure is two co-presidents, a VP/secretary, and two co-treasurers. Each grade has a chairperson who represents that grade/building. The board manages events and fundraisers for all grades and supports the chairpersons. The chairperson is the direct contact with the principals and works with them to fulfill the needs of the grade. The hope is that they will run one grade-level fundraiser in the spring to specifically benefit their grade.

Parents unable to attend a meeting but who want to get involved may email [fcselementarypto1@gmail.com](mailto:fcselementarypto1@gmail.com).

PICTURE COURTESY OF SCHENCK ELEMENTARY



754 E. Fourth St.  
Franklin, OH 45005

