

## From the Director

Welcome to our 4th year! I am so excited for the 2017-18 school year. This year our first class of seniors graduate. To loosely paraphrase the immortal words of Neil Armstrong, this is one giant step for our seniors, and one giant step for our school! We also welcome our first class of 5th grade. They will bring a whole new sparkle to our school community.

This is our biggest year of growth since we opened. We look forward to welcoming about 160 new students (and families) this year! With our largest class of freshmen, our high school is growing to 250 students. With all this growth, we are transitioning to a school leadership structure that will allow each division (middle and high school) to retain the small, close-knit feeling we all value. I am confident that our new principals, Mary Ann Jaben and Walter Plotkin, will help us take our school to the next level.

Over the summer, we completed our new buildings, adding 11 new classrooms and offices. We've extended our road and added more parking for staff and students. These past few weeks we've been busy polishing up - waxing floors, making repairs, getting new furniture, ordering supplies - getting ready to welcome everyone to campus! Be sure to check the "[news](#)" on our website for updates, including our [new traffic flow](#) for afternoon pick up!

We've also updated our dress code. The revised dress code maintains our intent for students to dress appropriately for the occasion, whatever the school day may bring. As a school, we want students, teachers, and leaders focusing on learning, not on the difference of an inch or two of fabric. Please take a moment to review the dress code, and have discussions with your student about what is appropriate. We appreciate your support in honoring the intention of our dress code.

Those of us who work on campus over the summer appreciate the quiet time, which allows us to dig in, think deeply, reflect, and plan for the coming year. But there is such a special energy as faculty and students return and bring the school back to life. We can't wait to welcome you all!

Warmly,

## Important Dates

### August 21

School Office Closed (solar eclipse - get out and see it!)

### August 22, 3 - 4:30 pm

10th - 12th New Student Orientation

### August 23

First Day of School! 2:00/2:10 Release

### August 24, 3:30 pm

Athletics & Band Meetings

### Sept 4

Labor Day - NO SCHOOL

### Sept 7, 5:30 - 8:00 pm

MS Back to School Night

### Sept 11, 8:30 - 10:30 am

Senior Portraits

### Sept 12, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Board Meeting

### Sept 14, 5:30 - 8:00 pm

HS Back to School Night

### Sept 25 - 27

8th Grade Tremont Trip

### Sept 27

NO SCHOOL - Teacher PD Day

Michelle Vruwink, Executive Director

## Volunteer Corner

Parent and community involvement is essential to the ongoing success of any school community. At Franklin, we know that without the support of our families, we cannot be the school we want to be! We ask our families to share their time and talents, with each family contributing four hours (two hour for one-parent households) of volunteer support per month.

Our hope is that you will find volunteering to be rewarding! Getting involved is a great way to meet other members of our school community, and to see first hand what is happening at Franklin. We have many levels of volunteering, from helping plant or weed gardens, to serving on the Board of Directors.

**Currently, we are seeking new Board members.** As the Board focuses on developing a permanent facility, we are seeking new Board members with experience or interest in finance and fundraising (capital campaign). We also seek Board members with strong connections to the community, and individuals with organizational leadership capacity. Please contact me ([mvruwink@thefsi.us](mailto:mvruwink@thefsi.us)) if you would like to know more what it means to be a member of our Board of Directors.

This year, we are excited to create [Volunteer Crews](#), as a way to organize and support our parent volunteers. The following Crews are in formation:

- Gardening & Grounds Crew
- Marketing & Outreach Crew
- Fundraising Crew
- Teacher Support Crew
- Community Events Crew

We are seeking brave Crew Captains, and plenty of Crew members! Please complete [this survey](#) to let us know how you would like to get involved, and thank you!

## Thunder Bolts! Athletics

Fall Sports Meeting: 3:30 pm August 24

For returning students, our new Athletic Director needs no introduction! For everyone new to Franklin, we are pleased to introduce our new AD, Coach Kim Burke. Coach Burke will continue as our HS PE teacher, while taking charge of our growing athletics program. She brings great coaching experience and a deep appreciation for how our athletics program supports the mission of our school.

There is a fall sports meeting on Thursday, August 24, immediately after school. Athletes - remember to get your physicals & waivers in!

## Band Program

Band Parent Meeting, 3:30 pm Aug 24

Our new band program gets underway the 2nd week of school (Aug 28 - Sept 1). Contact [Chris Wilson](#) with any questions.

