



## Board cuts ribbon to celebrate bus garage completion!

Franklin City Schools recently held a ribbon cutting to celebrate the opening of their new bus garage, the first of five new buildings the district will open in the next few years. The District will also renovate the current high school into a grade 6-8 middle school. The district's board of education, administration, State Rep Scott Lipps, and reps from SHP and Conger Construction Group were on hand as Board President Chris Sizemore cut the ribbon. The new bus garage is behind the current high school at 750 E. 4th St.

## Renewal levy on Nov. ballot. No tax increase!

Franklin school district voters will see a levy on the ballot this November as the Board of Ed is requesting renewal of a levy that funds 21% of the district's budget.

"This issue won't raise taxes," said Franklin Superintendent Mike Sander. "This is a regularly scheduled renewal of two levies, one that first passed in 2005 and another that first passed in 2014. They were combined into one substitute levy that passed in November 2018 and now is scheduled for renewal."

When the board asked for new money in 2014, they made explicit promises to voters for how funds would be used. Those promises have been kept.

**Institute all-day kindergarten.** Monies from the levy funded additional classrooms and classroom staff, and all day kindergarten was launched in August 2015. Students in the first cohort are now 7th graders. To date, 2,117 students have been through all-day kindergarten.

**Upgrade our bus fleet.** When the levy was passed,


the bus fleet was aging and no set replacement schedule was in place. After an initial purchase of five new buses, the district is now on a schedule of 2-1-2 (alternating two new buses one year, one new the next, and so on.) To date, the district has purchased 18 buses and 4 vans.

**Increase the use of technology.** The district promised to upgrade technology infrastructure and the number of devices available to students with the goal of being one-

to-one (one device per student). FCS invested in Chromebooks. 3155 are still in use, as some have aged out, and most seniors buy their device when graduating. The district also pur-

chased approximately 200 interactive ViewSonic panels for classrooms.

**Increase communications with the community.** Since August 2015, the district has published a quarterly newsletter which is mailed to nearly 10,000 residents. The newsletters, which are posted on the website, cover (Continued page 4)


 **YOUR INVESTMENT IN US CONTINUES TO PAY DIVIDENDS**

- Increased District Technology : Over 3,100 Chromebooks and 200 Touch Panels Purchased**
- All Day Kindergarten : Over 2,100 students have gone through the program**
- Transportation Upgrades : 18 Buses and 4 Vans Purchased**
- Improved Communications : Quarterly Newsletters sent to nearly 10,000 Households**
- College Credit Plus Courses : Expanded Program to 12 classes and saved our students over \$2.6M in tuition**

**November 8<sup>th</sup>**

**RENEWAL Levy - ISSUE #4**

**WON'T RAISE YOUR TAXES**



**BE INFORMED  
GET THE FACTS**

# News from Franklin City Schools

## Meet a Wildcat!

Welcome, new staff members! These profiles of new staff members arrived after the publication date of the August newsletter.

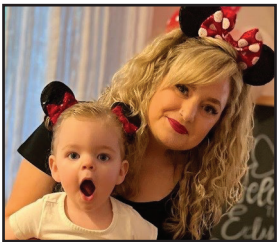


**Erin Maly, 6th grade, Gerke Elementary**, has degrees from University of Dayton (B.S. in Middle Childhood Education with concentrations in math and science) and Xavier (Master's in Special Ed). Her family includes her husband Tom and four children. She said she's excited to work in the community she lives in. Erin enjoys teaching and wants to help make a difference in children's lives; her goal is to get them to love school, especially math.



**Sara Rado, 8th grade ELA**, graduated from Ohio University. She lives in Moraine with fiancé Tyler, and their two dogs. She chose to work in education because she can see the positive impact she makes on her students' lives; she loves seeing the fire in their eyes when they find something they are passionate about. She says Franklin is a wonderful

community and "I am so excited to become a Wildcat because I grew up in Dayton. My dream has always been to stay close to home and return the positive experiences that Dayton gave to me growing up."



**Kaitlyn Kibler, FJHS Intervention Specialist**, graduated from Wright State. Her family includes her daughter, dog Bexley, and two sisters whom she considers her best friends. She loves teaching because of the variety, the challenge, and the people, and says, "It's great to wake up each day to something new and exciting." She's

excited to meet new people and to be part of a strong team environment. Kaitlyn loves to travel and describes herself as a Disney adult; she's been to Disney World more than 15 times.

