

From the Director

Student Bake Sale supporting our Annual Fund!

Happy November!

As we transition into the 2nd quarter of the school year, we have been focusing on the things that help students succeed, and on barriers to success. For many students, attendance can be a serious barrier to success, both in middle and high school, and as they move on to college and careers.

Did you know:

- Over 7 million (1 in 7) students in the US miss nearly a month of school each year?
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- Missing 10 percent, or about 18 days, of school can drastically affect a student's academic success.
- Students are considered chronically absent even if they only miss a day or two every few weeks. This can add up to over 20 missed days of school in the year!
- When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their academic prospects and chances for graduating.

Important Dates

Mon, Nov 5

-2:00 pm: Parent Crew meeting at Rejuvenation Cafe, Smoky Park Highway

-4 - 6 pm: HS Boys basketball tryouts @ Foster Church

Tues, Nov 6

-10th Grade PreACT test

-3:30 pm: MS Boys Basketball Interest Meeting, Naismith Bldg

Wed, Nov 7 12:25/1:00 Release

-1:15 - 4:15 Attendance Make Up

Thurs, Nov 8

-5:30 pm: Info Session for Prospective Parents

Sat, Nov 10

9 am - 2 pm: Senior Portraits @ FSI

Mon, Nov 12 - Veteran's Day - NO SCHOOL

Tues, Nov 13

-8:30 am: Parent Coffee & Chat

-6 pm: Board of Directors mtg

Weds, Nov 14 - Fri, Nov 16

8th Grade Tremont Trip

Wed, Nov 14: Full Day - 3:10/3:30 Release

-3:45 pm: Canvas Help Session in Parks Building

Thurs, Nov 15

- Attendance is an important life skill that will help your child graduate from college and keep a job. High school graduates, on average and over their lifetime, earn \$1 million more than students who do not complete high school. (source: *Attendance Works*: <https://www.attendanceworks.org/>)

As a school, the things we are doing to improve attendance include working to build relationships with students, in classes and in Crew, with the goal of helping all students feel connected to and cared for by at least one adult. We track attendance, and reach out to students and parents when they are missing school. We are working to strengthen these systems for connection and follow up, including ideas like connecting high school students to Crew "buddies" who will reach out to them when they miss school, and asking Crew leaders to check in with families when students miss a few days of school.

As parents, you have a vital role in supporting attendance. How you talk about the importance of school, and the systems you set up to support getting students to school on time and ready to learn truly can make the difference in your child's success in school! While we offer attendance makeup sessions for students who miss too many classes, there simply is no way to make up for the learning students miss when they are away from school.

What can you do to improve attendance? Here are some suggestions

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school everyday, make that the expectation.
- Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Try not to schedule dental and medical appointments during the school day.
- Don't let your child stay home unless truly sick. Complaints of headaches or stomach aches may be signs of anxiety.
- Check in with teachers if you notice a change in attitude or willingness to go to school.
- Monitor academic progress and social issues. Reach out if you have concerns! Your child's Crew leader, or teachers, or our school counselors are all resources.

Let's work together for regular school attendance and make this a successful school year!

Warmly,

Michelle Vruwink, Executive Director

-8:30 am: Parent Coffee & Chat

-3:45 pm: Third Thursday Potluck event

Wed, Nov 21 - Fri, Nov 23

Fall Break - NO SCHOOL

Tues, Nov 27

-9 am: Tour for Prospective Families

Thurs, Nov 29

-4:00 - 5:00 pm: SIT Meeting

Fri, Nov 30

-4:30 -6:30 pm: MS Movie Night @ Bent Creek Baptist

Sat, Dec 2

-noon - 4 pm: FSI Craft Fair

Wed, Dec 5

-7:30 pm: Holiday Concert @ The Orange Peel

Thurs, Dec 6

-5:30 pm: Info Session for Prospective Families

Annual Fund Update!

So far our FSI Students have turned in over \$5,000 in the Crew Contest! We're inspired by 8th graders Rowan McMullen and Brianna Phillips (pictured above), who raised over \$800 with a bake sale last week! **New Deadline will be Nov 13** to turn in all funds to win prizes. And the Crew with the most participation will win a PIZZA PARTY!

- Donation over \$250, student gets a FSI hoodie
- Donation between \$200-\$249, student gets a FSI long sleeve jersey
- Donation between \$150-\$199, student gets a FSI t-shirt
- Donation between \$100-\$149, student gets a FSI hat
- Donation between \$50-\$99, student gets a FSI water bottle

Parents, please consider your Annual Fund donation. FSI spends \$20,000 on our Band program in one year. We need your help to continue these programs that make our school so great!

You can mail your donation, drop it off in the office, or donate online:
<https://www.franklinschoolofinnovation.org/support-franklin-school/>

Thanks so much to our first FSI Annual Sponsor!

If you would like 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.

