

News from Hunter

Basketball Jones

Thanks to the generosity of the PTO, Hunter students and staff welcomed Basketball Jones for an exciting assembly during first quarter. He shared a positive message with students about always trying your hardest, setting goals and working hard to achieve them, and never giving up. He used his own experiences, humor, impressive basketball tricks, and audience participation to relay his message, and it was thoroughly enjoyed by all. What a great way to start off the year!



an egg-drop experiment where they had to protect an egg from being dropped over 6 feet, and are learning to code. Students are really enjoying this hands-on learning with our new teacher Mr. Slone!



The Board of Education approved the creation of the STEAM class this spring.

Elementary students will have one semester of STEAM classes and one semester of a traditional art class.



Follow Hunter Elementary on Twitter @HunterElemNews for news, pictures, and updates.

STEAM Class offers Hands-On Learning

This year at Hunter, we are offering a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) class for the first time as part of our specials rotations.

Students are participating in class once a week and learning all about the engineering and design process through a variety of activities.

So far, classes have designed things with Legos, participated in



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Wildcat Community News

News from Franklin City Schools | November 2019

News from Gerke

Gerke sixth graders study plastic pollution

After studying plastics and their effect on the environment, Gerke sixth graders created videos, posters, and brochures that summed up ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

Topics explored included micro plastics, which are found in many personal hygiene products and are too small to be filtered out by water treatment plants; plastics that animals may mistake for food (and may cause them to ultimately starve to death); and ocean plastics that enter the food chain and may ultimately end up on our dinner plates.



PBIS reward tastes great!

Students who earned a first quarter PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports) reward were treated to ice cream sundaes courtesy of the Gerke PTO.

This is the third year of the PBIS program at Gerke.



Follow Gerke Elementary on Twitter @GerkeElementary for news, pictures, and updates.

Gerke highlights

Gerke students have had a busy first quarter. Highlights include:

Sixth graders visited COSI.

The Soil Lab visited fourth graders, and students did hands-on experiments.

Students did self-portraits in art class.

A new sensory hallway was installed in the primary wing where students can do a variety of physical activities (hopscotch, crab walk, wall push ups, and more).

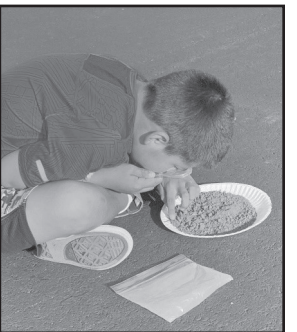
First graders said the Pledge of Allegiance outside around the flag-pole for Channel 2 news.

Students did book art using old, discarded books.

The high school's Children's Touring Company presented a program about friendship and belonging.

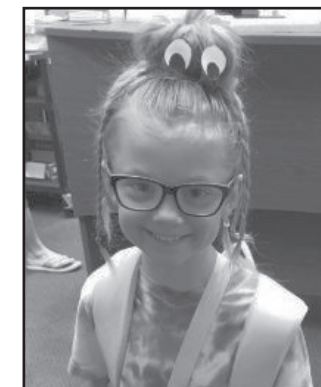
Miss Bell's class did a solar system project and coffee cart project to learn counting and producing.

The KIWANIS Club of Mason donated 129 Scholastic books to the Gerke library.



Homecoming Week brings out crazy fun!

Homecoming week at Franklin City Schools is a chance for students to dress up and let down (or put up!) their hair. Gerke students were excited to show off their creativity on Crazy Hair and Hat Day.



News from Schenck

Grade-level buddies learn school PBIS expectations together

Grade-level buddies at Schenck learn together throughout the school year, and classes started out the year pairing students together to review, role play, and discuss the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) expectations throughout the building. First grade students partnered with 4th grade, 2nd with 5th, and 3rd with 6th to practice what positive behavior looks like at Schenck using our GROW key words. Students enjoy working together, learning, and building friendships with each other.



1st and 4th graders learning about one another.

