



New stairs installed by senior Bracey Fountain

From the Director - Stars & Stairs

For many of us, the end of the year is a time of reflection. At FSI, when we reflect on strengths and areas for growth, we often refer to "stars" and "stairs". You may have heard your students, particularly in middle school, talking about their stars and stairs!

I chose the photo above as both a star and stairs. Senior Bracey Fountain, with the help of some friends, installed these stairs for us to complete his qualification as an Eagle Scout. It was a project that required some serious planning, persistence, collaboration, and hard work! All December, we have lots of "stars" to celebrate - theatre performances, band and chorus concerts - all examples of hard work, persistence, and collaboration.

The photo also literally references stairs - those areas of growth on which we are focused. Each year, we engage in ongoing assessment of how we are doing as a school. We look at academic data, feedback from student, faculty, and parent surveys, and data such

Important Dates

Wed, Dec 5 12:25/1:00 Release

-7 pm: Winter Concert @ The Orange Peel

Thurs, Dec 6

-5:30 pm: Info Session for Prospective Families

-6:30 pm: Parent Workshop: Teens, Tech, & Sexuality

Tues, Dec 11

-6:00 pm: Board of Directors

-6:30 pm: Winter Band Concert @ Bent Creek Baptist

Wed, Dec 12 12:25/1:00 Release

-1:00 - 4:00 Attendance Make Up Session

Thurs, Dec 13

-7 pm: HS Theatre Performance "Alice" @ Bent Creek Baptist

Fri, Dec 14

-7 pm: HS Theatre Performance "Alice" @ Bent Creek Baptist

Wed, Dec 19

-12:25/1:00 Release

Thurs, Dec 20 - Wed, Jan 2:

-WINTER BREAK - no school

Tues, Jan 1 - March 30: Open Enrollment for NEW Students

Wed, Jan 2: NO SCHOOL for students - Teacher Work Day

Thurs, Jan 3: Students return

as student discipline and attendance. We examine this as a faculty, with support from EL Education, through a structured mid-year and end-of-year review process. We also look at this data in our School Improvement Team, bringing in the perspective of parents. We pull all of this together in an annual work plan, outlining specific long-term goals and annual objectives. We focus our work plan goals on each of the aspects of student achievement outlined by EL Education - academic knowledge and skills, character, and high quality work, as well as school leadership.

Our specific objectives for this year are as follows:

Academic growth:

Students will demonstrate and apply the foundational knowledge and skills necessary for success at every level of their education.

This objective is measured through student performance on standardized end of year tests. Overall, our student scores are higher than surrounding district schools. However, like most other schools nationwide, there is a gap between achievement in reading and math. Our long-term goal is to decrease this gap by raising math scores.

Our specific benchmarks for this year are:

- Grade level proficiency in reading **80%** (increase from 76%)
- Grade level proficiency in math: **65%** (increase from 60%)
- College & Career Readiness : This refers to the State's definition of test scores of "4" and "5" as demonstrating college-readiness. While we do not agree that these test scores indicate college readiness - or lack of readiness - this is a standard that the state uses to assess our school's performance. Our benchmark for this year is to increase the percent of students who score a 4 or 5 on the end of year exams from 62% to 65%.

Because we believe student academic achievement goes beyond standardized tests, our goal includes a measure of deeper learning. Students will demonstrate the deeper learning outcomes of "critical thinking and problem solving" via Expedition products, in which they consider a variety of approaches and produce innovative solutions.

Last year, we focused on ensuring that we had strong curriculum across all grades, aligned with state standards. This year, we are focusing on how we are assessing students, and how teachers use assessment data to improve instruction.

Character

Students will demonstrate their growth as ethical students, with the ability to self-regulate and contribute positively to our school community.

