

From the Director

The first quarter of every school year goes by in a such a rush! We all get caught up in the excitement of a new year and the opportunity for a fresh start. I hope that you and your family have now settled into a comfortable flow and routine, just as our classrooms have settled into the structures and norms that support a strong school culture.

This week, we have some exciting news to share. You may know that, back before we opened, The Glass Foundation purchased property on behalf of the school. We had a "hand-shake" deal that ownership of the land would be transferred to the school, once the school demonstrated success and sustainability. This past week, this transfer was initiated, and the school now holds title to our little slice of the world, from Sardis Road to Hominy Creek.

This is a significant gift, valued at \$1.5 million, and we are deeply grateful to The Glass Foundation for their generosity and their vote of confidence. Formalizing this transfer represents a significant step in our work towards securing financing for a permanent facility. Many thanks to the members of our Board of Directors who persisted through this process!

As we continue to strengthen the school's financial standing, we also are excited by our academic growth. You may have seen [this article in the Asheville Citizen Times](#), and wondered how Franklin compares. We are pleased to see the hard work of our students and faculty reflected in our "B" grade! Last year, we set a school-wide goal focused on raising student achievement in math. We exceeded our goal, and saw a great step up in our math scores! We are raising the bar higher this year.

We know that the academic growth of our students reflects your support as parents, and we look forward to another great year of growth together. As we think about growth, I look forward to welcoming you all for our Student Led Conferences on October 25!

Warmly,

Michelle Vruwink, Executive Director

Important Dates

Oct 9 - 13

Global Math Week

Oct 10, 6:00pm

Board Meeting - Parks Building

Oct 10, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Open Mic Night - O'Keefe Bldg.
All are welcome!

Oct 11- NO SCHOOL

Teacher Learning Day

Oct 14 - 8 am - 1 pm

PSAT at Franklin

Oct 17 - 20

9th Grade Adventure Trek Trip!

Oct 18

School Pictures, grades 6 - 8,
10, 11

Oct 18, 5:30 pm

CFNC Financial Aid, Johnson
Bldg

Oct 25, NO REGULAR CLASSES

Student Led Conferences -
students attend only for
scheduled conference time

Nov 1 - NO SCHOOL

Teacher PD Day

Nov 2

PreACT, 10th grade

Visit our [Website!](#)

Did you know you can keep up with school events, teacher work dates, sports, and more on our school calendar? Need a school form for something (student driver, campus leave form, medical forms...)? Want to check something in the school handbook? You'll find all this, and much more, on our website!

Some of you have asked about the weekly Director's Messages, sent in prior years. This year, with the shift to school Principals, the Director's Message is now a monthly newsletter.. You'll receive more frequent communication from your Principal! If you ever miss a monthly newsletter, we are posting them to the website, under the "Parent" tab.

From time to time, we'll feature blog posts with updates on what is happening at Franklin. If you have suggestions on ways we can communicate better, please reach out.

School Spirit - Yearbooks & Gear!

Gear up to show your school spirit! We are taking orders for Franklin t-shirts, sweatshirts, and more. We are extending the deadline to Friday, October 6. Stop by the office to see the display and place your order, or [order online](#). We also have stocking hats for sale in the office - just \$5!

You'll also want to order your yearbook! The very lowest prices are past, but order today to reserve yours. Price now is \$40. The journalism class is hard at work creating a beautiful yearbook this year! Click the link to place your order today! <http://jostensyearbooks.com?ref=A04357935>

How to Use Canvas

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 information from your student to log in the first time. All students have received this information.** With the end of Q1 approaching (October 30), now is a good time to check in.

There are two options for using Canvas as a parent.

1. Use the Canvas App for Parents

- Download the Canvas App for your device (it is free)
- Create an account. You will enter your email address, and select a password
- You will be prompted to add a student. Search for The Franklin School of Innovation. You will then be asked for your student's UID and password. All students have been given their UID and passwords, and have received training on how to log on. Ask your student!
- If your student does NOT know how to log into Canvas, we can help. Please check with your student before you email for help. Email me if your student cannot help you log on.

2. Log onto Canvas (you will find a [link to Canvas](#) on our website!) with your student. Ask your student to log on and show you Canvas. You can ask them to take you on a tour of their courses, and check assignments and grades. You can determine how often you want/need to log on with your student.

If you have a question about your student's grade in any specific class, please reach out to that teacher. They can best help you understand how your student is doing.

Volunteer Corner

Are you looking for ways to serve your volunteer hours? Volunteering is a wonderful way to build community, and to help our school continue to grow and improve. This year, we are continuing our bi-weekly volunteer newsletters, coordinated by Andi Morrell. Please read the newsletter regularly to see how you can help!

We are looking for some very special volunteers this month! If you have just 1 hour a week - we have the perfect opportunity for you. We are seeking mentors to provide academic and social support for our students. Mentors will receive training from Big Brothers Big Sisters of WNC, Volunteers will visit with students 1 hour a week, at school. Apply to be a mentor by visiting the BBBS WNC website bbbswnc.org to download a volunteer enrollment form or by contacting our AmeriCorps member, Erin Dooley, at edooley@thefsi.us. Be the change you want to see in the world!

We are also seeking members for our [Volunteer Crews](#). If you haven't signed up to be Crew, complete [this survey](#) and sign up today! The following Crews are in formation:

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

Thunder Bolts! Athletics

The fall sports season is in full swing! We'd love to see Franklin fans cheering our athletes! All events are listed on our school calendar, which you will find on our website, [HERE](#).

