

Wildcat Community News

BANDS VISIT UNIVERSAL



Picture courtesy FHS Band parents. More on page 4.

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LEAN Six Sigma class improves FHS processes

FHS students are using Lean Six Sigma (LSS) to solve problems at the high school while simultaneously earning a 12-point Industry Credential toward graduation. If you're wondering: Yes, this is the same Lean Six Sigma used by large companies such as Amazon, Toyota, 3M, and General Electric.

In the semester-long, project-based class, student groups brainstorm problems facing the district and follow the structured 5-step LSS process. Following the steps—Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve, and Control—helps improve

processes, reduce waste, and reduce defects. These positive outcomes make LSS an asset to a range of industries including manufacturing, healthcare, IT, and finance.

FHS instructors Jennifer Dameron and Jessica Berry are Black-Belt Certified, which signifies deep knowledge of LSS principals. Earning their black belts required multiple hours of training plus the completion and approval of three projects. Certification levels are divided into belt colors corresponding to martial arts belts: Black belt is the highest, with green and yellow belts below it. Yellow Belt Certification counts as three points and Green Belt Certification counts as six points of the 12 points needed for the industry credential pathway towards graduation.

The students, who are learning leadership and problem-solving skills, have



SEE LSS CLASS, PAGE 2

FREE MEALS

FCS is participating in the Community Eligibility Provision program this 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 application or pay a fee. Students may purchase additional a la carte items; prices are posted on the district website under Food Service. CEP is part of the federally funded National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program.

FINE ARTS DATES

Miamisburg Art Show	Mar. 1-22*
FHS Choir Concert	Mar. 4
FJHS Spring Musical	Mar. 7-8
District Art Show	Apr. 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.

*FRANKLIN GALLERY NIGHT: MARCH 9, 1 TO 5 P.M.



STAY CONNECTED

Board of Education

Rachel Ruppert-Wolfinbarger, President

Andrew Fleming, Vice President

Ashley Blevins

Lori Raleigh

Chris Sizemore

Board meeting information is on the district website, 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/](https://www.facebook.com/FranklinCitySchools/)

[FranklinCitySchools/](https://www.facebook.com/FranklinCitySchools/)

LinkedIn: [Franklin City Schools](https://www.linkedin.com/company/franklin-city-schools)

X (formerly Twitter)

[@AdmnsFHS](https://twitter.com/AdmnsFHS)

[@FCSWildcats](https://twitter.com/FCSWildcats) (District)

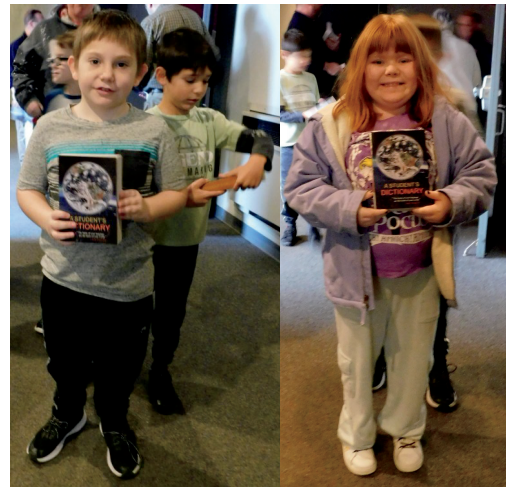
Website:



THIRD GRADERS RECEIVE DICTIONARIES

The Franklin-Carlisle Rotary Club continued its longtime partnership with FCS by giving every third grader a dictionary.

From the website of The Dictionary Project: "The goal of this program is to assist all students in becoming good writers, active readers, creative thinkers, and resourceful learners by providing them with their own personal dictionary. Educators see third grade as the dividing line between learning to read and reading to learn..." which is why third graders are the class that receives the books.



LSS CLASS continued

so far tackled four problems: Recycling; Lunch Line; Football Jersey Storage; and ROAR.

The football storage project had dramatic results: The time to find two jerseys with matching numbers fell from a baseline measure of one minute, 44 seconds to just 8 seconds, a 12-fold decrease! Jerseys were previously heaped in a bin. (Picture p. 1) The student team implemented these improvements: Sorting jerseys by color and numbers; hanging jerseys with same number on one hanger; and organizing jerseys in numerical order. Picture at right.