Monday 3:30-4:30 Middle School Beginners

Tuesday 3:30-4:30 Middle School Intermediate

Wednesday 2:00-3:00 High School Concert Band (All High School Kids)

Thursday 3:30-4:30 Middle School Beginners

Friday 3:30-4:30 Middle School Intermediate

## Don't Forget!

It's the start of the school year, and that always means paperwork! Please remember the following:

- Sports physicals (if playing fall sports) & waiver!
- [Back to School Paperwork](#) for all returning parents (download the pdf document, fill in, save, and return the file to Erinn Otten - [eotten@thefsi.us](mailto:eotten@thefsi.us))
- Student Driver Parking Pass Application
- Immunization Records (esp. 7th grade)
- Book & Planner Fees ([pay online here](#))
- Extra school supplies! We especially appreciate kleenex, index cards, printer paper, dry erase markers (low odor), sticky notes

## Who do I go to when....

Whether you are new or returning to Franklin, we know you will have questions, and we want to help you find the best person to answer them, quickly and efficiently. We hope this little guide will help you navigate!

***I have a question about my child's grade, an assignment, or something specific to one class:***

Start with your child - what do they know? Then, the classroom teacher

***I'm worried about my child's overall progress, or progress in multiple classes:*** Your child's Crew advisor can help coordinate a team response or meeting

***My child seems anxious, sad, or unhappy:*** [Lindsey Foster](#) is our middle school counselor, and [Katherine Becker](#) is our high school counselor

***I think my child is being bullied, or other behavior/discipline concerns:*** [Walter Plotkin](#), Middle School Principal or [Mary Ann Jaben](#), High School Principal

***My child will miss school:*** For short-term absences (illness, doctor's appointments, etc), send an email to [attendance@thefsi.us](mailto:attendance@thefsi.us), or bring a written note to the front office. Educational leave requests require prior approval from the Executive Director, [Michelle Vruwink](#).

***I've contacted a teacher, but the problem isn't resolved:*** Your child's Principal

***I think my child may need special education services or accommodations:*** [Donnie Stahlke](#), Director of Special Services

***My child has an IEP, and I have questions about the services provided:*** Your child's Exceptional Children teacher is your first contact:

- Grades 5 - 6: [Tammy Leahy](#)
- Grades 7 - 8: [Meagan Barnhard](#)
- Grade 9: [Amy Hinsley](#)
- Grade 10: [Serena Campbell](#)
- Grades 11 -12: [Charlie Talley](#)

***I have questions about sports:*** [Kim Burke](#), Athletic Director

***I want to know more about after or before-school services:*** [Sheri Cross](#), Beyond the Bell Coordinator

***I want to know more about your band program:*** [Chris Wilson](#), Band Director

***I have questions about your school bus:*** [Beth Rhatigan](#), Director of Operations

***I have high level concerns or questions about the school, such as a problem that hasn't been resolved through my principal, an immediate school safety concern, or more general questions about the school's philosophy, approach, or plans for the future:*** [Michelle Vruwink](#), Executive Director

## Classroom Teachers for 2017-2018

### 5th Grade

Katie Lapinski, ELA & Social Studies: [klapinski@thefsi.us](mailto:klapinski@thefsi.us)

Peggy McKay, Science & Math: [pmckay@thefsi.us](mailto:pmckay@thefsi.us)

### 6th Grade

Tony Freeman, ELA & Social Studies: [tfreeman@thefsi.us](mailto:tfreeman@thefsi.us)

Bryan Clendenin, Social Studies: [bclendenin@thefsi.us](mailto:bclendenin@thefsi.us)

Charlie Keller, Math: [ckeller@thefsi.us](mailto:ckeller@thefsi.us)

Gina Lappe, Science & Social Studies: [glappe@thefsi.us](mailto:glappe@thefsi.us)

### 7th Grade

Ethan Burns, ELA: [eburns@thefsi.us](mailto:eburns@thefsi.us)

Bryan Clendenin, Social Studies: [bclendenin@thefsi.us](mailto:bclendenin@thefsi.us)

Judy Carhart, Math: [jcarhart@thefsi.us](mailto:jcarhart@thefsi.us)

Nick Liu, Science: [nliu@thefsi.us](mailto:nliu@thefsi.us)

### 8th Grade

Michael Holm, ELA: [mholm@thefsi.us](mailto:mholm@thefsi.us)

Katie Dulaney, Social Studies: [kdulaney@thefsi.us](mailto:kdulaney@thefsi.us)

Peggy McKay, Math: [pmckay@thefsi.us](mailto:pmckay@thefsi.us)

