

# THE FRANKLIN SCHOOL OF INNOVATION

An EL Education School

## From the Director



I hope everyone is enjoying summer, and perhaps starting to get excited for the coming school year. We have a busy year ahead! Many of you have reached out or stopped by with questions about the school year. We're working hard to get ready, and you will find lots of important information in this summer newsletter.

One big project for the year ahead is breaking ground on our new facility! Much work has gone on behind the scenes to get us to this point. Most importantly, we have secured an \$8 million construction loan from Capital Bank/1st Tennessee and Carter Bank & Trust. Howard Sowell of Legacy Funding Services assisted in securing the loan. As a public charter school, we do not receive state or local funds for our facilities. We are able to secure financing due to the generosity of the Glass Foundation, who transferred ownership of our 13+ acre property to us, providing us with a valuable asset. Other important factors in securing financing are our steady growth as a school, and strong financial standing.

Bryan Moffitt, of ARCA Designs, is the architect for our building project. ARCA has submitted a site design plan for an approximately 78,000 square foot building, for grades 5 - 12. The plan includes classroom space, common areas, offices, a multipurpose room, and a gymnasium. The scope and cost of the full building will require a phased building approach.

Vannoy Construction, one of the leading commercial building companies in our region, will serve as the General Contractor.

## Important Dates

**Mon, Aug 13 - Wed, Aug 15**

New Teacher Orientation

**Tues, Aug 14, 6:00 pm**

Board of Directors meeting

**Thurs, Aug 16 - Tues, Aug 21**

All Teacher Orientation

**Thurs, Aug 16, 6:00 pm**

New Student Orientation, Bent Creek Baptist Church

**Thursday, Aug 23**

**FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**

**Thurs, Aug 23, 4 - 6:30 pm**

Athletics Meeting Drop-In, in PE building

**Wed, Aug 29 - Full Day**

3:15/3:30 Release

**Monday, Sept 3: Labor Day**

**NO SCHOOL**

**Thursday, Sept 6, 5:30 - 7 pm**

MS Back to School Night

**Friday, Sept 7, 9:00 am**

Groundbreaking Ceremony!

**Tues, Sept 11, 6:00 pm**

Board of Directors Meeting

**Thursday, Sept 13, 5:30 - 7 pm**

HS Back to School Night & College Planning for Seniors, 6 - 7 pm

**Friday, Sept 14 - NO SCHOOL**

Vannoy has extensive experience working with schools, and is deeply familiar with our security needs and other special considerations of working on an active school campus. Vannoy is working closely with ARCA Designs to finalize plans for a precast concrete building. This construction design will provide us with an efficient and high quality building.

The Board of Directors has scheduled a formal groundbreaking ceremony for Friday, September 7, 9:00 am. Parents and school community members are invited to attend! Please note that we will hold a separate celebration for our students during the school day sometime the following week.

This first phase of construction is scheduled to be completed in time for the 2019-2020 school year. This means we will have lots of action on campus this year, with a great goal ahead of us. We will work to keep you informed of updates and changes in our use of our property as we move through construction.

While we will have disruptions and changes to the campus throughout the year, there will be no disruptions for the start of our school year. We will start the year with access to our existing roads and outdoor spaces intact. This will change quickly through the fall, so stay tuned in September or October for new driving patterns and a call for volunteers to help us move our very well-loved gaga ball pit to a new location!

We can't wait to see the building take shape, creating a space that embraces the creativity and hard work of our students and staff! I am so grateful for the support of our school community, and all you have done to bring us to this exciting point. Here's to a great year of growth!

Warmly,

Michelle Vruwink, Executive Director

Teacher PD Day

**Wed, Sept 19 - Full Day**

3:15/3:30 Release

**Tues, Oct 9, 6 pm**

Board of Directors meeting

**Tues, Oct 9 - Fri, Oct 12:**

9th Grade Adventure Treks

## It's Time For.....

Summer reading! Sports physicals & immunizations! School supply shopping! And how about some summer math!

There are still plenty of lazy summer days ahead. But it's definitely time to start getting ready for the coming school year!

Be sure to check our website for [summer reading, required summer assignments, and supply lists](#). All students are strongly encouraged to choose books and keep reading this summer. Note that some high school courses - especially AP courses - have mandatory summer assignments. Check your grade level list so you can get off to a great start.