## FHS Veterans Day Program

Franklin High School will present its annual Veterans Day Program on Thursday, Nov. 10. The program begins at 9 a.m. Veterans and active military who would like to attend are encouraged to arrive by 8:45 a.m.

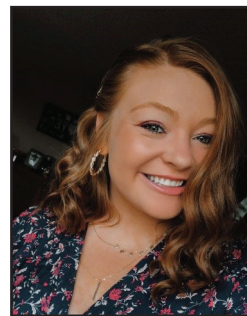


**Erin Truesdell, Principal, Schenck Elementary**, attended Ashland University (undergrad) and UC (graduate school). She and her husband have a 9-month-old daughter, Willa, plus a dog and cat. She loves working with teachers and families to create a safe, effective learning environment for students so that they can reach their full potential. I love

the close-knit community here in Franklin. This is the third district I have worked for, and the sense of community here cannot be beat. I love how many people return to Franklin to raise their families because of the great experience they had here growing up. It is truly something special to be a part of, and I am excited to get to know even more of the community at Schenck.



**Kim Irgens, assistant principal, FJHS**, has degrees from Miami University and Mary College, and her principal licensure from Indiana Wesleyan. This is Kim's 23rd year at FCS and she loves working in this close-knit community. Her family includes her husband and two daughters who attend Miamisburg HS. She loves interacting with and making a positive impact on Franklin students.



**Kelli Bush, Kindergarten, Hunter Elementary**, is a graduate of Miami University. She comes from an educational family — her mother and sister both teach at Anthony Wayne — and she's known since she was small that she wanted to be an educator. Kelli said, "I love seeing the 'lightbulb' moments and the positive impact I can have on students." She added, "I love the sense of community. I have

felt welcomed from the beginning and am super excited to be a Wildcat. I wanted to be a Wildcat because my family roots run deep in the community."

## 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

@PennyroyalElem

@AnthonyWayneEle

@Schenck\_Elem

@GerkeElementary

@AdminsFHS

@FJHSOH

@FCSWildcats (District)

# 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.



## Pennyroyal 6th graders: big responsibilities!

**Pennyroyal** sixth graders are doing their part to keep recyclable materials out of the landfill by volunteering as the building's recycling team. Twice/week, the team collects paper, water bottles, and other recyclables from classrooms. Working each hallway takes 7 to 8 minutes. Stephen Lake, who helps organize the project, emphasizes



that students are giving up their own time to serve the building. Pictured at left, from left, Lucy Bowman, Evelyn Macphereson, Takoda Morgan, and Hartly Elam (in the can).

Sixth graders comprise the building's student council. Five students are elected each fall in a democratic process that includes applying, securing references from teachers, and a campaign that includes writing an essay about their qualifications to be on Student Council. Pictured below, from left:

Rice, Evelyn Macphereson, Jackson Stevens, Mason Sausville, Tia Hance.

The Council is responsible for creating the schedule for raising and lowering the building's flag each day; the task rotates through all sixth graders during the year. Stephen Lake noted that students learn who can order a flag to be flown at half-mast in Ohio (the United States president or the governor).



Council's next big task is organizing Pennyroyal's Veterans Day observation, including decorating and numerous tasks that day. Pennyroyal will once again support Germantown-based Adam's Hope project, which supplies items

to troops deployed overseas. Collections will begin after Veterans Day. Learn about Adam's Hope at [www.adamshope.com](http://www.adamshope.com)

## Gerke happenings

**Gerke** students have had a busy first grading period.



- Several **Gerke** sixth grade students volunteered to stay after school to make soccer goals that kids can use during recess. (picture far left.)

- Local photographer Bob Hogan took pictures of all Gerke students and staff members that he'll use to create a collage to be displayed in the Gerke hallways. Watch the next newsletter for a picture.

- Sixth graders made maps of the Gerke playground and partnered with third grade students who read them.

# News from Franklin City Schools

(Continued from page 1)

district news and highlights of classroom, student, and staff activities.

**Increase dual enrollment options for high school students.** Franklin High School students may enroll in courses that give them both high school and college credit, allowing them to amass college credits at no cost to them. Families have saved \$2.6 million in tuition and students get a head start on their college degrees. Students have jumped at the opportunity and several graduates simultaneously earned both their high school diploma and their associate's degree.

