

Wildcat Community News

News from Franklin City Schools | August 2020

District Update

Reopening plans; bond issue update

Common agreement for Warren County Districts

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ohio schools closed March 10, 2020. At the time, districts suspected the closure might be an extended spring break; however, in April, the closure was extended for the rest of the school year. Closure was ordered by the governor and the Director of the Ohio Department of Health.

Safely reopening schools for the 2020-21 school year was a top priority for local educators, but in early June, little guidance was yet available from the Ohio Department of Education or the Ohio Department of Health. Feeling a need to move forward, on June 10, superintendents from Warren County's public districts, the Warren County ESC, and the Warren County Career Center met to develop common practices to reopen schools for the fall.

They developed these principles:

- ◆ Each school district will implement recommended safety protocols to the highest degree possible;
- ◆ Each school district will work closely with the Warren County Health District to promote safety in each school building;
- ◆ Each school district will be transparent with all stakeholders that some level of risk will always be present when children and school district employees occupy school district facilities;
- ◆ School districts recognize the need for consistency in areas of operations while recognizing that individual differences in classroom sizes, school facilities, and building operations may lead to some inconsistencies;
- ◆ School districts are planning to maintain their previously approved school calendars with some possible front-loading of employee professional development.

They agreed to adhere to the five principles and crafted health and safety guidelines in 10 areas: daily self-monitoring; student illnesses; returning to school after illness; communications when a student/staff member has been diagnosed with a COVID-19 positive case; food service; classroom occupancy; remote learning; visitors/volunteers/parties; transportation; and recess.

Follow our district on its social media pages for news, pictures, and updates. Twitter handles are:

@HunterElemNews	@GerkeElementary
@PennyroyalElem	@AdminsFHS
@AnthonyWayneEle	@FJHSOH
@Schenck_Elem	@FCSWildcats (District)

Instagram: fcswildcatpride (District)

Facebook: facebook.com/FranklinCitySchools/

Website: franklincityschools.com

FCS' reopening plans

Based on the common agreement described at left, FCS crafted plans to bring students and staff back to school safely and considered 1.) the district's ability to provide and maintain a safe, equitable, and healthy school environment; and 2.) the changing prevalence of COVID-19 within the community. These factors will be evaluated continually. The most up-to-date plan can be found on the district website.

At its core, the plan is based on parent choice: Parents may choose to send their children to school or choose to use remote learning. The choice stands for the entire semester, and parents choosing remote learning were to have notified the district by July 31.

Under the remote learning choice, parents must assume responsibility for computer equipment and internet access. Students must be logged in to the remote learning system 5 hours per day to be counted as a full day of attendance.

Dr. Sander explained: "We're going to have two lines of instruction: on-line remote learning for those students who choose to stay home; this will be a very robust curriculum that will be as close as possible as to what they would have had if they were in the classroom. Dedicated Franklin teachers will check in with these students, provide tutoring, and make sure students are getting what they need. We're not expecting parents to act as teachers. It will be a very challenging curriculum with letter grades. If you're in high school, you get the grade you get for your GPA."

"94% of our students are expected to return to the classroom; for them we worked with the Warren County plan. We're buying individual Plexiglas dividers for the younger kids so that K-3 students don't have to wear masks. Desks will face forward and we will be taking all unnecessary furniture out of classrooms so we can spread students out as much as possible. Teachers won't have to wear masks while they're in front of the class, but as soon as they begin interacting with students, they'll have to wear some kind of face covering. We'll give staff both masks and face shields. The reason we feel [that face shields are] important is that we feel it's important for students to see facial expressions, especially as the younger students are sounding out words; they have to be able to see your mouth," Sander said. (cont. p.2)

2020 Open House Schedule

Aug. 17: 3 to 5 p.m. Early Childhood Center

Aug. 17: 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., All elementary buildings

Aug. 17: 5:30 to 7 p.m., Franklin Jr. High

Aug. 26: 5:30 to 7 p.m., Franklin High School

News from Franklin City Schools

Board of Education

Rachel Ruppert-Wolfinbarger, President

Andrew Fleming, Vice Pres.