In our English classes, students learn how to annotate texts to support the practice of close reading. In order to ensure that all students have copies of books when they begin each unit, and to simplify the process for families, we purchase these books and distribute them to students. The suggested contributions to offset the cost of these books are noted below. **Contributions may be mailed (via check payable to FSI) to the school, paid in cash at the school office, or paid via our online store on the school website.** Please note that students will read additional texts for all courses. The suggested contributions are only for books purchased for individual use.

### **Middle school (all grades) -suggested contribution \$20**

We use the EL Education ELA curriculum modules, which includes 2 - 4 books per grade.

### **High School:**

#### **English I - suggested contribution \$25**

Books will include: *The Alchemist* by Paul Coelho, *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare, *The Little Prince* by Antoine Saint-Exupery

#### **English I Honors - suggested contribution: \$35**

All of the English I books + *The Stranger*

#### **English II (standard and Honors)- suggested contribution: \$30**

Books will include *Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare, *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas.

#### **English III - suggested contribution: \$30**

Book will include: *A Streetcar Named Desire* or *Death of a Salesman*; *Julius Caesar* or *Othello*, *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson.

Book club books → *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, *Wild*, *Columbine*

#### **AP Lang. - suggested contribution: \$50**

Books will include: *Evicted* by Matthew Desmond, *We Should All Be Feminists* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates, *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote

Book club book → *Zeitoun*, *Behind the Beautiful Forevers*, *Wild*, *A Walk in the Woods*

#### **English IV - suggested contribution: \$30**

Books will include *Canterbury Tales*, *Macbeth* or *Hamlet*, *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*

#### **AP Lit. - suggested contribution: \$50**

Books will include: *Hamlet*, *A Doll's House*, *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead*

## **Emergency Medical Authorization, Medications at School & Immunizations**

All students must have an Emergency Medical Authorization (EMA) form on file. Watch for an email next week from Student Services Coordinator Erinn Otten, with the EMA form. Without this form, Emergency

Responders cannot provide medical treatment to your child. Please complete and return the form as soon as possible, and no later than the first day of school.

If you have a student new to public school, a rising 7th grade student, or a student who will take any medications at school (over the counter or prescription), it's time to schedule a doctor's appointment!

If your student will require medication of any type during the school day, please remember to complete and submit the appropriate medical forms. You will find forms for diabetes, asthma, allergies, medication, and self-medication on our website, or your doctor's office should have school forms available. Under North Carolina regulations, students are not permitted to take any medications at school, including over-the-counter medications, unless the school has a current copy of a medication form on record. These forms require physician signature.

Students new to public school must provide proof of immunizations. You can read more about required immunizations here: <http://www.immunize.nc.gov/schools/k-12.htm>

Students entering 7th grade have new immunization requirements:

- Tdap – Tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough)
- Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV)

You (or your doctor) can fax proof of immunizations to us at 828-318-8125, email to [ayounger@thefsi.us](mailto:ayounger@thefsi.us), or mail or drop off to the office.

## Thunder Bolts! Athletics

Fall Sports Meeting: Thursday, August 23, 4:00 - 6:30 pm

We are proud of our Athletics program, under the competent and enthusiastic direction of Coach Kim Burke! We will have information about the athletics program available at our School Orientation, August 16, 6 pm at Bent Creek Baptist. If your student plans to participate in fall sports - please get a physical scheduled! You will find the [sports physical](#) form, and other useful forms, on our school website.

There is a fall sports meeting on Thursday, August 23, from 4 - 6:30 pm in the PE building. Coach Burke will be available to answer questions, collect forms and payments, provide information on practice schedules, and just generally to get to know you. This isn't a formal meeting - drop by to get signed up and ready to go!

## Band Program! Sign Up Days Aug 6 & 7, 9 - 12 am

Did you know Franklin has a band program! We are excited to have Band Director Chris Wilson returning for a second year and helping us grow the program. Given our modular classroom buildings, Band will continue as an afterschool program for 2018-2019. **There is a one-time fee of \$40 for the Band program**, which helps offset a small portion of the costs of running the program (costs include personnel, space, music, and equipment).

