

From the Director

Year 5 - Goals for Growth

I hope everyone has enjoyed a good start to the school year! Our 5th year is a mile-marker in many ways. This year, we've grown to over 500 students - double where we started and a shift from a small to mid-sized school. For the 1st year since we opened, although we continued to welcome new families and staff members, we didn't add grade levels or new classrooms. This year we will renew our Charter with the State Department of Education. The Charter allows us to operate, and provides for oversight and accountability of our school. This year, we also show our commitment to being here for the long run by laying a physical foundation and investing in a permanent building.

Over the summer and the past few weeks, our leadership team has worked with our EL Education school designer to lay out our goals for the school year. We go through this process each year, reflecting back to the information we gathered from students, parents, and teachers the prior year, looking at where we exceeded our goals and where we fell short, and deciding on the most important, or highest leverage, actions for the year ahead. In any school, and especially in a young school still growing from the ground up, the list is long and the time is short! It takes time to really prioritize the things we feel can best move us forward.

As an EL Education school, our goals are always focused around students and the three dimensions of student achievement in EL Education schools: academic knowledge and skills, character, and high quality work. We'll publish our work plan goals on our website as soon as we finish our fine-tuning.

This goal-setting process is something we ask our students to do each year. Modeling and supporting students in the process of goal-setting and reflection is something that sets Franklin (and other EL schools) apart, and is perhaps one of the most important things we can do to help students take ownership of their learning, and be prepared for their futures.

As parents, you play a huge role in helping students achieve their individual goals, which in turn helps us achieve our school-wide

Important Dates

Thurs, Sept 6, 5:30 - 7 pm

MS Back to School Night

Sat, Sept 8, 9 - noon

Senior Portraits (on campus)

Mon, Sept 10, 2 - 3 pm

Marketing, Events & Fundraising
CREW meeting on campus

Tues, Sept 11, 6:00 pm

Board of Directors Meeting

Thurs., Sept 13, 5:30 - 7 pm

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

Fri, , Sept 14 - NO SCHOOL

Teacher PD Day

Mon, Sept 17, 6 - 7 pm

College Info Night for Seniors

Wed, Sept 19 - Full Day

3:15/3:30 Release

Thurs, Sept 20, 4 - 9 pm

Farm Burger South Back to
School Dine Out

Fri, , Sept 21,, 9:00 am

Groundbreaking Ceremony

Fri, Sept 28, Movie Night!

Bent Creek Baptist Church
MS- 4:30 pm
HS- 7 pm

Tues, Oct 9, 6 pm

Board of Directors meeting

goals. Research shows that parent involvement in school is directly linked to higher student achievement, successful completion of high school and further education, and fewer behavior problems for students at school. Parents often ask what they can do to help their student be successful. One of the most important things any parent can do is show that you think school is important and, even more specifically, that you care about your child's school.. There are so many ways you can do this, from the daily act of getting your child to school on time, to showing an interest in what your student is doing in school each day, to attending Student Led Conferences and other events at school, to finding a way to volunteer and show your support for Franklin. You'll find lots of information and opportunities to be involved in this month's newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming Back to School Nights - Thursday, Sept 6 for Middle School and Thursday, Sept 13 for High School. Come meet teachers, principals, and other parents. Together - we will have a great year!

Onward,

Michelle Vruwink, Executive Director

Tues, Oct 9 - Fri, Oct 12:

9th Grade Adventure Treks

Sat, Oct 13, 8:30 am

PSAT @ FSI

Oct 15 - 19 - Spirit Week!

-Oct 19: Homecoming Dance

-Oct 20 - FSI Bonfire

Oct 24: Student Led Conferences

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There's a lot in this month's newsletter. Here's a little navigation guide!

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How to Get Involved

If you are ready to commit and contribute, we have many ways for you to get involved! We ask that every family volunteer 4 hours per month (2 hours for single parent households), as a way to help us build community and create a thriving and beautiful school. We'll have more information, as well as parent volunteers, on hand during the upcoming Back to School Nights - stop by, say hello, and learn more about volunteer opportunities. It is our hope that you will find something that feels valuable and fun for you, and that helps us all build a stronger school community.

Franklin does not have a formal PTO or PTA. Currently, family volunteers are organized in Crews. Crew is an EL Education structure, taken from Outward Bound, based on the idea that "We are all Crew, not passengers". Each of us has an important role to play. Our volunteer Crews this year include:

- Gardening & Grounds - for people who like creating beauty while getting dirty! This Crew is responsible for all the beautiful gardens around campus. No experience necessary - just come and have fun.
- Events/Fundraising - for everyone who likes a good party - this Crew helps plan and carry out several school-wide events, including school dances, our Holiday music concert & basket raffle, the spring Founders' Day & Mud Run, and other smaller events. You don't have to help with every event - just help when you can!
- Marketing - are you a social media guru? Like to go to events and talk to people? Are your kids thriving at Franklin? Join this Crew, and help us meet our enrollment growth goals for next year. We would love help supporting a more diverse student population! Meeting our growth goals is important as we take on our permanent building project!
- Teacher Support: Do you have a soft spot for teachers? This Crew will be focused on ways to lighten the load for our faculty, by grading papers, helping with car line duty, coordinating resources for special projects/events, etc. Great for people with flexible schedules who can help out during the school day.