Bob Knipper

Lori Raleigh

Chris Sizemore

District Administration

Dr. Michael Sander, Superintendent

Robyn Donisi, Assistant Superintendent

Robert Giuffre, Interim Treasurer

Rodney Roberts, Business Manager

District contact information

Superintendent's Office

(937) 746-1699

Assistant Superintendent's Office

(937) 743-8601

Business Manager's Office

(937) 743-8600

Treasurer's Office

(937) 743-8603

Transportation Office

(937) 743-8670

Department of Special Services

(937) 743-8602

Franklin High School

(937) 743-8610 or 8611

Franklin Junior High School

(937) 743-8630 or 8632

Anthony Wayne Elementary

(937) 743-8640

Gerke Elementary

(937) 743-8650

Hunter Elementary

(937) 743-8655

Pennyroyal Elementary

(937) 743-8660

Wm. C. Schenck Elementary

(937) 743-8665

HB Early Childhood Center

(937) 743-5290

Welcome Center Central

Registration Office

(937) 743-8602

He added, "When you go into a classroom you want to see a smiling face." Sander noted that masks are not needed in the hallways because the Health Department defines exposure as 15 minutes without a face covering.

Sander explained that if students are exposed and need to self-quarantine, they can immediately go to blended learning and as long as they're working on their assignments, they are not counted as absent.

Underlying the plan was the goal of keeping students and staff safe and healthy; following the guidance of state and local health authorities; providing students with familiar routines; providing teachers, students, and parents with clear expectations; and responding to changing circumstances with flexibility.

Bond issue moving forward

District voters can expect to see a bond issue on the November 3 ballot to finance the construction of four new school buildings and the renovation of the current high school into a middle school, with the state paying 57% of the project.

Getting to this point has been a multi-month process, with a community advisory team meeting monthly since September to brainstorm various building configurations. The 56-member group developed 16 possible plans that they narrowed to three. The district also held a community forum and did a community-wide survey.

The final plan calls for three new K-5 elementary buildings (designed to house 467 students) located at the Hunter, Gerke, and Pennyroyal sites; a new high school designed to house approx. 950 students at the current junior high site (formerly the high school); and renovation of the current high school into a 700-student middle school for grades 6-8. The community advisory team wanted to keep the price as low as possible by renovating

the current high school and not purchasing property.

Work will be needed to ready the Pennyroyal site for a larger building, and to determine traffic flow at the junior high property.

"We're going to [construct] sequentially," said Sander. "We'll take care of building the high school, then renovate the high school into the middle school, and then construct the elementaries. We're not going to have to wait 7 to 10 years to get the OFCC

money. It's just going to be a sequential event."

The legal ballot language will call for a 6.51 mill issue; however, creative financing will allow the district to keep the actual millage

under 5. Five mills is about 1.5 mills less than the last two school construction projects in Warren County — the Carlisle K-12 building and the recent Lebanon schools project.

The State of Ohio will pay 57% of this project through the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission's Expedited Local Partnership.

Nominate an Alum!

Do you know a Franklin High School grad who's accomplished great things since graduating? We want to profile one of our many outstanding graduates in these quarterly newsletters.

To nominate, please submit their picture and brief description of their accomplishments to Dr. Mike Sander: Superintendent's Office, 150 E. 6th St., Franklin, OH 45005 or via email to msander@franklincityschools.com

The State will pay 57% of the cost of new school buildings: 3 new elementary buildings, a new high school, and a renovated middle 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, including sporting events and arts performances, at no charge.

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.

FHS Fall Sports

Varsity Football. Games at 7 p.m.

8/21	A vs. Miamisburg (Jamboree)
8/28	H vs. Fenwick
9/04	A vs. Carlisle
9/11	A vs. Edgewood (Trenton)
9/18	H vs. Monroe
9/25	A vs. Bellbrook
10/01	H vs. Preble Shawnee (Thursday Night Lights)
10/09	H vs. Valley View (Homecoming)
10/16	A vs. Eaton
10/23	A vs. Brookville
10/30	H vs. Oakwood

Boys Soccer. 7:30 p.m. unless noted.

08/24	A vs. Stebbbins
08/25	A vs. Oakwood
08/27	H vs. Bellbrook
09/03	A vs. Valley View
09/08	H vs. Dixie, 5:30 p.m.
09/10	H vs. Eaton
09/15	H vs. Brookville
09/17	A vs. Brookville
09/22	A vs. Monroe
09/24	H vs. Valley View
09/29	A vs. Eaton, 7:15 p.m.
10/05	A vs. Madison, 6 p.m.
10/06	H vs. Oakwood
10/08	H vs. Monroe
10/12	H vs. Carlisle
10/13	A vs. Bellbrook

Girls Varsity Tennis. 4 p.m. unless noted.