Several weeks into September, the teachers grouped the grade-level buddies again, allowing the students to participate together in science and connectedness team-building activities, while teachers reviewed student data and planned instruction.



6th and 3rd graders create and modify air-planes, then test and measure flight distances.

STEAM classes are big hit with students

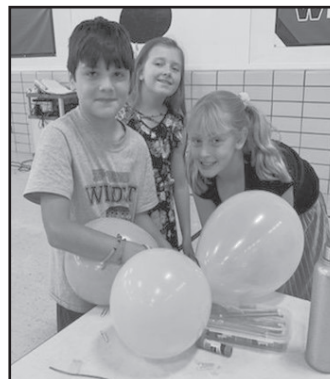
Students at the elementary buildings have added STEAM to their learning!

STEAM is an educational approach that uses Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics to guide student inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking skills.

Mr. Matt Slone travels throughout the district sharing his enthusiasm for learning with the students in grades 1 - 6 for this new course.

The photo shows students preparing for the "Great Egg Drop Challenge."

Elementary students will have one semester of STEAM classes and one semester of a traditional art class.



Schenck focuses on GROW & kindness

Schenck students and staff continue to focus on the acronym "GROW" which represents the idea that regardless of the task or location within the school building, everyone is G geared Up and Prepared, Respectful, has Ownership, and is Willing to always try to do their best.

There is also a very strong emphasis on **Kindness** this year. The first day of school kicked off with an assembly, reviewing the GROW expectations and discussing the importance of being kind in words and actions when interacting with one another.

Several Schenck teachers wore kindness-themed T-shirts during our Open House. Staff members were matching "Kind is the New Cool" shirts on the first day of school.



5th Grade teachers, Mrs. DeHart & Mrs. Bailey, with a reminder to Be Kind.



Schenck Staff - "Kind is the New COOL"

Social-Emotional Learning

The Ohio School Board adopted Social Emotional Standards in June 2019, and each FCS building is participating in lessons and activities to support this initiative. Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to:

- ◆ Understand and manage emotions
- ◆ Set and achieve positive goals
- ◆ Feel and show empathy for others
- ◆ Establish and maintain positive relationships
- ◆ Make responsible decisions

Developing these skills in our students is an important part of meeting the needs of the whole child. Strong SEL skills are linked to:

- ◆ Higher academic performance
- ◆ Lower discipline infractions
- ◆ Decreased emotional distress, stress, and depression
- ◆ Improved attitudes toward self, school, and others

News from FJHS

Students enjoy sights, create memories on annual DC trip

Franklin eighth graders made their annual trek to Washington, D.C. and Gettysburg. Stops included Arlington National Cemetery, National Cathedral, Jefferson Memorial, Washington Monument, American History Museum, many memorials on the National Mall, and the Capitol building (where students caught a glimpse of the current Speaker of the House).



At Gettysburg National Cemetery, four students who had won an essay contest laid a wreath at the Peace Monument in honor or in memory of all American soldiers killed or missing in action. Twenty-three eighth graders submitted essays focused on the 24 character strengths of FJHS's Thriving Learning Communities program. The topic was "Explain what you believe are the top three character strengths members of the U.S Armed forces must have and how they use them." The essay winners were Sophia Aldridge, Jacob Eyink, Trey Newsome, and Camryn Riddell.

ReDo Day brings high energy and learning

Franklin seventh graders recently participated in ReDo Day, a program sponsored by the Violence Free Coalition of Warren County.

The program was started in 2009 at Lebanon High School and has grown since then to be an annual event in many area districts.

The junior high program has a heavy focus on respect and the idea that "respect is an action."

Students learn more about themselves, their communication styles, being authentic, and the importance of friendship. The day includes talks, games, and small group sharing where students may tell their stories; in doing so, they learn that everyone has struggles and nobody has a perfect life.