Upcoming Events

November 13 - Middle School Parent Coffee & Chat, 8:30 am in Einstein Room 12

Join us for our Middle School Fall Coffee for parents whose students are grades 5-8. Meet Michelle Vruwink, the Executive Director of FSI. Hear about the exciting changes and opportunities for our school this year. And ask any questions you may have about FSI. Please park diagonally in the grass on the field to the right of the main entrance, as all the gravel spots are currently taken by students/teachers. Sign up here! [Nov 13 Parent Coffee](#)

November 14 - Canvas Help Session, 3:45 pm in Parks Building (see more below)

November 15-High School Parent Coffee & Chat: 8:30 am in Parks Building

Sign up here to join us on the 15th: [Nov 15 Parent Coffee](#)

November 15: Third Thursday Potluck! The Student Government is hosting a Third Thursday Potluck, as a way to build community among students. We need parent help! If you can help set up, serve, clean up, and/or bring food or drinks - please sign up here: [Third Thursday Potluck Sign Up Form](#)

November 30- Middle School Movie Night sponsored by the FSI Community Council at the Bent Creek Baptist Church, 1554 Brevard Road-

Middle School movie is 4:30-6:30- "Home Alone"

\$5 Tickets and pizza/snacks/drinks will be sold at the door!

This is a fundraiser for the Athletic Department!

December 2- FSI Craft Fair, Noon to 4pm at FSI- SAVE THE DATE

Booths are available for \$25 plus 10% of sales or student booths are available for \$10, please contact Bevin McGahey at bevinmccahey@gmail.com. Must register your booth by November 18. Space is limited so register today.!

December 5- Winter Concert, 7:30 pm at The Orange Peel. Chorus parents - please see email from Ms. Cooper with more information!

December 7- High School Movie Night sponsored by the FSI Community Council at the Bent Creek Baptist Church, 1554 Brevard Road-

High School movie is 4:30-6:30- "ELF"

\$5 Tickets and pizza/snacks/drinks will be sold at the door!

This is a fundraiser for the Athletic Department!

How to Use Canvas - Help Session Wed, Nov 13, 3:45 pm

Have you heard about Canvas? Perhaps you aren't sure what this is? Canvas is a Learning Management System that we use to help students keep up to date with coursework, assignments, and their progress in class. As a parent, you can log in to see how your student is doing. **You will need to log in with your student the first time you go to Canvas.**

We recently learned that one of the ways we told parents to access Canvas no longer works. Don't worry! There is an easy way you can get onto Canvas and keep up with how your student is doing. We've attached a "How To" sheet to this month's newsletter. Copies of these directions were handed out during our Student Led Conferences.

Need more help? Attend our Canvas Help Session on Wednesday, Nov 13, 3:45 pm in the Parks building! Matt Mikulski, our technology coordinator, will be available to walk you through the process.

Help Us Recruit New Students!

We hear this every year - the most effective way to recruit new students for FSI is through parent recommendations and word of mouth.. 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, Nov 8, 5:30 pm and Thursday, Dec 6, 5:30 pm, in the Carver Building.

You can help us fill all open seats, and make sure that our school continues to grow! Full enrollment helps us 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.

Employment Opportunities

We have several full and part-time opportunities! We are looking for wonderful candidates to help in the following areas:

- Beyond the Bell Counselors: Part-time position working with students in our before and after-school program. Contact McKenzie Eury (meury@thefsi.us).
- Part-time Maintenance: Contact Deeana Bennett (dbennett@thefsi.us) for more information. This position can be combined with a daily bus route.
- School Counselor: This is a full-time position to complete this school year, while our beloved Ms. Foster is on maternity leave!
- Bus Drivers - we are forever searching for bus drivers!

All open positions are on our website: <https://www.franklinschoolofinnovation.org/about/careers/>

Volunteer Corner - Spotlight on Parent Volunteer Garie Byrd

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 parent volunteer Garie Byrd. Here's how she helps out, and why she volunteers!

"I initially chose the vegetable garden because Ann-Marie (Breen) asked if anyone would be able to water it. After agreeing to help I noticed it was in need of some love and care. I have had a garden at our home for a few years now and was willing to see what I could do. I can't tell you exactly how much time I have spent on it (weeding, mulching, writing a donation letter (with Ann-Marie's help), getting the donated plants and materials, watering, planting new plants)... In the mornings I have been around to sprinkle white pepper on the plants and recently (because the pepper isn't helping with the rabbits destroying the plants), I've been spraying tabasco mixed with water to help deter them.....I have the time to donate and my love of gardening and beautification adds to the motivation to help.

I have two children in attendance at FSI. My son, Chase, is in 8th grade, and my daughter, oe, is in 6th grade. We started at FSI last year. The main reason my children attend FSI is the caliber of children and teachers that they are around. My kids love and adore their teachers at FSI and I do as well. I feel like my children are in a very nurturing and loving environment and that means the world to me as a parent".

If you see Garie out in the garden, let's give her a big thank you! Here are some ways you can get involved this month:

Upcoming Opportunities

- Tues, Nov 13, 8:30 am: Parent Coffee & Chat - learn more about FSI and all the exciting opportunities ahead! [Nov 13 Parent Coffee](#)
- Thurs, Nov 15, 8:30 am: HS Parent Coffee & Chat: [Nov 15 Parent Coffee](#)
- Thurs, Nov 15, 3:45 pm: Third Thursday Potluck, sponsored by Student Government. Sign up to bring food and/or to help serve! [Third Thursday Potluck Sign Up Form](#)

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