



# Frankfort-Schuyler

## CENTRAL SCHOOL

Winter 2021-2022



## Superintendent's Message

Dear Frankfort-Schuyler Community,

The year 2021 proved to be another challenging and incredibly difficult year for our entire Frankfort-Schuyler community. I continued to be amazed at the resilience of our students, staff and community. True "champion" spirit and Frankfort-Schuyler Pride have been evident each and every day in all that we do. We couldn't be more thankful to have our students back, five days a week, in our buildings with their peers and teachers. We have carefully and collaboratively navigated the troubled and uncharted waters of the global pandemic that is COVID-19. I, personally, am grateful for the ongoing support, willingness to work together and openness to new and different viewpoints. The collective efforts of our shared and vested stakeholder groups have allowed us to be as successful as possible, while maintaining the safety of everyone in our school family and community. Our goal remains to best serve our students, support our teachers and partner with our parents as we continually improve this exemplary District. Please continue to communicate with our teachers, administrators and me, fresh ideas and/or any questions you may have. The email account [reopen@frankfort-schuyler.org](mailto:reopen@frankfort-schuyler.org) will be available throughout the school year. Thank you for all you do in helping us best serve our students!

With Frankfort-Schuyler Pride,

**Joseph M. Palmer**  
*Superintendent*

### FSCS Mission Statement

Our purpose is to provide a positive learning environment in which students and staff will have the opportunity to experience success and become lifelong learners.

# Administration Update

The Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District has been embracing in-person learning since September! We recognize the value face-to-face instruction provides our students and our staff. COVID-19 has certainly brought challenges, but we are a District that rises to the challenge to provide quality instruction to our students.

At the elementary level, we are excited to offer an enrichment program after school. The program runs Monday-Thursday for five weeks, four times per school year. Students participate in a variety of activities including soccer, dance, baking, crafting, paper projects and homework assistance. We are grateful that not only do our elementary teachers teach classes to our elementary students, but our middle and high school teachers also get the opportunity to share their knowledge!

At the secondary level, we have expanded our course offerings and added two new ELA electives this year; novel adaptations of the 21st century and young adult literature, as well as implementing a literacy class in sixth grade and a freshman seminar class in ninth grade. Literacy and math labs have also been implemented to assist many of our students who showed declines during last year's remote learning schedule. Our Project Lead the Way Program is going strong. To help support the growth of the technology/engineering program, we have reinstated our middle school technology program by hiring a full time middle school technology teacher. Advanced Placement and dual credit course opportunities through Herkimer College continue to be offered with a wide variety of sections.

Our Family Support Navigator Carlee Doxtater has been busy with our Hi-5 Friends. The District has created a cross-aged mentoring program where our eighth, 11th and 12th grade students visit with our kindergarten, first and second grade students to talk about what it means to be a Hi-5 Friend. It is centered around the book "Hi-5 for Bulldog Pride," written by our Superintendent Joe Palmer! There are five principles in the book that teach students how to be a Hi-5 Friend. Students learn the core values of pride, respect, responsibility, trust and citizenship. When you visit either of our buildings, you will see these core values displayed proudly.

Students are receiving career development through the guidance department in collaboration with the Herkimer BOCES, Schools to Careers Program. They are participating in activities such as career development, career exploration, resume writing and internships. Additionally, eighth graders participated in a Career Day sponsored by the Genesis Group in collaboration with the guidance department. Students will also attend a ninth grade county-wide Career Day at Herkimer College sponsored by the Genesis Group and the Herkimer County Counselors Association.

Our K-Kids Club, the elementary level of Kiwanis, has been busy spreading community kindness this school year. It has been nice to meet in person, as it lends itself to create joy for others. We kicked off the school year with "chalk the walk". The K-Kids filled our school sidewalk with inspirational messages and pictures for all of our Frankfort-Schuyler champions to enjoy when they came to school the following day. We also sponsored a drive for Operation Candy Cane and we collected donations for soldiers who visit the courtesy room at the Syracuse Airport. Our group was excited to have a special guest visit us at our December meeting – Naudie from the Utica Comets! It was a fun way to celebrate the holiday season with our K-Kids. Stay tuned for more kindness and community in the new year!