Another big success was the improvement in the high school's recycling collection. The project goal was to reduce the collection time with a baseline 33 minutes, 35 seconds to the goal of 24 minutes, 45 seconds. After implementing the improvements (dividing into upstairs and downstairs teams, and asking that recycling bins be put in the hall to reduce classroom interruptions), the final time was 20 minutes, 28 seconds, a nearly 40% reduction.

Student feedback on the class is overwhelmingly positive, with comments praising the non-traditional class setting, making a difference for others, improving the school, earning graduation points, and learning job skills. They did note that the class was a lot of work.



The purpose in offering the class is to provide an alternative graduation pathway for students with learning differences. The class both offers a pathway for graduation, allows students to earn highly recognized industry credentials that make students more desirable to employers for future employment, and gives them an opportunity to learn real world skills and applications.

Lean Six Sigma's history dates to the 1950s from Toyota's lean manufacturing process and Six Sigma, which the Motorola company started in 1986.

The district was awarded a competitive grant which covers 100% of the curriculum cost. The grant allows 20 free seats; fourteen students are enrolled this semester, six took the class first semester, and 12 took it last school year.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: AROUND THE DISTRICT



Board honors students for achievement

On Nov. 18, the Franklin Board of Education honored two **FJHS** 7th grade students (at left). Social Studies teachers partnered with the Franklin Area Historical Society to have students create a new logo and tagline for the Society. Two students won the contest: Bentley McClure (logo winner) and Jude Bethel (tagline winner). The Society introduced the new logo and tagline in December.

On Jan. 27, the Board honored 12 **FJHS** students for 10 quarters of straight A's: Audrey Benning, Jude Bethel, Gunner Blevins, Kennedy Carmack, Daniel Fedders, Ryder Francis, Harper Haberny, Lucette Hogan, Alayna Insko, Macie Keener, Baylor Lafferty, and Maddox Trent.

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.

DISTRICT PLACES LEVY ON MAY BALLOT

The district's Board of Education has taken steps to place an operating levy on the May 2025 ballot.

- This levy is for new operating money.
- The district hasn't received new operating money for 11 years—since 2014.
- Prior to that, the district last received new operating money in 2005 and 1995.
- The levy is for 5 years; the ballot language calls it an Emergency Levy.
- Taxes would first be collected in 2026.
- The issue is for 6.301 mills, which will raise \$4,519,297 annually.
- The cost will be \$220.54 per year for a home whose value is appraised at \$100,000.
- The cost will be \$479.71 per year for

the average home value in the Franklin City Schools area.

- More details are on the levy fact sheet, page 7.

Dr. Michael Sander, superintendent of schools, said the district promised that the 2014 levy would last 8 to 10 years before new money was needed. "The district has been excellent stewards of residents' tax dollars, and we've managed our finances to make the levy last 11 years. Unfortunately, at this time, we're looking at a negative cash balance for fiscal year 2028, and need additional revenues to close that gap."

He added, "We know how strongly our community supports our school district. In 2020, voters resoundingly passed a bond issue for new and renovated buildings,

and we are proud of our beautiful new high school that opened last March."

Sander noted, "It is never easy to ask our residents for additional monies, but unfortunately, Ohio's school funding system relies heavily on local taxpayers."

Those with questions may contact the superintendent's office at (937) 746-1699 or attend a Board of Education meeting. Public comments are at the beginning of the meeting. Guests are asked to state their name and address for the record.