New monies were also used to enhance building security, with safety vestibules added to six buildings; the district also hired a resource officer.

Sander noted, "None of these levy funds were used to build the new bus garage or to buy the Save-a-lot and Anderson Street properties; the properties were purchased with permanent improvement funds."

"Having one-to-one technology is one reason we didn't miss a beat during the COVID shutdown," said Sander. "Our students are at ease with and accustomed to using technology in the classroom, and they switched easily to remote learning during the closure."

Sander noted that these investments are reflected in the district's solid Ohio Department of Education report card score.



Construction is moving right along at the new high school site on E. 6th St! Blocks are being laid at a pace of 1500 to 1900 per day. The steel is scheduled to arrive in mid-October/early November. The high school is still on track to open in January 2024.

## Homecoming 2022



Congratulations to the members of the **Franklin High School 2022 Homecoming court!** Above, from left, Karys Kurdzeil and Douglas Dunn (sophomores); Queen Addie Mae Lloyd and King Caleb Powell; Kaylynn Flores and Atticus Curry (juniors); and Ainslee Lloyd and Trevor Deaton (freshmen).



## FJHS Remembers 9/11

**FJHS** students participated in multiple tribute lessons and projects to honor those that were lost 21 years ago and those that served and continue to serve.

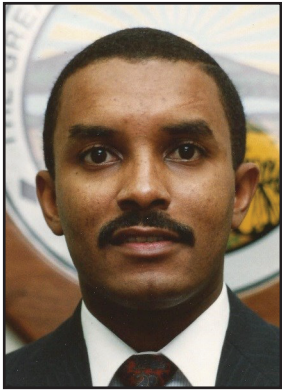
Bryley Wulff created the design idea representing the Pentagon; art students collaborated on the artwork

## Essay contest winners

**FJHS** 8th graders are set to travel to Washington, D.C. and other historic sites at the end of October. One stop is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, where students will observe a wreath-laying ceremony. The FJHS Social Studies Department held an essay contest to determine which students would actually participate in the ceremony. Essay winners were Paisley Hamm, Laila Black, Cooper Cronk, Aliyah Donisi, and Larkin McNeil (alternate winner). Watch the district's social media and future newsletters for pictures of the ceremony and DC trip.

# News from Franklin City Schools

## Outstanding Alum: Ron Edwards



Ron Edwards, a 1971 FHS graduate, attended Miami Middletown for one quarter. In January 1972, he volunteered for the draft and enlisted in the U.S. Army for two years to see the world. He and his brother Louis "Bubby" joined together. Edwards said, "Our first airplane flight was from Cincinnati to San Francisco and ultimately Fort Ord in Monterey. We completed our Basic Training and Advanced Training in May 1972, and I received orders for Vietnam and my brother was sent to Washington, D.C. to the "Old Guard" assigned

to the White House during the Nixon Administration."

Edwards arrived at Ton Son Nhut Airport in Vietnam in June 1972 and was subsequently assigned to an infantry unit at Long Binh performing outside jungle perimeter security sweeps and guard duty in the ammo dump. He said that after two months he was sent north to An Son, a base in the northern mountains, as a helicopter door gunner. "Our unit was responsible for taking South Vietnamese Army Infantry (ARVN) personnel to combat zones via U.S. helicopters. I was awarded the Air Medal. In mid-January 1973 the Paris Peace Treaty was signed and our unit began to send U.S. troops home. I arrived in Honolulu, Hawaii, and was sent directly to Chicago, and my final destination was the Greater Cincinnati Airport!"

He said, "On the second morning home, I was contacted by John Stratton, Editor of *The Franklin Chronicle* to do a story about my Vietnam experience, I was featured on the front page as the 'first Franklin soldier' who returned home from Vietnam after the Paris Peace Treaty had been signed. I am so very proud of my hometown of Franklin for receiving me in such an honorable manner — a very special hometown welcome for a Vietnam veteran."

After several weeks of R&R, Edwards reported to Fort Hood, Texas, where he was assigned to an aviation unit. "The very first day, as I was walking to the Post Exchange I heard military music, so I walked into the rehearsal hall of the 1st Cavalry Division Band, the official ceremonial Army Band. I asked about auditioning for a drummer position and was given several pieces of music and instructed to practice and contact the band when I was ready to audition. I looked at the music and informed the Sergeant that I was ready to audition immediately. I passed the audition and was assigned to the band the following morning. The band members wore black leather belts with brass 'US' buckles and brass boot spurs, and the traditional Calvary Stetson brimmed hat," said Edwards.