The schedule for Band this year will be

**Monday, 3:30 - 5 pm:** Beginning Woodwind/Percussion Class

**Tuesday, 3:30 - 5 pm:** Beginning Brass Class

**Wednesday, 3:30 - 5 pm:** Intermediate School Concert Band (Everyone with at least one or more year of playing.)

**Thursday, 3:30 - 5 pm:** Intermediate School Concert Band (Everyone with at least one or more year of playing.)

**Friday, 3:30 - 5 pm:** Combined Beginning Band Rehearsal (All beginning woodwind, brass, and perc. students.)

**Band Sign up days will be August 6 and 7 from 9-12 in the music room.** On these days, beginning band members will have an opportunity to try out different instruments and make arrangements to rent an instrument.

[Learn more about our Band program here.](#) Questions? Contact Band Director Chris Wilson, [cwilson@thefsi.us](mailto:cwilson@thefsi.us).

## Bus Service

As a charter school, we do not receive the same funding for transportation as local district schools. We do run a daily bus loop, to help reduce the transportation barrier for students who would otherwise not be able to attend Franklin.

We will begin the year running the same bus loop as we offered last year. The bus stops at the following locations:

- Goodwill (Patton Avenue)
- Near the Chamber of Commerce
- South College parking lot
- Bent Creek Baptist Church

Estimated times for the bus stops are posted on our website, under the 2017-2018 bus route information. We will update these times prior to the start of school, but please use these estimates as you consider whether the bus is an option for your family!

We anticipate that we will have more demand for the bus than we can meet. In keeping with the goal of reducing transportation barrier, we will prioritize access to the bus on the basis of economic need, distance from school, and how frequently students will use the bus (e.g. daily need will be prioritized over occasional use).

We would love to expand our bus service! At this time, there are two barriers to expanding bus service. The first is the difficulty of recruiting and retaining bus drivers. This is an issue for all schools in Buncombe County, not just our school. We are always seeking bus drivers.. The second barrier is cost. We do not receive funding to purchase buses. While this is a challenge - the shortage of bus drivers is actually the bigger challenge! We appreciate your help in spreading the word and helping us find drivers.

If you would like to use our bus service, you must complete the following form. We also strongly recommend carpooling! Please check out our [Carpool Facebook Group](#).

**[Bus Service Request Form](#)**

## 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.

Our [Volunteer Crews](#), serve as a way to organize and support our parent volunteers. The following Crews are in formation:

- Gardening & Grounds Crew
- Marketing & Outreach Crew
- Fundraising/Events Crew
- Teacher Support 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. Thank you!**

## Student Schedules

Student schedules will be sent electronically as we get closer to the start of school. We anticipate emailing schedules on or around August 17.

Once you receive your schedule, please review for any errors. Students with schedule errors or missing classes may submit schedule change requests during the following times (we will not accept optional schedule change requests at these times):

Tuesday, August 21: 3 - 5 pm

Wednesday, August 22: 3 - 5 pm

Schedule change requests will also be accepted during the first 10 days of the school year. Students may submit both schedule error changes and optional schedule change requests during the first 10 days of school. However, students should understand that we may not be able to accommodate optional change requests.

Please note that schedule change requests will be prioritized as follows:

- Schedule errors such as: enrolled in a class for which you have already earned credit; scheduled in a class without pre-requisite (e.g. Math 2 but have not completed Math 1), and missing classes/incomplete schedules
- Teacher recommendation for different level (honors or standard)
- Student preference/optional change requests will receive lowest priority

## School Schedule - Revised Wednesday Early Release

Wednesdays will remain our Early Release day, but the release time has changed from prior years. **High school will release at 12:50 pm and Middle School will release at 1:00 pm.** This change will create

more productive time for teacher learning and collaborative planning. Throughout the school year, there are 7 REGULAR release Wednesdays. School will dismiss at 3:15/3:30 on these Wednesdays. These Wednesday are: **August 29, September 19, November 14, January 30, February 13, April 3, and June 5.** Please mark these Wednesdays on your calendar!

The **daily schedule for grades 5 - 8 is 8:15 am - 3:15 pm;** 8:15 - 1:00 pm on Wednesday.  
The **daily schedule for grades 9 - 12 is 8:25 am - 3:30 pm;** 8:25 - 12:50 on Wednesday.

## **Before & After School (BTB)**

Before School: 7:00 am-7:45 am: Mon-Fri

After School: 3:15 pm-6:00 pm: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, and 1:00-6:00 pm Wednesdays

## **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](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: [Jennifer Nathanson](#)
- 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:*** [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!