Tues, Jan 8:

-9 am: School Tour for Prospective Families

- 6 pm: Board of Directors Mtg

Thurs, Jan 10:

-6:30 pm: Parent Workshop: Talking with your teens

We focus on this objective in nearly everything we do. Specifically, we are working to continually strengthen our Crew program, helping every Crew leader develop skills and curriculum to use in Crew. We have also dedicated time to reviewing our discipline procedures to ensure consistent and fair application of behavior expectations. Finally, we have been learning more about Restorative Practices, and how we can support students to develop the skills they need to contribute positively to our school community.

High Quality Work

Students will transfer understanding and skills to new problems, through high quality summative projects and products.

In both Expedition projects and regular classroom projects, we are focused on providing students with projects that are challenging and engaging.

Leadership

School leaders will model and foster a crew spirit schoolwide, grounded in and supporting a a cohesive school vision that everyone feels involved in.

In 2018-19, this means specific emphasis on:

- administrative consistency in managing and supporting student behavior
- supporting teacher-leaders (especially in leading teams and monitoring work plan progress)
- positive engagement with families, through opportunities to participate, contribute, and celebrate with students
- supporting alignment of curriculum, instruction, and assessment, and supporting teachers in using data to improve student learning

These are big objectives, which require not only the persistence, collaboration, and hard work of our faculty and school administrators, but also the collaboration and hard work of students and families! As families, you play a central role in both your student's achievement and the success of the school. From helping ensure that your student arrives to school on time each day, to supporting their learning through homework completion, to attending school functions to show your student that school is valued in your household - you play a critical role. We are, truly, Crew! !

I look forward to hearing from you in upcoming Parent Coffees. We will be holding these every 4th Thursday, from 8:30 - 9:15 am. These are an informal opportunity to learn more about our educational program, to ask questions, and to be directly engaged with us. Our next coffee will be January 24, and our topic will be an overview of EL Education.

Until then, enjoy a wonderful holiday season!

Warmly,

Michelle Vruwink, Executive Director

Annual Fund Update

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our Annual Fund campaign! The campaign ends this week, though of course we will continue to accept contributions throughout the year.

We have raised nearly \$30,000 towards our goal of \$50,000. We can get there together! This week, we have one final challenge opportunity. If we can raise \$4,500 by Friday, three anonymous donors will match dollar for dollar.

You can mail your donation, drop it off in the office, or donate online:

<https://www.franklinschoolofinnovation.org/support-franklin-school/>

We want to give a special thank you to our Annual Fund sponsors!



1 ON 1 Physical Therapy

Molly Courcelle Fine Arts



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It's not too late to see your business logo on the side of our bus or on a banner in front of the school! Please contact Ann-Marie Breen at breenle@charter.net or pick up a sponsorship packet in the office.

Franklin Holiday Giving Crew

The Franklin School of Innovation would like to continue a tradition of supporting any families at Franklin in need during the holiday season.

If your family would like to support Franklin families during this Holiday season, **or** if you are in need of assistance with purchasing gifts for your children, please follow the link to this survey. All information will go directly to Lindsey Foster and Katherine Becker (School Counselors) and will be kept confidential.

Please complete this survey by Friday, Dec 7, 2018. [Franklin Holiday Helping Crew](#)

Construction Update

The construction project has been moving right along! As of last week, we were on schedule. Much of the work so far has been grading, water retention, and preparing the construction site and foundation pad. They began pouring the concrete footers last week, so the building footprint is beginning to take shape! We are still hoping to be able to pave the exit road, but that is a race against the weather and clock right now. They're working hard to get this done before the asphalt plants close for the winter - so keep your fingers crossed! We can't make any promises on this just yet.

Our walls will begin arriving on campus within the next week or two! This will be exciting, as the giant walls roll onto campus and are swung into place. While this will be fun to watch, it also brings safety concerns. We will need to close off our main drive (in front of the office & Einstein buildings) at times when walls are being set. We will also need to move students from the Johnson and Parks buildings at certain points when walls are being set just behind those buildings. Vannoy is working closely with us, and we'll keep everyone in the loop as the schedule firms up. Stay tuned!

Open Enrollment begins January 1 - Help us build a strong school!