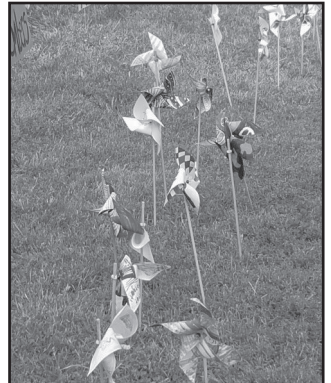
This year's program was supported in part by a Spark Grant from the McLane Foundation.



Pinwheels for Peace

FJHS art students commemorate 9/11 each year by creating Pinwheels for Peace, which are displayed on the building's front lawn.

Pinwheels for Peace is now an international movement that was started in 2005 by two art teachers in Florida as a way to help students express feelings about the world and their lives.



Students collaborate on ECC mural

Most people saw a plain window on the back of the Hampton Bennett ECC building and thought no more about it; a group of Franklin artists (teachers and students) saw a plain window and thought, "This is a blank canvas that needs to be filled."

In early summer, the first of two murals was completed. The mural, designed by FHS art instructor Mrs. Strong, has colors and shapes chosen to represent the schools and the community. The artwork was done by Mrs. Strong, Mrs. Bender, and Raegan Brandon, Alex Shockley, Lily Chilton, Ella Riddiough (all of whom had just completed 8th grade), Landon Dye (who had just completed 7th grade), and FHS junior Callie Imundo.



News from Anthony Wayne

COSI helps AW students explore ecology

The outdoors came inside to Anthony Wayne Elementary when COSI (Center of Science and Industry) brought its traveling program, Exploring Ecology, on Friday, August 31. The all-day program, designed to spark interest in science and to build inquiry skills, helped students explore how ecosystems are connected.

An all-school interactive assembly introduced students to ecology, habitats, ecosystems, and adaptations. Students traveled to four habitats found in the Midwest and learned how animals and plants survive in each. Students later visited in small groups to do hands-on activities around investigating an ecosystem, examining tree rings, and exploring animal adaptations.

COSI has become an annual event at Anthony Wayne, and principal Jim Rhoades noted that "Our students and staff are so



fortunate to have incredible support from parents and community members."

The event requires a number of volunteers to make the hands-on activities work, and they include parents, former high school students, members of local churches, police officers, and firefighters.

Rhoades added, "Volunteers are the backbone of this event for our students and, because of this wonderful support, COSI is always an exceptional learning experience for our students. We couldn't have COSI here without them."

The COSI visit was funded through a special grant from the McLane Foundation written by first grade teacher Mrs. PJ Bush, with additional funding provided by the Anthony Wayne PTO.



Anthony Wayne's first quarter highlights

Anthony Wayne students have had a busy first quarter:

Anthony Wayne ended the quarter with a chili cook-off. Congrats to winner April Davidson!

COSI on Wheels (story above) offered hands-on learning about ecology.

Students participated in a St. Jude Math-a-thon service learning project.

The National Theater for Children entertained and educated AW students with a show about energy conservation.

Second graders visited the Cincinnati Zoo in preparation for projects about animals.

Homecoming Week offered students a chance to dress up each day (pajama day, Wildcat Crazy Day, jersey day, etc.) for a small donation; proceeds were donated to St. Jude Children's Hospital



Mrs. Parker's class designed their own community

to help fight childhood cancer! Students raised \$130.

The FHS Children's Touring Company visited and shared a message about friendship.

Second graders in Mrs. Parker's class designed a community to learn about the teamwork it takes to keep the community functioning.

Sixth graders began DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) classes.

The Warren County Combined Health District led sixth graders in a science project to solve a mystery about the spread of cholera in the 1800s.

Family math night allowed students and families to learn about math skills together, and to share in food and fun provided by The Vineyard Community Church.

Students began the year by learning how to make Anthony Wayne 'The Place To Be'...Be Safe, Responsible, and Respectful.



CTC's story was a message about friendship.

Follow Anthony Wayne on Twitter @AnthonyWayneEle for news, pictures, and updates.