At the secondary level, we have added more afterschool and club opportunities, not only for the high school, but the middle school students as well. Students were excited to learn they will now have a middle school yearbook of their own for the first time in many years. To expand technology opportunities, we added a STEAM Club (science, technology, engineering, art and math) at the middle school level to give students hands-on, real world experience. We are happy to report; many of our established clubs such as Key Club, Builders Club, Friends of Rachel, Future Business Leaders of America, Mock Trial and our Alliance Club still remain active and strong.

Our District-wide musical concerts have been very successful. Our choir and band students from fourth through 12th grade were remarkable and each concert was well attended. We were able to remain masked and physically distanced to allow the performances to be in-person as well as livestreamed. This was the first live concert since March of 2020. We are proud of our students and the music teachers that made it amazing.

Let us know how we can continue to better serve students, support staff and partner with parents!

Educationally yours,

FS Administrators:

Mrs. Melanie Welch, *Elementary Principal*

Ms. Dawn Harvey, *CSE Chairperson*

Mr. Michael Stalteri, *Secondary Principal*

Mrs. Julie Tangorra, *K-12 Director of Student Achievement*



## School District News

### The Five Days of Holidays Read Aloud

This holiday season, the Frankfort-Schuyler PTO organized the second annual Five Days of Holidays. Each night for five nights, a video was shared on the District website as well as on Facebook, featuring teachers reading and acting out classic Christmas stories as well as featuring stories they had come up with.

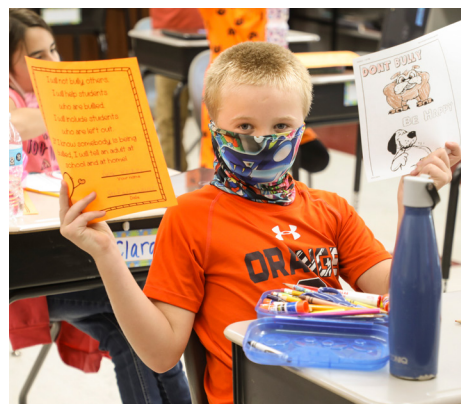
The PTO sent home goodie bags for students to enjoy while watching, including candy canes and a Champ ornament for them to decorate. On the final night, students were treated to a visit by Santa Claus and a special song performed by the teachers and District administrative staff.

### Pre-K / Kindergarten Registration

Please be on the lookout for pre-K/kindergarten registration information via the District website and Facebook page. Registration will take place in April.

### Unity Day

On October 20, Frankfort-Schuyler School District came together to celebrate Unity Day. Students wore orange to bring awareness and elementary students took a pledge and signed contracts vowing to stand up to bullying and to stand together. Classroom doors in both the elementary and Jr./Sr. high schools were decorated uniquely to spread the anti-bullying message and kindness throughout the entire District.



# Elementary School News

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## Afterschool Exploratory Enrichment Program

For the first time this school year, Frankfort-Schuyler Elementary School has implemented an afterschool exploratory enrichment program.

With the goal of encouraging academic and socially-based learning and participation beyond the hours of the school day, the enrichment program was born from use of the Coronavirus, Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) grant funding.

The program, currently enjoyed by 70 elementary students and made possible by ten District teachers, supports the mission of the Frankfort-Schuyler CSD by serving students with the opportunity for an extended school day and continued learning and engagement while also partnering with parents and guardians to provide these exciting opportunities for their children to enjoy.

As made clear by the challenges presented throughout the pandemic, now more than ever encouraging children to stay connected to school and providing a place that will nourish them beyond academics is of the utmost importance.

Opportunities made possible through the afterschool exploratory enrichment program include cooking, painting, board games, basketball, story time and crafts, and students are given the choice of which activities appeal most to them.