### 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)

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

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

Dan Torrington, ELA: & Social Studies: [dtorrington@thefsi.us](mailto:dtorrington@thefsi.us)

Lucas Myers, Math: [lmyers@thefsi.us](mailto:lmyers@thefsi.us)

Elizabeth Post, Science & Social Studies: [epost@thefsi.us](mailto:epost@thefsi.us)

## 9th Grade

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

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

Austin Proctor, Math 1: [aproctor@thefsi.us](mailto:aproctor@thefsi.us)

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

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

Matt Reynolds, Civics & Economics: [mreynolds@thefsi.us](mailto:mreynolds@thefsi.us)

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

Teshale Byan, Math 3 & Calculus: [tbyan@thefsi.us](mailto:tbyan@thefsi.us)

Jessica Bragdon, Biology: [jbragdon@thefsi.us](mailto:jbragdon@thefsi.us)

## 11th Grade

Katie Washburn, English III & AP Lang: [kwashburn@thefsi.us](mailto:kwashburn@thefsi.us)

Meghan Moore-Hubbard, American History I: [mmoorehubbard@thefsi.us](mailto:mmoorehubbard@thefsi.us)

Teshale Byan, Math 3 & Calculus: [tbyan@thefsi.us](mailto:tbyan@thefsi.us)

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

Melissa Parton, Chemistry & Physical Science: [mparton@thefsi.us](mailto:mparton@thefsi.us)

## 12th Grade

Laura Bubacz, English IV & AP Lit: [lbubacz@thefsi.us](mailto:lbubacz@thefsi.us)

Tess Barnes Dunn, American History II: [tbarnesdunn@thefsi.us](mailto:tbarnesdunn@thefsi.us)

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

Taylor Jenkins, PreCalc & Discrete Math: [tjenkins@thefsi.us](mailto:tjenkins@thefsi.us)

Melissa Parton, Physical Science: [mparton@thefsi.us](mailto:mparton@thefsi.us)

Austin Proctor, Physics: [aproctor@thefsi.us](mailto:aproctor@thefsi.us)

## Elective Teachers:

MS PE: Kendra Orians, [korians@thefsi.us](mailto:korians@thefsi.us)

HS PE & Athletic Director: Kimberly Burke, [kburke@thefsi.us](mailto:kburke@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: Heather Kabat, [hkabat@thefsi.us](mailto:hkabat@thefsi.us)  
Spanish: Alfredo Herrero Debon, [aherrerodebon@thefsi.us](mailto:aherrerodebon@thefsi.us)  
ASL: Desiree Delbert, [ddelbert@thefsi.us](mailto:ddelbert@thefsi.us)

## Important Reminders

You may have read these items earlier this summer, but it's worth including them again!

## Orientation & Back to School Nights

You are invited to join us for **Orientation on Thursday, August 16, 6:00 pm** at Bent Creek Baptist Church. While Orientation may be particularly helpful for new families, returning families are welcome! We will have information on volunteer opportunities, Beyond the Bell, athletics, and our school counseling program, as well as important information for a successful school year.

We will also host Back to School nights for both middle and high school. This will be an opportunity to meet your student's teachers, Crew leaders, and other school faculty, and to visit classrooms.

### **Thursday, Sept 6, 5:30 - 7:00 pm: Middle School Back to School Night**

### **Thursday, Sept 13, 5:30 - 7:00 pm: High School Back to School Night**

JaneAnne Tager, our College Counselor, will host a special College Planning Session for high seniors and their parents/guardians from 6 - 7 pm

## 2018-2019 First Day - August 23!

The 2018-2019 School Year begins Thursday, August 23, 2018. The first day is absolutely essential! Not only it is important for students to get off to a good start, as a charter school, the first day is especially important. As most of you know, we receive public funding for students enrolled in our school. Our funding for the year is based on the number of students who attend Franklin during the first 20 days of the school year. Students do not "count" as enrolled at Franklin until they come for their first day of school. This is true even for returning students.

So what does that mean? Let's say you plan a family vacation and your child misses the first week of school. Your child will not be counted as a Franklin student until they are in attendance. Instead of receiving the full funding for your student, we will receive 75% (15 out of 20 days). While this week may not seem like a big deal, your student will miss out on lots of important culture-building and expectation-setting, and the school will miss out on approximately \$1,750 in revenue.

The first day is the most important day. After that, excused absences do not count against the school. We look forward to full attendance on August 23, and the start of a terrific year!