Board Work Sessions are the second Monday of each month at 6 p.m. in the FJHS School Board Room and Regular Board Meetings are the fourth Monday of each month at 6 p.m. in the FHS Media Center.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: AROUND THE DISTRICT

FHS Students inducted into several honor societies: National, Spanish, and French



The **FHS** Chapter of the National Honor Society recently inducted 40 new members: Devon Allen, Trevor Banks, John Berry, Prince Busbus, Hunter Cantrell, Alexis Capozzi, Chun Lun Chang, Gracie Clifford, Addyson Darling, Gracie Dearth, Tyler Denison-Drake, Noah Emmett, Peyton Everitt, Ethan Fleming, Emma Francis, Jacob Furnas, Peyton Hall, Paisley Hamm, Owen Hudson-Bateson, Braydon Isaacs,

Ava Johnson, Julionnya Junaitis, Alexandria Kincaid, Westley Long, Levi Moyer, Madelyn Mullins, Haylee Nuss, Audrey O'Hara, Evelyn Ponder, Megan Rogers, Jacob Ross, Xavier Shepherd, Brianna Sprik, Aiden Standifer, Aubrey Stephens, Olivia Truesdell, Sarah Wallace, Raymond Weber, Jayla Wilbourn, and Nathaniel Witt.

These students join 30 seniors who

were inducted last year. NHS membership is one of the highest honors that high school students can achieve. NHS recognizes students for outstanding character, scholarship, leadership, and service. Students must have a minimum grade point average and are nominated by teachers

Advisors are Kelly Rolfes and Carrie-Anne Green. Pictures courtesy of parents and Franklin High School administration.



FHS recently inducted 19 students into the Esteman Mateus Williamson Chapter of the Spanish National Honor Society. 2024 inductees were Laila Black, Riley Bowman, Emily Carmack, Madison Carmack, Arianna Cortes, Cooper Cronk, Emma Francis, Paisley Hamm, Julionnya Junaitis, Christian Knipper, Elijah Koss, Graycen Lopez, Bella Manis, Madelyn Mullins, Delia Nau, Gregory Pearson, Maelynn Perkins, Mackenzie Prickett, and Kaitlyn Reed. SNHS is for high school students enrolled in Spanish III-V. It recognizes high achievement in Spanish courses to promote growing interest in Hispanic studies. Veronica Kiefaber, FHS Spanish instructor, is chapter organizer and advisor. Picture courtesy of FHS.



FHS's French National Honor Society inducted new members. FNHS has one 3-year member, two 2-year members, and nine first-year members: Tyler Denison-Drake, Noah Emmett, Pixie Fields, Ainslee Lloyd, Haylee Nuss, Lillian Snider, Brooklyn Steiner, Aubrey Stephens, Kendal Stephens, Trinity Walker, Sarah Wallace, and Bryley Wulff. Holly Crosley is the advisor.

FHS, CHS Bands visit Universal

The Franklin and Carlisle marching bands kicked off 2025 with a trip to Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida, Jan. 2-7.

Students enjoyed the park's amenities and entertained park guests with their musical talents during the "Universal Morning March." Pictures courtesy FHS Band parents.



OUTSTANDING ALUM: ROBYN DONISI

Robyn Donisi, FHS Class of 1978, is Franklin City Schools assistant superintendent, a role that includes curriculum, instruction, assessment, and federal programming. She received her undergraduate degree from Miami University and completed her graduate studies at University of Dayton.



Donisi grew up in the SR 123/Beal Rd. area and attended several elementary buildings: First, Kindergarten at Anthony Wayne, where her teacher was Helen Ward. Grades 1 through most of 6 were at Gerke, but with the opening of the “new” (4th St) high school in 1969, buildings were reconfigured and Donisi and other Gerke bus riders were shifted to Laura Farrell.

She said she had “so many” favorite teachers but singled out two: her first grade teacher Shirley Cook whom she described as “so sweet and kind,” and John Hensley, who Donisi said, “made chemistry so much fun.”

Donisi said she was quiet and didn’t want to stand out, so denies participating in any crazy pranks herself. She noted that in those days, 9th grade was in the “old” high school (where the new high school currently stands), and said that during math class, (on the second floor), the class found it hysterical that more than one boy jumped out of the window on a dare.

She said, “I was very involved in the music program. I was an accompanist for the various music groups including Special Mixed Choir and Triple Trio. I also sang in these groups. I had the privilege of having Jean Burns as my choir teacher. By the time I was in her class, she had been with Franklin for a long while and was highly regarded in the community. We performed concerts throughout the year at churches, nursing homes, and community events in addition to the winter and spring recitals. Once you auditioned and were appointed to these groups, lifelong friendships were

made. At the time, the high school had grades 10-12, so over three years the group forged strong bonds.”