News from the Board and ECC

Outstanding Alumni: Hall of Fame inducts, honors grads

John Retherford (Class of '62), Tim Gabbard ('73), Tim Crowe ('81), Don Goss ('91), and Suzanne Arnold Gehrke ('95) were inducted into the FHS Hall of Fame in September. Additionally, special recognition was given to the entire 1974 Franklin gymnastics team, the first Wildcat team to win a state championship.

Retherford has been a life-long Wildcat who not only participated in Franklin athletics while in high school, he also became a coach of a variety of varsity sports teams — girls basketball, girls soccer, and golf — during his 30 years as a teacher in the Franklin school district. His teams won Mid-Miami League (MML) championships in each of the three varsity sports.

Gabbard was recently named the girls' basketball coach of the year by the Ohio High School Coaches' Association. Last winter, he led the Waynesville girls to an undefeated regular season and a state Division III runner-up finish. This season marks the second time Gabbard has been honored as a state-wide coach of the year, and also the second time he led a Waynesville team to the state final four. After playing varsity football for the Wildcats, he also played at Wilmington College. He's been at Waynesville since 1979 where, in addition to girls' basketball coach, he has served as athletic director and varsity football coach.

Crowe was a three-year starter on the Wildcat basketball team before his graduation in 1981, playing alongside his best friend, Mark Kennard. For two of those seasons Franklin won the MML championship, with Crowe named all-league first team as a senior. After high school, he played four years at Muskingum College, then returned to Franklin, where he's coached basketball in one

position or another for nearly 30 years. He has also served as a teacher and principal in the district for many of those years.

Goss is now the Director and Associate Professor at the Keller Army Community Hospital located at West Point, NY. After high school, where he played football for three years and wrestled for four years, serving as co-captain on both teams as a senior, he earned his undergraduate degree in Exercise Physiology from Denison University. After that he earned a doctorate from Baylor University in Physical Therapy and a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina in Human Movement Science. He has served in the United States Army since 1995 in a number of high-ranking, professional capacities. He credits his former teachers and coaches at Franklin for preparing him for his journey ahead.

Dr. Gehrke is a cardiologist at Saint Luke's Mid America Heart Institute in Kansas City, MO, and an associate professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She says she decided to become a doctor in the fifth grade when Mrs. Fugate, her teacher in Franklin, brought a chicken heart to school one day and invited her to take it home to dissect it. After earning 11 varsity letters with the Lady Cats soccer, girls basketball, and softball teams and being class valedictorian, Dr. Gehrke earned degrees from The Ohio State University and the OSU School of Medicine. She also credits her Franklin teachers and coaches for pushing her to be better.

The 1974 Wildcat gymnastics team included Paul Arnold, Dave Coffey, Jerry Dobbins, Eldon Hoskins, Denny Huff, Irv Kenerly, Jack Lucas, Bobby McCloud, Terry Middleton, Melvin Morton, Dave Perry, Virgil Powell, Steve Shannon, Jim Thomas, and Dave Wolf. The coach was Don Sellman.

Grants provide materials to enrich learning

The preschool has received three grants to improve and enhance student learning.

Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities granted \$4342.50 for a Toss 'n' Score, a piece of preschool playground equipment. WCDD also granted funds for three iPads, protective cases, and two specific apps for use by speech and language pathologists at the ECC.

The Greater Cincinnati Foundation granted \$999 for a nature-themed sensory walk that will be placed in one of the ECC's hallways. Per the ECC, "sensory walks serve myriad purposes such as improving core strength, improving motor skills, and helping to regulate emotions." The walk will allow students to have fun while strengthening connections in the brain. This grant was the first one received from the Greater Cincinnati Foundation; they had expressed interest in funding "creative and interesting projects."

The Middletown Community Foundation granted \$633.30 for toys designed to promote acceptance of cultural diversity and appreciation for peoples' differences and similarities and toys to improve fine motor skills. This was a first-time grant from MCF.