The program has been designed to run for four semesters, beginning on October 12, 2021 and ending on April 28, 2022. The program runs on a weekly basis, Monday-Thursday. In partnership with the YMCA, student participants will receive free care before (2:10-3:25 p.m.) and after (5:00-6:00 p.m.) the program on the days that it is in session.

We are excited that by taking advantage of important funding and joining with local partners and our very own Frankfort-Schuyler CSD team, we are able to provide our elementary students with the opportunity to continue to grow, learn and experience in a collaborative setting beyond the limits of the school day.



# Elementary School News



## Spirit Paddle Celebration

Elementary students gathered outside on October 8 for their first-ever spirit paddle celebration.

Similar to the high school, a mini spirit paddle, kindly created in collaboration by high school tech students and Ms. Lambert, was awarded to the grade with the most participation during Spirit Week.

Second grade was the proud winner of the spirit paddle, which will be displayed in the showcase for all to see. This paddle will belong to the second grade until the next winter Spirit Week, when it will be awarded to the new class showing the most Frankfort-Schuyler Pride!

Students had a dance party and mini pep rally outside following the paddle presentation.



## Holiday Concert



# Elementary School News

## Elementary Halloween Parade

On October 29, elementary students came together, in costume, for outdoor trick-or-treating as well as a parade around the track.

Parents and family members attended to cheer for and watch their spooky ghosts and adorable princesses parade around with candy and smiles.



## Frankfort-Schuyler Elementary School Begins 1,000 Books Initiative

Students in grades kindergarten through second have begun participating in an educational initiative titled 1,000 books.

This program provides the opportunity for children to read 1,000 books before the end of their time in second grade. In partnership with the PTO, 100 tote bags were filled with 10 books each. The cornerstone of this initiative is that each participating student spends 15 minutes per day reading with their family.

A self-paced program, the District aims to have each student spend two weeks with each tote so that they are exposed to a variety of reading materials.

“We are pleased to offer the 1,000 books program for our students because literacy is the foundation for success,” said Elementary School Principal Melanie Welch. “With digital resources readily available, it’s nice to share authentic books with our students and expose them to a variety of authors and topics.”

The goal of this program is to highlight the value of reading and encourage students to do so on a daily basis.



### Middle School Math-A-Thon Comes to an End

Our 2021 FSMS Math-A-Thon for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital has come to an end. We exceeded our goal and raised a total of \$2,350! Over the past 20 years, FSMS students have raised a total of more than \$32,000 for St. Jude's. Thank you again for all the donations and thanks to everyone who supported and encouraged our seventh and eighth grade students. They did a great job and should be very proud of themselves. Look for us again in November 2022!



### Builders Club Hosts St. Jude Walk/Run

On September 25, Frankfort-Schuyler students, faculty and staff came together for a three-mile walk/run in support of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

The St. Jude Walk/Run is an annual community event typically held at Whitesboro High School. Given the circumstances surrounding COVID-19, the event had gone virtual and the Builders Club at Frankfort-Schuyler took advantage of the opportunity to bring awareness closer to home.

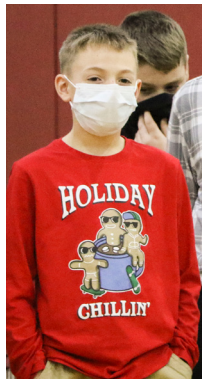
Organized by the Builders Club, a student-led community service organization, participants took to the track to raise awareness dressed in Frankfort-Schuyler maroon and white as well as gold to bring awareness to childhood cancer.

In addition to the in-person event, the Frankfort-Schuyler team raised funds, totaling \$1,405, that will go towards helping to save the lives of thousands of children through the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

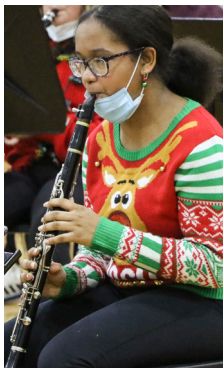
"Frankfort-Schuyler Pride" was in full force and we want to thank all of our participants as well as donors for supporting such an important cause.