Open Enrollment for new students begins January 1! As we look forward to the excitement of our new building, we look forward to a strong year of growth for next year. If your child is thriving and happy at FSI, please help spread the word! Invite them to an Info Session, suggest they take a tour, or invite their child to spend part of a day here at FSI! Our next two Info Sessions are this Thursday, 5:30 pm and January 17, in the Carver Building. We will hold a special session for parents and students who will be entering 9th grade next year. This Freshman info night will be Tuesday, January 15, and is open to current FSI 8th graders as well as prospective new students.

We know that word of mouth is the most effective way to recruit new students. Prospective parents hear about us from other parents - at events, through Facebook posts, through casual conversations at the grocery store, the coffee shop, church, or wherever you gather! You can help us fill all open seats, and make sure that our school continues to grow! Full enrollment allows us to offer more programs, like band, athletics, expanded arts classes, as well as Expeditions, field work, and all the other things that make for a healthy and successful school.

Sibling Enrollment

If you plan to enroll a sibling next year, you need to submit an application during Open Enrollment. Siblings receive preference in our lottery!

Returning Students - Re-Enrollment

You will receive re-enrollment information sometime after winter break. You do not need to submit a new application for returning students. However, like last year, we will complete re-enrollment through SchoolMint, the online enrollment program.

Upcoming Events

December 5 - Winter Concert, 7:30 pm at The Orange Peel. Concert tickets are on sale now!

December 6 - Parent Workshop, 6:30 - 8:00 pm, Carver Building room 7

Parent Education Evening with Kelley Johnson, Ph.D. Teens, Technology, and Sexuality
Topics will include: Compare and contrast parent's teenage experience and current teens experience. Recognize characteristic of adolescence. Review concerns of too much screen time. Review the benefits of screen time. Discuss the legal and personal consequences of sexting. Examine the negative impact of porn on sexual development. Identify tips to help parents and teens navigate the internet safely. In addition to covering the above objectives, there will be plenty of time for question, answer, and discussion. Please [RSVP Here](#) if you plan to attend the workshop.

December 11 - Winter Band Concert - 6:30 pm @ Bent Creek Baptist Church

December 13 - Parent Crew meeting - 8:15 am, Einstein building room 12

December 13 & 14 - HS Theatre Performance "Alice" - 7 pm @ Bent Creek Baptist Church

Tickets available online: <https://www.franklinschoolofinnovation.org/parents/shop/>

Thursday, January 17

Great news! Our school has partnered with Smile Programs...the mobile dentists to offer in-school dental care. Sign up your child today at www.myschooldentist.com or return the permission form that has been sent home with your student. The mobile dentist will be on campus on January 17th.

Even better, dental care is usually at no cost to you. All insurance is accepted including Medicaid and CHIP. For those without insurance, a low cost self-pay option is available.



Volunteer Corner - Spotlight on the Breen-McMullan Family

Want to meet more parents at FSI, and connect to the community? Looking for a way to show your child that you think school is important? Volunteering is a wonderful way to do this! We have lots of fun ways for you to get involved this fall. This month, we're shining the spotlight on a whole family of volunteers. If you've been at any FSI event- chances are you've seen this family in action, or they have been hard at work behind the scenes!

For the Breen-McMullans, volunteering and supporting FSI is a family event. For 8th grade Rowan, one of the student bakers who went all out for our Annual Fund, the answer to why volunteer is simple. Why not? There's no reason not to volunteer! Rowan is a consistent volunteer on the gardening and grounds Crew, and is currently building a pollinator box for our campus. Sophomore Quinn volunteers because "It's cool to go into school each day and see the things I've helped with and it feels good to help improve the school." They both especially enjoy the projects where they get to build and tinker with things and figure out how to do something.

For Ann-Marie and Tim, volunteering is just as simple. If there is work to do - they are here to help.