Welcome, Class of 2032!

The ECC kindergarten classes welcomed 213 students to the Class of 2032.

During the first weeks of school, students learned new routines, including the "Wildcat Way" to be safe in the halls, playground, classrooms, and cafeteria. Students began to learn to use a computer mouse and non-touchscreen computer.

They have also begun to learn about the PBIS pledge around Respect, Responsibility, and Safety. Students can be caught walking down the hallways with "Hips and Lips" to show good hallway behavior.



Follow Franklin City Schools on Twitter at @FCSWildcats

News from Pennyroyal

Class goes to the dogs; dogs go to the class

Jason Medaugh's class went to the dogs recently. In a unit about dogs, they learned first hand about service dogs, enjoying visits from two service dogs who currently assist Franklin students.

Chloe Hinkle attends Franklin Junior High, accompanied by her service dog Sugar. Chloe, a diabetic, depends on her service dog to help her regulate her blood sugar.

Emmeline Wolf, a former Pennyroyal student, now attends Franklin Junior High with her service dog Sif. Sif, a seizure dog, can sense when Emmeline is about to have a seizure, and helps to calm her until she feels better. Sif and Emmeline demonstrated how Sif sits on Emmeline's lap to calm her.

Sif, who underwent many months of training, came from 4 Paws for Ability, at a cost of \$15,000. Raising money to acquire Sif was a community project, and included funds raised by Pennyroyal's Turkey Trot. Emmeline's mother, Michelle, explained that Sif helps Emmeline to be independent and to be her best friend.

She noted that Sif attends classes with Emmeline, riding the elevator and going to lunch with her; the only junior high class that is a problem for Sif is gym class — when the students play with balls, Sif finds them just too tempting and wants to play, too!

An important lesson that students learned is that service dogs are working dogs and should not be distracted by being petted.



The class also had a visit from the Warren County Humane Association. Director JoAnn Hurley and her son Eli shared the Association's mission to take in homeless animals and to find them safe, loving homes. She explained that adopting a pet is a commitment and that pets should be treated as any other family member. Hurley shared a recent situation in which the association assisted in a case of animal hoarding, when an owner became overwhelmed with more than 100 poodles.

The class had read about service projects and decided to help the Association; they collected 445 pet food items including food, milk bones, and peanut butter. The class is pictured below with some of the items and Ms. Hurley.



Sixth Graders POWER UP

Students were asked to write down mean things that people had said to them, then crumple the sheets of paper and toss them in box. The facilitator pulled the sheets from the box and smoothed them, reading various insults participants had endured on topics such as appearance, weight, intelligence, and financial situation. When she asked students if the wrinkles would ever come out of the papers, they said no. She pointed out that just as crumpling paper can't be undone, saying mean things can't be undone either.

This was just one of the exercises that Pennyroyal sixth grade students participated in during POWER UP training. The program, run by Lisa Boehm, is new to Franklin this year, rolling out to most county districts after being piloted in Little Miami. All Franklin sixth graders are participating in POWER UP this school year.

Ms. Boehm, a retired Springboro police officer, developed the program, which stands for Positive Outcomes When Expecting Respect. It's part of the Violence Free Coalition of Warren County, under the umbrella of the Abuse Rape and Crisis Shelter of Warren County.

The three sessions covered three broad topics:

- Communication and Peer Relationships
- Bullying
- Relationships: Healthy and Abusive

Through discussion and exercises, students explored topics such as boundaries, trust, types of bullying, and how to help if you are a bystander to bullying.

Students participated in an exercise about gossip, quickly learning how difficult it is to accurately repeat a complicated story about other people, and how misunderstandings and hurt feelings can easily arise. They also stood in a long line and played a game of "telephone" and were reminded how quickly a message can be lost when passed from one person to the next.

Ms. Boehm asked students to share the qualities of a good friend then raised the topic of "frenemies" and how to walk away from a friendship that isn't working.

