



New high school should be under roof by spring break!

Construction at the new Franklin High School building on 6th St. is on schedule for occupancy at the end of 2023. The building should be under roof by spring break (early April); that will allow interior work to begin. These pictures were taken in mid-February. Top left: section of the building that includes the concession stand. Top right: a view of the courtyard; the ladderlike structures are for risers that can be used for outdoor

performances. Bottom left: auxiliary gym ceiling. Bottom right: windows looking into the interior courtyard. As promised, the building's design makes extensive use of natural light.

Construction and renovation of district buildings is being made possible by a bond issue passed overwhelmingly in 2020. No operating monies may be used in building construction.

Renewal levy failed in November; will be on May ballot

The defeat of the district's renewal levy in November has forced the district to consider how to best ensure the district's financial solvency.

The Board of Education has voted to put the renewal back on the May ballot.

"Passing the issue in November would not have raised taxes, just renewed the operating levies we've been operating with already," said district superintendent Dr. Mike Sander. "This is a tough blow, because the levy funds 21% of our operating budget. Losing these funds puts us back nearly 20 years, to 2005 funding levels."

Sander outlined some of the initiatives funded by the levy: all-day kindergarten (the first cohort of all-day

kindergarten students is now in 7th grade); dual-enrollment classes allowing high school students to simultaneously earn both high school and college credits; ensuring that buses are on a planned replacement schedule; increasing technology — both upgrading the infrastructure and purchasing Chromebooks to achieve the goal of being one-to-one (one device per student); and increasing communication with the community. One of the ways we've increased communication is through this newsletter, which has been published quarterly since May 2015.

Sander noted: "The legalities of ballot language can be confusing. We will be working diligently to communicate the district's needs."

News from Franklin City Schools

District receives mental health grant

Franklin City Schools received a \$10,000 grant from the Mental Health Recovery Board of Warren and Clinton Counties (MHRBWCC) in January. The grant will be used to purchase materials and supplies for a Calming Room at the middle school level. A Calming Room is a space that is meant to be a supportive therapeutic environment, which assists children in self-calming efforts in order to self-regulate.

MHRBWCC conducted a Youth Wellbeing Inventory (survey) of students in grades 7-12 in the spring of 2022. The results were startling: 36.2% of all students surveyed reported engaging in either self-harm and/or having suicidal thoughts in the past 30 days. Also, 52% of students surveyed report having 3 or more Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). ACEs are traumatic events that occur in childhood between the ages of 0-17.

The Center for Disease Control reports that ACEs can have a tremendous impact on future violence victimization and perpetration. The CDC reports that ACEs are linked to chronic health problems, mental illness, substance abuse, and violence. At the middle school level, students with Adverse Childhood Experiences often communicate through negative behaviors.

One of the first steps to help students cope with these feelings that are bigger than they can handle is to de-escalate the student. Once de-escalation has occurred, then the adults can begin to help the child through the issues that precipitated the behavior. A Calming Room is a place where students can find tools and strategies for managing emotions and feelings.

Kindergarten registration for 2023-24

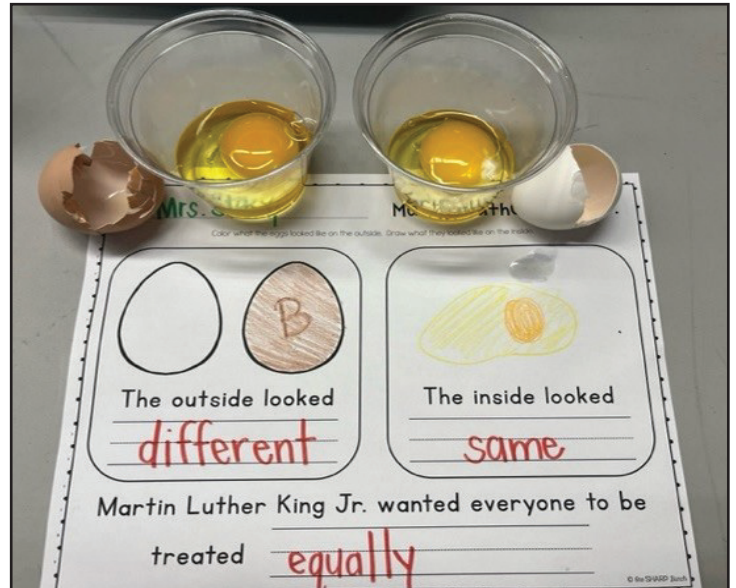
Kindergarten registration for the 2023-2024 school year will begin April 10, 2023 for all students turning five by August 1, 2023.