"Our family has tried to fulfill our volunteer hours since the beginning of the school, mostly because there was/is so much to be done. Often that was just showing up for work days, baking for teachers, doing little things that were needed and that usually added up to around our 40 hours we were supposed to do. In Spring of 2016 I was at a school-wide meeting and one parent thought it would be great if there was landscaping around the school sign at Sardis Road. I like to garden and I was at a point that I had a good amount of free time and I thought, I can just do this rather than wait for someone else to organize something. I really enjoyed the work and there is definitely a feeling of satisfaction in seeing that spot look better each year as the plants fill in. After that a board member asked if I'd lead the garden crew. My gut reaction was to say no as leading is not really something I was comfortable with. For months I stewed and ignored responding and then thought about what FSI asks of our two boys. At every SLC they talk what Habits of Scholarship they feel they need to work on further to improve themselves. I realized that if we expect our kids to be leaders and collaborators to be a part of the future that they create then I should also push myself out of my comfort zone and do something that felt hard for me. So I said I would lead the garden crew and have organized some work days and I'm sure there will be more to do after construction. Planting around school is great because you instantly see what you and other volunteers have done to make things look better and it is visible everyday. Somehow I have also gotten involved in events and fundraising and helped plan our first auction last year. I will be the first to say I have no experience in any of these areas but I have time and am willing to learn and it has been fun to challenge myself to do something new and continue to grow. I believe in FSI so it is really easy to ask for thing on the school's behalf. I have met some wonderful people in the school community through volunteering and have also realized in our larger community that there are many great people who are willing to help us in ways large and small and that has been really gratifying.

We have been at FSI since it started. We were looking for a school that would be a good fit for our boys who are very hands on, experiential learners and we have not been disappointed. Each year they have had teachers that really connect with them as learners and as people and I feel so grateful that they are at FSI. I think the other great thing about being part of a newer school is that you have the ability to make a big impact. If you see a need you can ask if you can help. Leave your mark. Challenge yourself to try something new. I would urge others to get involved in any way, large or small, that you can."

We hope to see you Dec 13, 8:15 am for the Parent Crew! This is a great opportunity to meet other parents and to learn how to get involved! To help us communicate effectively about volunteer opportunities (meaning fewer, more targeted emails!) - please complete this short survey!

[Volunteer Survey](#)

Reminders - Check here for any info you may have missed!

Stay Informed - Where to find what you need to know

Homework, sports, social events, and more -keeping up with family schedules takes some serious organization! We want to help you find all the information you need to know, when you need it!

Here are the ways you will hear from us, and some helpful links when you're looking for something and just not sure where to find it:

Monthly Newsletter: This newsletter will be sent the 1st week of each month. The newsletter highlights activities taking place at school, as well as some of why we do what we do. The newsletters are published on our website - on the Parent page - in case you ever miss an issue, or want to go back and read it again.

Community Calendar: Find our online calendar on our website! The Community Calendar is the place to find all daily/weekly events taking place at Franklin.

Facebook Page: Franklin maintains a school-wide Facebook page. We'll post about events, topics of interest, and general happenings. Like us and follow us!

Carpooling Group: Find other Franklin parents looking for rideshares and carpooling on this closed Facebook group. You'll be asked to answer a couple questions before you join.

Bolts Athletics: Our Athletics Program has a Facebook page as well - follow it to keep up with our teams. We hope to see lots of fans on the sideline this year!

FSI Website: You'll find lots of information on our website! Check the Parent tab for the calendar, forms, our handbook, archived copies of our newsletter, and more!

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 [Sarah Jean Smith](#), High School Principal

My child will miss school: For short-term absences (illness, doctor's appointments, etc), send an email to 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: [Lindsay Furst](#)
- Grade 10: [Jennifer Nathanson](#)
- Grades 11 -12: [Serena Campbell](#)

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

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

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

I have questions about your school bus: [Deeana Bennett](#), Director of Operations

I am interested in carpooling/ride-sharing: Check out our carpool facebook group (you need to request to join):

I want to know more about college planning, including advanced courses like AP and Dual Enrollment, financial aid, or the college application process: [JaneAnne Tager](#), College & Career Counselor

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

Our Teaching Teams for 2018-2019!