Join us **Sept 10, 2:00** to learn more about helping with Events, Marketing, and Fundraising this year. We need help with organizing events (dances, carnivals, socials, basket raffles), getting sponsorships, putting up school flyers, organizing restaurant nights, etc. If you would love to fill your volunteer hours helping with events, fundraising or marketing, please join us. If you cannot come to this meeting, but are interested, please email Gina Gatts at ginagatts@gmail.com

In addition to the Crews, we have a few other ways to get involved. We are currently looking for parents to serve on our School Improvement Team. This team meets with school leaders and teachers, reviews school data, and thinks strategically about how we can continue to grow and improve as a school. If you are interested, please email Michelle Vruwink (mvruwink@thefsi.us). The School Improvement Team will meet 4 - 6 times throughout the year.

We are always seeking individuals interested in serving on our Board of Directors. This is a significant commitment, open to parents and community members who demonstrate a strong commitment to the school and its long-term success. We especially need individuals with finance, legal, building, marketing, and/or fundraising experience, as well as people with strong leadership skills. Contact our current Board chair, Pat Feehan (pfeehan@thefsi.us) or Michelle Vruwink if you are interested in learning more about Board membership.

Do you have a strong commitment to equity? Have thoughts on how we can make Franklin a more inclusive, diverse, and welcoming community? We are exploring ideas for an Equity Crew and other

ways to hear and value multiple perspectives and voices in our community. Contact Michelle Vruwink if you are interested in helping with this goal.

To help us communicate effectively about volunteer opportunities (meaning fewer, more targeted emails!) - please complete this short survey! [Volunteer Survey](#)

Traffic Reminder

Thank you to everyone for a relatively smooth drop off and pick up process! One important reminder - **parents picking up high school students should not arrive before 3:30 pm.** Parents who arrive early may be asked to exit and return - early arrivers are stopping our traffic.

Ground Breaking! Date Change - Sept 21

Work is well underway on our building project. We're deep in the process of building plans, contracts, and permits, with our all-local team of ARCA Designs, Vannoy Construction, and Capital Bank/First Tennessee.

In our excitement to share the groundbreaking with everyone, we got a little ahead of ourselves! The Board of Directors has decided to postpone our groundbreaking ceremony by two weeks. The new date is Friday, September 21, 9 am.

You are invited to join us, meet our Board, and help us celebrate! No need to RSVP, just come on out and join the fun.

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!

Back to School Nights

We will 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. We encourage all parents & guardians to join us!

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

Please note that the College Information Session has been moved to Monday, September 17, 6 pm. This was previously scheduled during our HS Back to School Night, We moved it so that parents and students can attend the Western Carolina College Fair, taking place at UNCA Kimmel Arena on September 14. We hope you will come to our Back to School Night and then head over to UNCA for the College Fair!

Mountain Bike Team Interest Survey!

Do you love mountain biking? Would you like to ride, and maybe race, with other FSI students? Would you like to learn bike maintenance and help improve the local trails? Then please fill out this form! The goal of the FSI Mountain Bike Team will be to meet twice a month, every other week, to ride, work on bikes, build trails, and build skills. Our 7th and 8th grade ELA teacher, Ethan Burns, is interested in helping establish a mountain bike team at FSI. He is looking for staff who are interested in helping out, parents who can offer support, and most importantly, STUDENTS who want to ride bikes in the woods and maybe even compete in a race or two. If you fall into any of these groups, please fill out the survey to be added to the list of interested people.

[Mountain Bike Interest Survey](#)

ThunderBolts Athletics!

It's game week! Our fall athletics schedule is in full swing, and we hope to see some fans at our games! Here's what's on the schedule for the week:

Wed. 9/5- MS & HS Cross Country at ACA 5:00, 5:30, 6:00pm

Thurs. 9/6- HS Volleyball vs Haywood Christian at Maggie Valley Baptist Church 5:45pm

Fri. 9/7- HS Soccer vs ICI at ACA 4:30pm

Sat. 9/8- MS & HS Cross Country at Rocket Relays at AC Reynolds 8:30am

Back to School/Dine Out @ Farm Burger South, Thurs, Sept 20

You need to eat, but by Thursday night, you're too tired to cook! If that sounds familiar - we've got a solution! Join the fun on Thursday, September 20, 4 - 9 pm, at Farm Burger South, for part of their Back to School Fundraisers. Bring school supplies to donate, and a healthy appetite - 10% of the proceeds

from the evening will support FSI! Let's bring school spirit into this - wear your FSI gear and show your school pride! Be sure to let them know you are there for FSI.

Save the Date! Important Dates in October

As schedules get busy - we want to be sure you have these dates in your calendars! More information on each of these events will be coming soon - just save the date for now:

Sat, Oct 13: We are offering the PSAT at Franklin. Who should take the PSAT? The PSAT may be a good option for any student planning to attend a 40-year college. Why consider taking the PSAT?

- See how you do on a national college entrance exam - without the high stakes! The PSAT is good practice for test-taking, and gives you an idea of your strengths and areas for growth, as well as how your scores compare to other students
- Juniors who are interested in qualifying for a National Merit Scholarship must take the PSAT

October 15 - 19 is Spirit Week. This year we are adding two events for this week! Homecoming Dance (HS only) will be on Friday, October 19, 7:30 - 10 pm. On Saturday, October 20, we plan to hold an FSI Spirit Bonfire on campus. Stay tuned for more details for both events!

Wed, Oct 24: Fall Student Led Conferences (SLCs). This is a change from the annual calendar posted on our website. Students will attend school for their scheduled conference time only -regular classes will not meet. Due to space constraints, we will not offer Beyond the Bell services on SLC day.

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

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, 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: [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! 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