Tracy Lynn, Science: [tlynn@thefsi.us](mailto:tlynn@thefsi.us)

### 9th Grade

Drew Fowler, ELA: [dfowler@thefsi.us](mailto:dfowler@thefsi.us)

Matt Reynolds, World History: [mreynolds@thefsi.us](mailto:mreynolds@thefsi.us)

Teshale Byan, Math 1: [tbyan@thefsi.us](mailto:tbyan@thefsi.us)

Jill Padfield, Math 2: [jpadfield@thefsi.us](mailto:jpadfield@thefsi.us)

Taylor Jenkins, Foundations Math 1: [tjenkins@thefsi.us](mailto:tjenkins@thefsi.us)

Chris DeFiore, Earth Science: [cdefiore@thefsi.us](mailto:cdefiore@thefsi.us)

### 10th Grade

Carly Connor, ELA: [cconnor@thefsi.us](mailto:cconnor@thefsi.us)

Jerry Lubos, World History: [jlubos@thefsi.us](mailto:jlubos@thefsi.us)

Jill Padfield, Math 2: [jpadfield@thefsi.us](mailto:jpadfield@thefsi.us)

Taylor Jenkins, Math 3: [tjenkins@thefsi.us](mailto:tjenkins@thefsi.us)

S. Gold, Biology: [sgold@thefsi.us](mailto:sgold@thefsi.us)

11th Grade

Katie Washburn, English III & AP Lang: [kwashburn@thefsi.us](mailto:kwashburn@thefsi.us)  
Renee Hopkins, English III & AP Lang long-term sub: [rhopkins@thefsi.us](mailto:rhopkins@thefsi.us)  
Meghan Moore-Hubbard, American History I: [mmoorehubbard@thefsi.us](mailto:mmoorehubbard@thefsi.us)  
Taylor Jenkins, Math 3: [tjenkins@thefsi.us](mailto:tjenkins@thefsi.us)  
Teshale Byan, PreCalc: [tbyan@thefsi.us](mailto:tbyan@thefsi.us)  
Melissa Parton, Chemistry: [mparton@thefsi.us](mailto:mparton@thefsi.us)

12th Grade

Laura Bubacz, English IV & AP Lit: [lbubacz@thefsi.us](mailto:lbubacz@thefsi.us)  
Meghan Moore-Hubbard, American History II: [mmoorehubbard@thefsi.us](mailto:mmoorehubbard@thefsi.us)  
Teshale Byan, PreCalc: [tbyan@thefsi.us](mailto:tbyan@thefsi.us)  
Jill Padfield, Discrete Math: [jpadfield@thefsi.us](mailto:jpadfield@thefsi.us)  
Melissa Parton, Physics & Physical Science: [mparton@thefsi.us](mailto:mparton@thefsi.us)

Elective Teachers:

MS PE: Kendra Orians, [korians@thefsi.us](mailto:korians@thefsi.us)  
HS PE: Kimberly Burke, [kburke@thefsi.us](mailto:kburke@thefsi.us)  
HS Art: Kati Robbins, [krobbins@thefsi.us](mailto:krobbins@thefsi.us)  
MS Art: Diane Strazzer, [dstrazzer@thefsi.us](mailto:dstrazzer@thefsi.us)  
HS Art: Kati Robbins, [krobbins@thefsi.us](mailto:krobbins@thefsi.us)  
MS Lit Lab: Hannah Allen, [hallen@thefsi.us](mailto:hallen@thefsi.us)  
MS Tech: Matt Mikulski, [mmikulski@thefsi.us](mailto:mmikulski@thefsi.us)  
MS Guidance (and counselor): Lindsey Foster, [lfoster@thefsi.us](mailto:lfoster@thefsi.us)  
Music: Cary Cooper, [ccooper@thefsi.us](mailto:ccooper@thefsi.us)  
Theatre: Nicole Phifer-Huett, [nphiferhuett@thefsi.us](mailto:nphiferhuett@thefsi.us)  
French: Stephanie Hellert, [shellert@thefsi.us](mailto:shellert@thefsi.us)  
Spanish I & II: Heather Kabat, [hkabat@thefsi.us](mailto:hkabat@thefsi.us)  
Spanish II, III, & IV: Alfredo Herrero Debon, [aherrerodebon@thefsi.us](mailto:aherrerodebon@thefsi.us)  
ASL: Desiree Delbert, [ddelbert@thefsi.us](mailto:ddelbert@thefsi.us)