We are excited to have many returning teachers, as well as some new faces for the coming school year! While we are sharing contact information now, please understand that teachers are enjoying their summers, and will not be responding to emails until the school year begins. You will have the opportunity to meet teachers at our Back to School Nights in early September! Please see information above for the Exceptional Children teachers on each grade level team.

5th Grade

Katie Lapinski, ELA & Social Studies: klapinski@thefsi.us

Peggy McKay, Science & Math: pmckay@thefsi.us

6th Grade

Tony Freeman, ELA & Social Studies: tfreeman@thefsi.us

Charlie Keller, Math & Social Studies: ckeller@thefsi.us

Samuel "Latt" Berry Foster., Science & Social Studies: sfoster@thefsi.us

7th Grade

Ethan Burns, ELA: eburns@thefsi.us

Bryan Clendenin, Social Studies: bclendenin@thefsi.us

Judy Carhart, Math: jcarhart@thefsi.us

Nick Liu, Science: nliu@thefsi.us

8th Grade

Dan Torrington, ELA: & Social Studies: dtorrington@thefsi.us

Lucas Myers, Math: lmyers@thefsi.us

Elizabeth Post, Science & Social Studies: epost@thefsi.us

9th Grade

Drew Fowler, ELA: dfowler@thefsi.us

Jerry Lubos, World History: jlubos@thefsi.us

Austin Proctor, Math 1: aproctor@thefsi.us

Taylor Jenkins, Math 1: tjenkins@thefsi.us

Jill Padfield, Math 2: jpadfield@thefsi.us

Chris DeFiore, Earth Science: cdefiore@thefsi.us

10th Grade

Carly Connor, ELA: cconnor@thefsi.us

Matt Reynolds, Civics & Economics: mreynolds@thefsi.us

Jill Padfield, Math 2: jpadfield@thefsi.us

Teshale Byan, Math 3 & Calculus: tbyan@thefsi.us

Jessica Bragdon, Biology: jbragdon@thefsi.us

11th Grade

Katie Washburn, English III & AP Lang: kwashburn@thefsi.us

Meghan Moore-Hubbard, American History I: mmoorehubbard@thefsi.us

Teshale Byan, Math 3 & Calculus: tbyan@thefsi.us

Taylor Jenkins, PreCalc: tjenkins@thefsi.us

Melissa Kee (formerly Parton), Chemistry & Conceptual Physics: mparton@thefsi.us

12th Grade

Laura Walton (formerly Bubacz,) English IV & AP Lit: lwalton@thefsi.us

Tess Barnes Dunn, American History II: tbarnesdunn@thefsi.us

Teshale Byan, Calculus: tbyan@thefsi.us

Taylor Jenkins, PreCalc & Discrete Math: tjenkins@thefsi.us

Melissa Kee (formerly Parton), Conceptual Physics: mparton@thefsi.us

Austin Proctor, Physics: aproctor@thefsi.us

Elective Teachers:

MS PE: Kendra Parks (formerly Orians), korians@thefsi.us

HS PE & Athletic Director: Kimberly Burke, kburke@thefsi.us

MS Art: Diane Strazzer, dstrazzer@thefsi.us

HS Art: Kati Robbins, krobbins@thefsi.us

MS Lit Lab: Hannah Allen, hallen@thefsi.us

MS Tech: Matt Mikulski, mmikulski@thefsi.us

MS Guidance (and counselor): Lindsey Foster, lfoster@thefsi.us

Music: Cary Cooper, ccooper@thefsi.us

Theatre: Chris Martin, cmartin@thefsi.us

French: Stephanie Hellert, shellert@thefsi.us

Spanish: Heather Kabat, hkabat@thefsi.us

Spanish: Alfredo Herrero Debon, aherrerodebon@thefsi.us

ASL: Desiree Delbert, ddelbert@thefsi.us