The following documents are required for registration:

- 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 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.

Students will not be admitted until all of the above requirements have been met. If you have any questions, please call Central Registration at 937-743-8602. Kindergarten student must turn 5 by August 1, 2023.

Honoring Dr. King's Legacy



At **Hunter Elementary**, Mrs. Stacy's, Mrs. Rossi's, and Mrs. Krajowski's first grade classes recently honored Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by illustrating to students that we may look many different ways on the outside, but we are all very much alike on the inside.

In other **Hunter** news, students in grades K-2 made get well cards for Buffalo Bills play Damar Hamlin.

Mrs. Current's class explored jobs and careers through "Toolbox Talks."

Students learned about their parents' jobs and the tools they use for their jobs. Many thanks to the parents who took the time to talk about their work.



News from Franklin City Schools

Enrolling your child in school

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

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

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

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

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

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

If your child has any medical issues that need to be addressed, please contact the building nurse prior to the start of school.

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.

49 students inducted into NHS

Franklin High School recently inducted 49 students into the National Honor Society. NHS membership is one of the highest honors that high school students can achieve. Nine seniors and 40 juniors were tapped for the honor.

NHS recognizes students for outstanding character, scholarship, leadership, and service. Students must have a minimum grade point average and are nominated by teachers.

Seniors tapped were Aaron Etbarek, Bailey Judy, Jiya Patel, Riley Hall, Hailey Miller, Payton Perez, Lily Hunter, Maximillian Patrick, and Brooke Oliver.

Juniors tapped were Liam Acevedo Rodriguez, Katelyn Adams, Savannah Albaugh, Sophia Aldridge, Autumn Allen, Addison Berry, Danielle Bishop, Kensington Black, Carter Black, Marlena Blunt, Christopher Bond, Izak Bowman, Wesley Brooks, Leanne Cortes, Atticus Curry, Ava Donisi, Mark Elam, Jacob Eyink, Kaylynn Flores, Susan Gray, Delaney Hamm, Austin Hitte, Dusti Ivy, Brynn Jordan, Isadore Karrick, Olivia Knipper, Elizabeth Kramer, Harlee Lamb, Colson Littrell, Kaylynn Martin, Reagan Moore, Aliysa Mullin, Christopher Mullins, Trey Newsome, Catherine O'Hara, Laila Powell, Alexis Taulbee, Jackson Taylor, Brooke Wallace, and Andrew Zimmerman.

The chapter's '22-'23 officers are Tyler Bond, President; Maddox Taulbee, Vice President; Savannah Coomer, Secretary; Ashley Booth, Treasurer; and Ella Kittel, Historian. The group's advisors are Emily Rudy and Kelly Rolfes.

FJHS Students visit D.C., Gettysburg

In late October, **FJHS** 8th graders explored sites in Washington, D.C. and Gettysburg. Students participated in a Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier; participants were chosen on the strength of essays they wrote in Mr. Gregor and Mr. Franklin's social studies classes.



News from Franklin City Schools

Fine Arts News

Six FHS art students had eight works selected for Middletown Art Center's prestigious "Tomorrow's Artists Today" exhibit. The exhibit will be up through Feb. 23. Congratulations to Haley Ballard, Hannah Reece, Tyler Bond, Cierra Miller, Zoe Shockley, and Brianna Sprik.

FHS art students will also participate in Miamisburg Art Gallery's annual student art show, March 4 to 25. The opening reception will be Sat., March 4, 1 to 3 p.m. The gallery will have extended hours for this show.

Franklin's all-district art show will be Saturday, April 22. Watch the district website for the time of this event, which will feature art from students in every grade.