While her family encouraged her to go into education, she took an indirect path to teaching because she wasn’t sure what she wanted to do. Donisi noted that opportunities for women were different in 1974-1978 than they are now. In those years,

hospitals had nursing programs, laboratory programs, and X-ray programs [which were] associate degrees awarded after completion and passage of the state tests. After graduating as a Certified Medical Laboratory Technician, she worked in a pharmaceutical lab for about 5 years. She married her high school sweetheart, Mark Donisi, started a family, then began to think about teaching math and science. After finishing her BS in Education, she began teaching in Franklin in 1993.

Donisi said, “I am surprised and so blessed when I reflect on where I ended up. I planned to teach math and science at the junior high level my entire career. I loved it! I like a challenge, so when opportunities presented themselves, I went for it. I am grateful to people like JoAnn Feltner, Kimberlee Gray, and Dr. Mike Sander for taking a chance on me as those opportunities opened.”

As she reflected on her career path, Donisi said, “Every position that I have held has been fulfilling and enjoyable. Regardless of any title I have held, I am a teacher. I have taught children and adults. It’s all been rewarding. Most people in education avoid their home district. Some feel awkward running into parents and students outside of the school. I love it! While getting my undergrad, teaching in Franklin was my dream. My family have been Wildcats since 1932, so I’m invested in my work and in this district. I’m so proud of my community and what we offer our students here in Franklin.” ~“Once a Wildcat”~

FHS West Lot Plans The district is pleased to announce that the City has approved the zoning change and the site plans for the former Save-a-Lot space and work will begin this spring, with an estimated late July completion date. The lot includes both multi-use green space and additional parking.

“We’re excited to have this area available for our students. The lot will provide much-needed practice spaces for our band and guard program, physical education classes, and other athletic activities,” said Mike Sander. “The design that SHP developed enhances our high school campus and makes this a beautiful addition to the entrance to the City.”



We appreciate the community’s patience during construction and look forward to seeing our students enjoy the new space. No general operating funds are being used for this project. It is being paid for with construction funds, which can’t be used for day-to-day expenses.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: AROUND THE DISTRICT



At **Hunter**, students in Mrs. Powell's second grade class recently enjoyed gingerbread-themed lessons. Students acted, played a shape game, used a gingerbread man to learn about shapes, and built gingerbread houses. Pictures courtesy of Hunter Elementary.



At **Schenck**, Mrs. Bush's class reviewed letters and sounds and used Play-Doh to form their shapes. Pictures courtesy of Schenck Elem.



At the **Franklin Intermediate Building**, Mrs. Sebesy's class learned to identify different types of rocks: igneous, sedimentary, and metaphoric. Earlier this year, students learned about decomposition and the role that worms play. Pictures courtesy of Franklin Intermediate.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Franklin City Schools has announced that Kindergarten registration for the 2025-2026 school year will begin April 14, 2025, for all students turning five on or before August 1, 2025.

Parents or guardians should complete the online pre-registration process beginning Monday, April 7. If you do not have a computer, one will be available at the Welcome Center (754 E. 4th Street, Franklin, OH 45005).

Once you have completed the online registration, you will be required to make an appointment beginning Monday, April 14.

The following documents are required for registration:

- Original Birth Certificate
- 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. The items listed are the only items that will be accepted.
- Custody Papers/Court Ordered Placement

Students will not be admitted until they have met all of the above requirements.

If you have any questions, please call Central Registration at 937-743-8602.

LEVY FACT SHEET

Franklin City Schools May 2025 Levy Facts

The district has placed an emergency levy for 6.301 mills on the ballot for May 2025.

Cost Breakdown:

- \$220.54 per \$100,000 home value per year.
- \$479.71 per year for the average home value in the Franklin City Schools.

If the May 2025 levy fails, FCS will need to eliminate \$1.2 million in spending for the 25-26 school year.