## Middle School News



## Middle School Holiday Concert



## Jr. vs. Sr. Powder Puff Game



## High School News

### Cheerleading Team Celebrates Senior Night

On October 14, Frankfort-Schuyler's cheerleading team honored their seniors during a Senior Night. Congratulations to seniors Julia Caiola, Jaeden Coffey, Olyvia Manella, Bridget Martinez, Connie Morrison and Ailyah Pennicooke!



### Girl's Soccer Senior Night

On September 22, Frankfort-Schuyler's girls soccer team honored their seniors during a senior game vs. Herkimer. Congratulations to our seniors Mia Amendolare and Skye Simmons!



# High School News

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## High School Holiday Concert



# Student Achievement

## Celebrating Small Successes Along the Way

- Our grades three through eight teachers are preparing for the spring NYS assessments by giving the Computer Based Testing (CBT) simulation. Students participated in CBT for ELA last year, but not for math. This year, they will participate in both math and ELA. These assessments will ultimately help us to better instruct our students.
- Our champion teachers will be participating in software training that will assist them with mapping their curriculum. The ATLAS software will create one database for all teachers to be able to create, adjust and view their own curriculum as well as their colleagues'.
- We have added Accelerated Reader as a reading assessment tool through STAR.
- A refresher training was held on IXL and was attended by our kindergarten through grade nine math and ELA teachers. IXL is a software program that teachers use to determine a student's skill level in math and ELA. Expanded use will be discussed further at their upcoming department meetings.
- Some of our teachers also participated in instructional coaching at the elementary level. Instructional coaching provides a reflective study and feedback on how a teacher delivers instruction to meet their students' needs.

## What's Happening in the Classrooms

- Kindergarten: There have been overall gains for our kindergarten students. With limited pre-school classes, some of our students came in with very little exposure to letters and numbers. Right now, 63% of students know uppercase letters and 57% know lowercase letters. Seventy-four percent are proficient in number recognition 0-10.
- First Grade: Our students have been working hard on number writing and number recognition from 0-50. Eighty-two percent are proficient in number recognition and 77% are proficient in number writing.
- Second Grade: As of December 2021, 63% of students were proficient in their math goal of skip counting by one's, 10's and 100's. Sixty-four percent of students were proficient in identifying the main idea of a reading passage. In math, they are excelling at adding three-digit numbers and describing strategies they use to solve.
- Third Grade: As of December 2021, 75% of students were proficient in citing evidence to answer reading comprehension questions. In math, students will be assessed twice per week on the multiplication table to determine what facts should be focused on during instruction.
- Fourth Grade: In January 2022, 55% of students were proficient in scoring a three or four on the paragraph writing rubric. Seventy-one percent of students were proficient in multiplication facts when given five minutes to complete them. When given eight minutes, 75% were proficient. Forty percent were proficient in addition and subtraction. With this data, the team now knows they have to spend more time practicing and assessing these skills.
- Fifth Grade: Before the holiday break, 80% of students were proficient in solving three-digit by three-digit multiplication problems. In ELA, 80% of students were proficient in answering multiple choice reading comprehension questions. The data is showing that students are having more difficulty with inference questions; as a result, more instructional time will be committed to this.
- Eighth Grade: Our teachers are seeing tremendous improvements with the writing skills of eighth graders, specifically on enduring issues paragraphs as the year has progressed.

## Congratulations to our Frankfort-Schuyler and Kiwanis STUDENT OF THE MONTH Award Winners!

### SEPTEMBER

**Lilyann Shank**  
*Fifth Grade*

**Sebastian Veloz**  
*Eighth Grade*

**Angelo DeBranago**  
*12th Grade*

### OCTOBER

**Tatum Lawrence**  
*Fifth Grade*

**Asia Colthurst**  
*Eighth Grade*

**Mia Amendolare**  
*12th Grade*

### NOVEMBER

**Charlotte Bick**  
*Fifth Grade*

**Jillian McKernan**  
*Eighth Grade*

**Olyvia Manella**  
*12th Grade*





# Frankfort-Schuyler CENTRAL SCHOOL

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