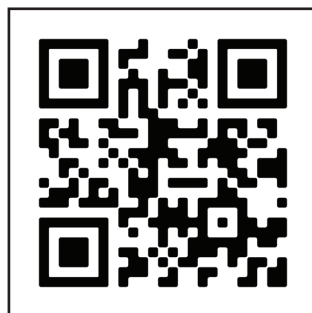
The FHS Drama Club will present Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit* on Feb. 17-19. This 1941 play, which has been twice adapted for film (1945 and 2020), focuses on cantankerous novelist Charles Condomine, who is remarried but haunted (literally) by the ghost of his late first wife.

A complimentary senior citizens show will be offered Thursday, Feb. 16, at 11:30 a.m. Breakfast and coffee will be served at 10:30 a.m. Persons who want to RSVP for this show should call the high school office at 937.743.8610.

The Franklin Junior High Drama group will present *Annie Jr*, on March 3 and 4 at 7 p.m. The 2022-23 theater season will end with the FHS Drama Club presenting *The SpongeBob Musical* on April 21-23.

All drama productions will be in the FHS McDade Auditorium. For tickets, scan the QR code or go to fhsdrama.booktix.com.

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Gerke students learn about Braille

January is national Braille Literacy Awareness month; at Gerke, Mr. Grombacher's and Mr. Rice's second grade classrooms learned about individuals who are blind, how they learn to read and write, and read the story of Helen Keller and her teacher, Anne Sullivan.

Lisa Milliron (the district's teacher of the visually impaired), and two Braille learners visited their classes. Jacob Lyninger (8th grade student) and Owen Hearth (Gerke Kindergarten student) talked about the white canes they use for safe travel.

Jacob wrote a short story about Louis Braille and read it to the classes to demonstrate his Braille reading skills. Owen, a beginning Braille learner, showed off his Braille skills by teaching the students how to identify each of the 6 dots of a Braille cell and how to write letters using a Braille writer. Jacob and Owen are both dual media learners, which means they read large print and Braille.

The students were given a chance to try their hand at making letters on the Braille writer and create their own name tag using the Braille code. Students asked several questions:

- *How do Jacob and Owen learn Braille?* Miss Lisa helps them learn Braille.
- *How do you make a capital letter (in Braille)?* Jacob said there's a dot 6 in the Braille cell before you start the first letter of your name.
- *Is it hard?* Jacob said it's just like learning to read print only he uses his fingertips instead of his eyes.
- *Do you have your own Braille books?* Yes. Some are all tactile Braille and some have print and Braille.

Jacob, Owen, and preschooler Killian Kinner will be attending the Ohio Braille Challenge in February 2023 with Miss Lisa. They're looking forward to a day filled with Braille exploration and meeting new friends who also know their secret code.



News from Franklin City Schools

Outstanding Alum: Mark Edwards



Mark Edwards was a student at George H. Gerke Elementary, Hampton Bennett Middle, Franklin Junior High, and Franklin High Schools (1983). He earned a Bachelor's degree in Zoology from Miami University (1987), and a Ph.D. in Comparative Animal Nutrition/Animal Science from Michigan State University (1995).

Mark always had a strong connection to the natural world with a particular desire to better understand and describe the biology of uncommon animal and plant species with the goal of enhancing their care, welfare, and conservation.

Mark shared, "Instructors, including Mr. Overly, Mrs. Noland, and Mr. Hensley, cultivated my passion for science and life-long learning. They positioned me for success in future academic programs. As such, they have had a lasting impact on my professional career."

As a FHS student, Mark volunteered for the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens. Later, Mark volunteered with the Hueston Woods State Park Nature Center and worked seasonally at Kings Island Wild Animal Habitat in both animal care and guest services roles.

Following an undergraduate internship with the Smithsonian Institution's National Zoological Park, Mark worked as a research field biologist in a remote region of Venezuela studying the foraging ecology of red howler monkeys. "The foundations in Spanish language I gained from Sr. Frank and Sra. Linder were invaluable in navigating this cultural immersion."