This week's action:

Monday, Oct 2, 5:30 pm: HS Girls Volleyball @ Carolina Day

Tuesday, Oct 3, 4:00 pm: HSL Girls Volleyball @ Asheville School

Tuesday, Oct 3, 4:30 pm: HS Boys Soccer vs. Reynolds Mtn @ BCSC

Thursday, Oct 5 - lots of action!

- 4:15 MS Flag Football @ Odyssey Community School
- 4:30 MS Cross Country @ Veritas
- HS Boys Soccer vs. Trailblazers@ BCSC

Student Led Conferences - October 25

Students in all grades have begun work preparing for the fall Student Led Conferences (SLCs). Every student will complete an SLC; our goal is to have parent/guardian participation for every student. We dedicate the entire school day to SLCs. **Students will come to school for their designated SLC time; they will not be in school the rest of the day.** Please plan ahead for this day! Your student's Crew leader will send out a schedule to sign up for a time for the SLC.

What are SLCs, and why are they so important? At Franklin, we believe in putting students at the center of their learning. Teachers and parents have important supporting roles, but students are the stars. The

SLC is one way we shift to put students in the lead. In the traditional parent-teacher conference, there is no place for student voice and ownership. In the SLC, students present evidence of what they have learned, and they share their goals for the year. Crew leaders and parents/guardians listen, ask questions, and learn how we can help students reach their goals. If you are new to Franklin, I encourage you to [watch this video](#) and see an SLC in action in another EL Education school.

In addition to academic goals, students will reflect on their Habits of Scholarship. As a faculty last year, we mapped out a [Continuum](#) of learning targets for our Habits of Scholarship - in other words, what each Habit of Scholarship looks like at each grade level. For the fall SLCs, students will evaluate themselves on their Habits of Scholarship. I encourage you to take a look at the [Continuum](#), and think about how you can support your student show growth in their Habits of Scholarship.

PSAT @ Franklin, Saturday, October 14, 8 am

We have a few slots open for the PSAT! The PSAT is generally taken by students in 10th or 11th grade, and is used to determine eligibility for national scholarships, like the National Merit Scholar program. It's also a chance for students in earlier grades to gain experience on a college-entrance exam. The fee is \$30. Contact College Counselor Jane Ann Tager, jtager@thefsi.us, or Title 1 Teacher/Testing Coordinator Sarah Valley, svalley@thefsi.us, to sign up.

Gearing Up For Year 5!

We're not through the first quarter of this school year, and we are already gearing up for next year! There's rarely a dull moment in the life of a growing school. We can use your help! Every year, we ask families how they heard about our school. Every year, we learn that families find us from other families. Word of mouth is our most important form of marketing!

Helping ensure full enrollment matters for all of us! For current parents, full enrollment means a healthy budget for the school. This allows us to continue expanding our elective and extra-curricular programming, and is important as we work to obtain financing for our permanent facility.

How can you help? We are looking for parents to help distribute flyers and marketing material around town, to help at community events, and to help with Info Sessions at school. You can also help by following us on [Facebook](#), on [Twitter](#), and, coming soon, on Instagram. Share, like, retweet! If you'd like to join our Marketing Crew, send me an email @ mvrwink@thefsi.us!

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, or bring a written note to the front office. Educational leave requests require prior approval from the Executive Director, [Michelle Vruwink](#). Please note that Educational Leave cannot be used for family vacations.

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 need to change my contact information, send in re-enrollment forms, or update my child's immunization records: [Erinn Otten](#), Student Services Coordinator.

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

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

6th Grade

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

Bryan Clendenin, Social Studies: bclendenin@thefsi.us

Charlie Keller, Math: ckeller@thefsi.us
Gina Lappe, Science & Social Studies: glappe@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

Michael Holm, ELA: mholm@thefsi.us
Katie Dulaney, Social Studies: kdulaney@thefsi.us
Peggy Altman, Math: paltman@thefsi.us
Tracy Lynn, Science: tlynn@thefsi.us

9th Grade

Drew Fowler, ELA: dfowler@thefsi.us
Matt Reynolds, World History: mreynolds@thefsi.us
Teshale Byan, Math 1: tbyan@thefsi.us
Jill Padfield, Math 2: jpadfield@thefsi.us
Taylor Jenkins, Foundations Math 1: tjenkins@thefsi.us
Chris DeFiore, Earth Science: cdefiore@thefsi.us

10th Grade

Carly Connor, ELA: cconnor@thefsi.us
Jerry Lubos, World History: jlubos@thefsi.us
Jill Padfield, Math 2: jpadfield@thefsi.us
Taylor Jenkins, Math 3: tjenkins@thefsi.us
S. Gold, Biology: sgold@thefsi.us

11th Grade

Katie Washburn, English III & AP Lang: kwashburn@thefsi.us
Lindsay Furst, English III & AP Lang long-term sub: lfurst@thefsi.us
Meghan Moore-Hubbard, American History I: mmoorehubbard@thefsi.us
Taylor Jenkins, Math 3: tjenkins@thefsi.us
Teshale Byan, PreCalc: tbyan@thefsi.us
Melissa Parton, Chemistry: mparton@thefsi.us

12th Grade

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

Elective Teachers:

MS PE: Kendra Orians, korians@thefsi.us
HS PE: Kimberly Burke, kburke@thefsi.us
HS Art: Kati Robbins, krobbins@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: Nicole Phifer-Huett, nphiferhuett@thefsi.us
French: Stephanie Hellert, shellert@thefsi.us
Spanish I & II: Heather Kabat, hkabat@thefsi.us
Spanish II, III, & IV: Alfredo Herrero Debon, aherrerodebon@thefsi.us
ASL: Desiree Delbert, ddelbert@thefsi.us