08/11	H vs. Carlisle
08/12	H vs. Stebbbins
08/17	A vs. Middletown
08/18	H vs. Bellbrook
08/20	A vs. -Northridge
08/24	A vs. Edgewood
08/25	A vs. Valley View
08/27	H vs. Eaton
09/01	A vs. Greenvew, 4:30 p.m.
09/09	H vs. Little Miami
09/10	H vs. Brookville
09/14	H vs. Waynesville
09/15	A vs. Oakwood
09/16	H vs. Carlisle
09/17	A vs. Monroe
09/21	A vs. Trotwood-Madison
09/22	H vs. Carroll

Boys Varsity Golf and Girls Varsity Golf:
At press time, the varsity golf schedules were unavailable.

Girls Varsity Volleyball. 6:30 p.m. unless noted.

08/22	H vs. Preble Shawnee (Tri-match), 10am.
08/24	A vs. Dayton Christian
08/25	H vs. Oakwood
08/27	A vs. Bellbrook
08/31	H vs. Wilmington
09/03	H vs. Valley View
09/08	H vs. Carlisle
09/09	A vs. Hamilton
09/10	A vs. Eaton
09/14	H vs. Madison
09/15	A vs. Brookville
09/17	H vs. Brookville
09/19	A vs. Stebbbins, 10 a.m.
09/21	H vs. Middletown
09/22	H vs. Monroe
09/24	A vs. Valley View
09/29	H vs. Eaton
10/05	A vs. Waynesville
10/06	A vs. Oakwood
10/08	A vs. Monroe
10/13	H vs. Bellbrook

Girls Varsity Soccer. 7:30 p.m. unless noted.

08/24	H vs. Stebbbins
08/25	H vs. Oakwood
08/27	A vs. Bellbrook
09/03	H vs. Valley View
09/08	H vs. Dixie, 7:15 p.m.
09/10	A vs. Eaton
09/12	A vs. Edgewood, 12 p.m.
09/15	A vs. Brookville
09/17	H vs. Brookville
09/22	H vs. Monroe
09/24	A vs. Valley View
09/29	H vs. Eaton
10/06	H vs. Oakwood
10/08	A vs. Monroe
10/12	A vs. Carlisle
10/13	H vs. Bellbrook

Cross Country, Coed Varsity

08/24	A vs. Monroe, 4:30 a.m.
08/29	A vs. Milton Union, 10 a.m.
09/01	A vs. Preble Shawnee, 4:30 p.m.
09/09	A vs. Valley View, 4:30 p.m.
09/12	A vs. Brookville, 10 a.m.
09/16	H Bartt Owens Open, 4:30 p.m.
09/19	A vs. Eaton, 10 a.m.
10/03	A vs. Edgewood, 10 a.m.

News from Franklin City Schools

Giuffre joins district as interim treasurer

Robert Giuffre has joined FCS as interim treasurer. He brings decades of experience in school finance including stints at Forest Hills, Great Oaks, Little Miami, and Loveland. He's a licensed Ohio school treasurer, a Navy veteran, and holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Columbia College.



Giuffre describes himself as a process person. "I really enjoy processes. Business is only as good as its processes and a process is only as good as how it can handle exceptions."

He said he believes that "less is more" and that operational efficiency is extremely important. His "less is more" philosophy is evident in his goal of a paperless environment for the Treasurer's office.

"We're here for one reason; that's to support everyone out there who's doing the business of the district." He added, "Customer service is very important." Giuffre said he wants the Treasurer's office to focus more on data and less on paper.

The big picture of what he plans to do and why are laid out in three keys goals he's set for the treasurer's department: 1.) Provide leadership through proactive financial stewardship; 2.) ex-

ceed the expectations of customers; and 3.) improve operational efficiency while increasing customers' satisfaction.

Some objectives falling under those goals include developing best practices for data use; striving for 100% accuracy in accounting and payroll processing; and implementing paperless processing.

An immediate change families will encounter is elimination of the convenience fee when using EZPay to pay school fees.

Under Giuffre, the district will be migrating to an accounting process software called SCView, which does everything from on-boarding timesheets to voucher processing; it's used by several districts in Warren County and SW Ohio.

Giuffre lived in Italy for three years and was a former lead singer with a NATO band. He grew up in Columbus but has lived in Loveland since 1990. He and his wife have nine children.

Giuffre said, "I've been made to feel very welcome and I appreciate having the opportunity to contribute."

One change that families will encounter: The district is eliminating the convenience fee that parents were formerly charged to use EZ Pay, the Internet payment system for paying school fees.



150 E. Sixth St.
Franklin, OH 45005