Upon completion of his graduate degree, Mark served as the first staff Nutritionist for the Zoological Society of San Diego (California), which included supporting the World-Famous San Diego Zoo, San Diego Wild Animal Park, and their global conservation programs. During more than 11 years with this organization, Mark formalized all aspects of the feeding programs for over 8,000 specimens representing more than 850 species. What began as a single position, Mark and his team developed into a professional program recognized and emulated by the zoo and aquarium industry.

Mark returned to the Smithsonian Institution's National Zoological Park, which includes the National Zoo and Conservation and Research Center (Virginia) and their global conservation programs. As Director of Animal Nutrition, Mark led our nation's zoo through critically needed renovation and restructuring.

Mark transitioned to a teaching and research role with the California Polytechnic State University (2007) where he is a tenured Professor in the Animal Science Department. Although Mark did

not expect to teach, he has never stepped away from academia. His professional activities focus on comparative animal nutrition at both the undergraduate and graduate level. Dr. Edwards considers one of the most rewarding aspects of teaching and conducting research in this campus community is the 'Learn By Doing' environment; a model that closely compliments his own expertise and philosophies. He guides students in applied and contract research projects and routinely consults with zoos and aquariums related to animal nutrition and feeding. His former students are making professional contributions at more than 20 accredited zoos and aquariums, including several that are animal nutrition specialists for these organizations.

During his career, Mark has had the opportunity to contribute to the scientific body of knowledge for animal species globally, including work in the People's Republic of China that directly contributed to the removal of giant pandas from endangered status. Mark has authored or contributed to numerous books, periodicals, and peer-reviewed publications, and regularly makes scientific presentations before professional groups and organizations. Dr. Edwards serves on professional committees for the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, American Society of Animal Science, and the Comparative Nutrition Society, as well as providing scientific expertise to ad hoc committees of the National Research Council and USDA National Animal Nutrition Program.

"Although some might not consider fundamentals of mechanical drawing directly applicable to my field of study, I use skills learned from Mr. Rieger daily. They enable me to visualize and communicate concepts I use in research protocols and practical animal husbandry settings, not to mention the impact on my personal handwriting. I am frequently asked by my peers to capture meeting notes on the board during department meetings!" Mark fondly reflects on the enrichment of his education with formal music training with Ms. Nau, Mr. Bolton, and Mr. Andrews.

Edwards was honored among the 2016 FHS Hall of Fame inductees. Mark, and his wife Michelle (Lakota, 1985), currently reside on the central coast of California.

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](#)

LinkedIn:

Twitter handles are:

@HunterElemNews

@PennyroyalElem

@AnthonyWayneEle

@Schenck_Elem

@GerkeElementary

@AdminsFHS

@FJHSOH

@FCSWildcats (District)

News from Franklin City Schools

AW students learn through MUSE project

In December, **Anthony Wayne** 4th and 6th graders and teachers celebrated creative learning with professional theatre teaching artist Michael Kenwood Lippert from Dayton-based MUSE machine.

Spoken rhymes and pantomimes allowed the students to learn complex concepts and to share them with the audience.

Students presented their original scripts about land forms and cells to the world. The room was rocking with creativity, energy, and so much joy and the performances had the audience on their feet.

Per their website, MUSE says, "During the residency, the artist, teacher and students write original music and songs, choreograph new dances, write and perform theatre pieces, or create works of visual art that help students learn math, science, history, or language arts."

In other **Anthony Wayne** news, the building has resumed its after-school tutoring partnership with Franklin First United Methodist Church. COVID had put this partnership on hold for several years.

Title 1 reading teacher Mrs. Katrina Simas created literacy activities to be used with the students through the end of March. The tutors will continue working with students next school year for fall and winter tutoring sessions.



Pennyroyal PAW rewards.

In late October, **Pennyroyal** students who'd earned PAW rewards during the first grading period enjoyed a trip to Windmill Farms.

Students were treated to a hayride and picked a pumpkin from the pumpkin patch. Students earn PAW rewards for positive behavior. P = Positive behavior. A = good Attendance. W = strong Work ethic.