LEVY PASSAGE

LEVY FAILURE

With Levy Passage: FCS will KEEP all-day kindergarten.	If Levy Fails: FCS will not offer all-day kindergarten for the 25-26 school year.
With Levy Passage: FCS will KEEP low pay-to-participate fees. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$50 HS & JHS/sport. • \$100 individual student cap. • \$200 family cap. 	If Levy Fails: FCS will have to raise pay-to-participate fees for the 25-26 school year as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase HS to \$350/activity. • Increase JH to \$250/activity. • No individual/family cap. <i>Note: These fee rates would only apply for the 25-26 SY due to support from the general fund. After the 25-26 SY, fees will increase to actual costs, estimated at \$900 HS/activity; \$600 JH/activity; no individual or family cap.</i>
With Levy Passage: FCS will KEEP current transportation levels. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport all kindergarten through 2nd grade students. • Transport high school students. • 2-mile walking radius for grades 6-12. • 1.5-mile walking radius for grades 3-5. 	If Levy Fails: FCS will only provide state minimum busing for the 25-26 school year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No HS busing. • 2-mile walking radius for grades K-8.
With Levy Passage: FCS will KEEP school fees low for grades K-5. Current fees for K-5: \$30	If Levy Fails: FCS will charge actual costs for school fees for the 25-26 school year for grades K-5. Average for K-5 = \$50 <i>Note: This amount does not include the cost of math consumables (workbooks); fees TBD based on curriculum adoption.</i>
With Levy Passage: FCS will reduce class sizes by reinstating previously cut teaching positions.	If Levy Fails: FCS will continue to have larger class sizes due to staff reduction.
With Levy Passage: FCS will make improvements to the intermediate campus. (Examples may include additional classroom space and playground improvements.)	If Levy Fails: FCS will make minimal improvements to the intermediate campus.

Please note: If the May 2025 levy fails, additional cuts may be necessary beyond the 25-26 school year, based on Governor DeWine's recommendations and the State of Ohio's biennial budget.

Updated 2/24/25

OneOhio GRANT

FCS has received \$304,000 in grant funding to support efforts in helping fight addiction by providing evidence-based prevention support at the intermediate level. This expansion of the district's PATHS: Positive Actions to Help Success program, will provide services delivered by a trained counselor, and is designed to teach resiliency skills to students. Robyn Donisi, Assistant Superintendent, announced today.

"The grant from the OneOhio Recovery Foundation will go toward enhancing the current student wellness infrastructure within the district by instituting a school-based prevention program targeting students in grades 3-5," said Donisi. "PATHS has been extremely successful at the middle school level," said Donisi, and noted that results included a 42% decrease of in-school suspensions, a 31% decrease in out-of-school suspensions, and a drop in expulsion recommendations from 28 in 2022-23 to one in 2023-24. "Our students need earlier intervention to pave the way for a more successful middle school experience; we're grateful for the funding from the OneOhio Recovery Foundation that will allow us to expand to the younger grades."

The grant is part of an inaugural round of approximately \$51 million in funding made available by the Foundation as part of its mission to combat the opioid epidemic by supporting prevention, treatment, and recovery programs and services in our communities. The grant money was funded by 55 percent of settlement funds that Ohio is receiving from the pharmaceutical industry as a consequence of its role in the national opioid epidemic.

About the OneOhio Recovery Foundation

The OneOhio Recovery Foundation is a private, non-profit foundation created under the leadership of Governor Mike DeWine and Attorney General Dave Yost, and other state and local leaders, with the mission of advancing Ohio's addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts now and into the future.

The Foundation is governed by a 29-member board from across Ohio and is funded by 55 percent of settlement funds that Ohio is receiving from the pharmaceutical industry as a consequence of its role in the national opioid epidemic. Funds support local efforts to prevent and combat addiction and are also invested to support those efforts for the long term.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: AROUND THE DISTRICT



Gerke students recently put on a MUSE performance for students, staff, and families. Several classes created an original performance entitled "Super Story Builders," where the students showcased all they learned regarding character, setting, plot, problem, solution, fiction, non-fiction, beginning, middle, end, etc. The MUSE Artist-in-Residence Mr. Michael Lippert, the teachers, and especially the students worked hard on this impressive performance.

Per their website, Dayton-based MUSE Machine, "is a nationally celebrated arts education organization serving more than 76,800 students and their teachers each year throughout central and southwestern Ohio and Kentucky since 1982."



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