Sixth grade teacher Stephen Lake reminded students that Pennyroyal principal Jeremy Ward had shared the word "advocate" and that it was a perfect word for this training session — that students should advocate for themselves.



Follow Pennyroyal Elementary on Twitter @PennyroyalElem for news, pictures, and updates.
Pennyroyal PTO has its own Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/PennyroyalPTOFranklin/

News from Franklin High School

Board honors students with high ACT scores

At its September 23 meeting, the Franklin Board of Education honored a number of students for academic achievement.

Eighteen high school students were honored for scoring a 30 or higher on the ACT, either in one or more subject areas or as a composite score: Elyce Aldridge, Desmond Brown, Will Emrick, Teddyreya Gast, Devant Geter, Kaylee Harris, Zach Johnson, Aiden Kinser, Drew Lawson, Kelsea Madden, Chloe Miller, Alison Perez, Madison Powell, Kristopher Ruthrauff, Chase Swain, Zachary Wenzel, Braden Woods, and Athena Yasbeck.

Franklin established the Student Achievement Award in January 2001 to honor students who have demonstrated exceptional achievement in academics, community service, or character. Hundreds of students have been honored since the award's inception. The student achievement committee meets monthly to evaluate nominations, which can be submitted by anyone.



Front row, from left: Madison Powell, Kaylee Harris, Zach Johnson. Back row: Aiden Kinser, Braden Woods, Elyce Aldridge, Athena Yasbeck, Kelsea Madden, Desmond Brown, Drew Lawson.

Instructor tapped for "Emerging Teacher" Award

Lucas George, a second-year FHS social studies teacher, has been named the "Emerging Teacher of the Year" by the Ohio Council for the Social Studies (OCSS). He received this award at the organization's annual conference on Oct. 15. Nominees must be Social Studies educators currently employed as either a student teacher or a classroom teacher within the first three years of their teaching career.

George teaches Modern World Studies, US History, and AP US History. He received his bachelor's degree from Wittenberg and is pursuing his Master's in American History and Government.

When asked about his teaching style, he said, "My classroom is one that I hope is full of love, full of laughs, and full of learning. My students and I work very hard every day to make sure that this is accomplished."

George added that, "We have daily conversations on respect and motivation in the classroom. My students truly push me to be a better teacher as I ask them to continue to improve as students. We hold each other accountable and it leads to a classroom that is student-centered and collaborative."

George praised his fellow staff members and his students, "I would just add again that my students at Franklin High School have helped me grow immensely as a teacher since I have been here. Every day, I feel as though my classroom is getting better and better! I also have an amazing support system of colleagues and administration at FHS. They pick me up when I am down, push me to be a better educator and they inspire me to work to be the best I can be."

He added, "I am proud to be a part of such an amazing Franklin community and am honored to call myself a Wildcat!"

Per the OCSS website, the award honors "student teachers or teachers within the first three years of teaching who demonstrate outstanding dedication, skill, intelligence, and caring in the practice of their art."

Earlier this year, George was selected as Ohio's only 2019 recipient of a James Madison Fellowship, and one of only 52 in the country.

2019 Homecoming Court

Seniors, fourth row: Samantha Earnhart, Dylan Dirks, Lydia Elam, Logan Willis, Julie Savage, Ryan Russell, Kyra Napier

Juniors third row: Holden Price, Lynnsey Garcia, Jayden Jackson, Holly Thornton, Caleb Barnhart, Kennedy Jones

Sophomores, second row: Isaiah Bales, Maren Gilley, Drew Isaacs, Maggie Richards, Hudson Black, Kaity Dalton

Freshmen, first row: Parker Deaton, Lauren Earnhart, Andrew Emerick, Brooke Oliver, Aiden Creech, Jincy Paletta

Not pictured: Zach Johnson

Homecoming King: Zach Johnson

Homecoming Queen: Lydia Elam



Follow Franklin High School on Twitter @AdminsFHS for news and updates.