The second quarter reward was a visit to Miamisburg's historic Plaza Theater.



In other **Pennyroyal** news, the building again raised money and collected items for Germantown-based Adam's Hope, which supplies items to troops deployed overseas. Students raised over \$330. Learn about Adam's Hope at www.adamshope.com.



News from Franklin City Schools

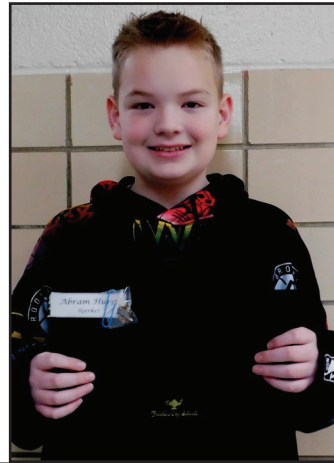
Board honors students for achievement

At its January 23 Board meeting, the Franklin Board of Education honored two students for achievement.

Kellen Dunn (**Schenck**, far right) and Abram Hurst (**Gerke**, near right) were honored for earning 10 quarters of straight A's.

Franklin City Schools 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 collaborate on STEM projects

At **Schenck**, Mrs. Long's first grade class and Mrs. DeHart's and Mrs. Bailey's fifth grade classes collaborated and created snowflake symmetry, animal hibernation shelters, and sledding ramps. (see three pictures above).

In other **Schenck** news, the building raised over \$1,000 via their annual Turkey Trot and penny war competition to support two families they adopted for Christmas.

During their November Kindness Challenge, students focused on gratitude and practiced ways they could be grateful or show gratitude in their lives.

One project they took on was creating place-mats to send to three local nursing homes for their Thanksgiving Meals.

This was so successful the building decided adopt a nursing home for the rest of the year for similar projects such as making holiday cards for residents.



FJHS Art Students collaborate for vets

FJHS art students again designed tote bags for veterans receiving care at the Dayton VA Center. Students designed over 260 bags. In an inter-district collaboration, the FJHS-designed bags were filled with donated items and thank you cards created by students from Edgewood Elementary.

Art teacher Molly Bender said, "This was a great experience for our students, showing them that as artists they can show gratitude and appreciation to others through their art. They were very excited to contribute to the cause and make a difference in the lives of our veterans."

The project was suggested by Geri Lynn Maples, Ph.D., director of the local chapter of Blue Star Families.



News from Franklin City Schools

ELL Fall Family Event

FCS has 65 English Language Learners enrolled. These students represent all age groups and 15 different languages; they are enrolled in every district building. In November, a Family Fall Event welcomed ELL students and their families to meet Debbie Erwin, TESOL Instructor, and to see a PowerPoint presentation of their students involved in activities designed for them to listen, speak, read, and write in English.

Families enjoyed refreshments, had their picture taken by photographer Kathy Kitchen, and took home items donated by area organizations. Many thanks to everyone in the community who supported the event and to Anderson Life Celebration Center who donated the meeting space.

Pictured above, TESOL instructor Debbie Erwin and 7th grade student Edar Maldonado from Honduras.



Bus Driver Incentive

FCS has openings for bus drivers and is offering incentives: a sign-on bonus and paid training.

Sign-On Bonus for new drivers: Anyone newly hired as a bus driver for FCS after July 1, 2022 is eligible for a new-employee bonus of \$1,500, which will be paid in two equal installments: \$750 after six months as a bus driver and \$750 at the one-year anniversary of hiring as a bus driver.

Paid Training: Up to 40 hours of paid training, paid at the six-month anniversary of employment as a bus driver.

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply in the FCS Business Manager's Office at Hampton Bennett Administrative Offices 150 East Sixth St., Franklin, OH 45005.

In addition, any current FCS employee is eligible for a staff referral bonus. Any employee who refers an individual who is hired as a bus driver for FCS is eligible for a \$1000 referral bonus, which will be split into two equal installments, \$500 after the new driver completes six months of employment with FCS as a bus driver, and \$500 after the new driver completes one year of employment with FCS as a bus driver.



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