After completing his two-year draft commitment, Edwards attended Wilmington College on the GI Bill, graduating with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. He said, "I'm so proud to be the first Edwards family member to graduate from college. I received my master's degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Tiffin University and was awarded the Criminal Justice graduate student of the

year award."

Edwards describes his career in criminal justice as "incredible!" but unexpected; he initially wanted to be a teacher but changed his major during his first year at Wilmington after working at the Lebanon Correctional Institution. He notes, "The criminal justice system is an extraordinary field. It is a system that needs many devoted practitioners that want to advance the profession. It is an extraordinary science of working with various people from all walks of life. I believe in justice under the law and that everyone should be extended opportunities to help them recover from incarceration."

He noted that he worked diligently in the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (ODRC) and had outstanding mentorship from many people whose tutelage allowed him to grow professionally. He said, "I have received countless awards from state and national organizations throughout my career but being recognized in San Antonio, TX, in August 2000 as the North American Association of Wardens and Superintendents (NAAWS) 'Warden of the Year' was notably a special recognition to date. My entire family was in attendance as well as my two former Ohio ODRC Directors."

Edwards proudly notes that was inducted into the FHS Hall of Fame in July 2006.

He served two consecutive terms as President of the Ohio Correctional and Court Services Association with nearly 2000 members; he also served one-year missions and lived in Haiti and Iraq as Senior Adviser to the Director General in both Haiti and Iraq for the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Justice..

Edwards said a professional highlight has been to serve as an Adjunct for Ohio University and Sinclair Community College for over 15 years and being "appointed by Governor Bob Taft and serve as the Director of the Governor's Office of Veterans Affairs has been something unbelievable from a former *Franklin Chronicle* and *Middletown Journal* newspaper carrier."

He said, "I have the fondest memories of the Franklin education system. Mr. Paul Saul was my beloved music instructor at Central School and gave me drum lessons from 4th grade through 6th grade. I would be remiss not to thank Franklinite Phil Jackson for providing private drum lessons while I attended Hampton Bennett and FHS. Nearly all my elementary teachers I was extraordinarily fond of. My first-grade teacher Mrs. Wilson was exceptional and to this day I still have our 1960 class picture displayed on my bookshelf. Mrs. Libby Abele was an outstanding FHS educator who really had a tremendous impact on me. I loved being in the FHS Marching Band and going to all the football games and marching in parades was a great orientation for my 30 years in the U.S. Army band career.

"I credit any and all of my successes with the small-town values and ethics instilled by the wonderful Franklin educators I was luckily able to have. I was never exposed to any racism or negativity while in Franklin schools. I thank the *Franklin Chronicle* for instilling a wonderful work ethic that taught paper carriers the importance of being on time and treating customers with respect (even if they were two weeks behind in payments)."



# News from Franklin City Schools

## Around the district



### APUSH explores via hands-on lessons

“Hear ye, hear ye! Let it be known that all FHS Advanced Placement US History courses in Mrs. Wright’s class held a town hall meeting Friday, September 16 for the city of Boston. Patriots and Loyalists gathered together to discuss taxes, the incoming shipment of tea forced upon colonists by the King and his trade monopoly, and a treasonous pamphlet posted in the town square urging colonists to fight for their rights. Discussion was very lively, but voices from all sides were heard.”



**Anthony Wayne’s** St. Jude Outreach Project raised over \$1,700! Students participated in a 10-day Penny War, which raised over \$1,100. Students also collected over \$600 in donations. The top 3 collectors received a special pizza lunch. The outreach project culminated in a Fun Run where students enjoyed a run and other activities to celebrate a successful outreach project to St. Jude’s. As an additional incentive for meeting the outreach goal of \$1,000, students sprayed principal Jim Rhoades with silly string on the day of the fun run.



**Hunter** students dressed for Decade Day during Homecoming Week.



**Schenck** third graders recently went on their annual Franklin field trip. Students in Mrs. Deaton’s and Mrs. Rice’s classes walked around town, stopped at multiple location all while learning about the history of Franklin. Stops included The Harding Museum, The Log Post Office, the Franklin-Springboro Library, the Fire Department, as well as the many beautiful murals throughout town. They loved spending the day learning more about our town’s history!”

# News from Franklin City Schools

## Board honors students for achievement

At the Aug. 22 meeting, the Franklin Board of Education honored a number of students for achievement.

**Hunter** students Emma Burnett and Payton Faulkner were honored for having won every available elementary award including Student Achievement, Student of the Month, and the Presidential Award.

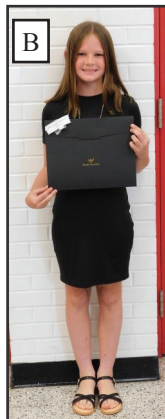
Students who were honored for earning 10 quarters of straight A's were: Mia Lee, Ava Milligan, Millicent Nau, Milo Nau, and Kamryn Parris (**Anthony Wayne**); Elizabeth Newman (**Hunter**); and Jazmyn Angel, Gracie Hillard, Jayden Prater, Addison Standifer, and Clori Young (**Schenck**). **Schenck** students Harlyn Childers and Tristan Hensley were honored for having won the Ronnie Charles Award and Eli Nardi Award, respectively.

Four **Franklin Junior High** students were honored for being Wildcats of the Year: Jack Berry, Laila Black, Payton Everitt, and Bry-

ant Ferguson. Gracie Clifford and Brady Harker were honored for having won the Archie Griffin award.

Eight **FHS** students were honored as members of the Principal's 30+ Club (earning a 30 on one or more parts of the ACT): Tyler Bond, Brenna Clifford, Emma Green, Sarah Kendrick, Maria Koss, Caleb Powell, Maddox Taulbee, and Evan Wolfinbarger.

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.



A = Left to right: Brenna Clifford, Emma Green, Maddox Taulbee, Caleb Powell, Evan Wolfinbarger, Maria Koss, Tyler Bond.

B = Harlyn Childers

C = Gracie Clifford, Laila Black, Brady Harker, Jack Berry, Bryant Ferguson.

D = Tristan Hensley, Addison Standifer, Ava Milligan, Jazmyn Angel, Jayden Prater, Gracie Hillard, Payton Faulkner, Emma Burnett, Elizabeth Newman.

## 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.

## It's A Wonderful Life: Dec. 2

The FHS Drama Department will present *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio* play on Friday, Dec. 2, 7 p.m. This show's cast will be FHS alumni and faculty.

If you are a theatre alum who'd like to participate, contact Jeff Sams at [jsams@franklincityschools.com](mailto:jsams@franklincityschools.com).

No audition is required. This show is a fundraiser for the Drama Department.

# News from Franklin City Schools

## Franklin City Schools scores well on state report cards

Franklin City Schools is extremely pleased with their rating on the state report card, just released by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) for the 2021-22 school year.

Franklin received 19 out of 25 on a new, star-based rating system that replaces the A through F letter grades used previously.

Schools are evaluated on Achievement, Progress, Gap Closing, Graduation, and Early Literacy, with 5 stars possible for each component. Three stars indicates state standards were met, four stars means standards were exceeded; and five stars note standards were significantly exceeded.

FCS earned a 5-star rating on Gap Closing and 4 stars on both Progress and Graduation Rate. The district missed earning 5 stars in the Progress component by .01.

ODE declined to give districts or buildings an overall rating, citing COVID's ongoing disruption to education.

Franklin received 19 out of 25 on a new, star-based rating system that replaces the A through F letter grades used previously.

"We firmly believe that our scores reflect our commitment to keeping students in the classroom during the pandemic for in-person learning," said district superintendent Dr. Mike Sander. "Nothing beats the instruction from a high quality teacher, and we have a stellar staff committed to student learning. The scores also show that our students are benefitting from all-day kindergarten, which we implemented in August 2015."

Overall, the Progress component considers scores by subject and test grade; Franklin significantly exceeded the state expectations in 4 of 18 areas and met the state expectations in 13 of 18 areas. Among Warren County districts, two earned 5 stars, two earned 4, and the rest earned 3, 2, or 1 star.

"I am so pleased the report reflects the hard work of our staff and students. In many ways last year posed more challenges than the first year of the pandemic," said assistant superintendent Robyn Donisi.

Of Ohio's 605 rated districts, 12 scored a perfect 25 and four scored a total of six stars. The average number of stars earned was 17.2; Franklin's 19 stars ranks it higher than 60% of Ohio districts.

Persons interested in knowing more about the state report cards can visit the ODE website, <https://education.ohio.gov/>



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