



# Frankfort-Schuyler

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## CENTRAL SCHOOL

**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.

Winter 2025



### EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION



COMMUNITY AND  
COLLABORATION



STUDENT  
ACHIEVEMENT



FISCAL  
RESPONSIBILITY



PEOPLE AND  
CULTURE

CHARACTER: PRIDE, RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, TRUST AND CITIZENSHIP

## A Message from the Superintendent

Dear Frankfort-Schuyler Community,

As we welcome the new year, I want to take a moment to celebrate the achievements, dedication and growth we've seen throughout our District. Winter is a time for reflection, connection and looking ahead, and I am continually inspired by the resilience and passion of our students, staff and families.

As a District, we have a shared commitment to giving our students the very best experiences possible. Every day, we are working together, side by side, to make a difference in their lives. Whether it's through academic success, extracurricular opportunities or helping others in the community, we are teaching our students that no matter the path they choose, they have the power to make a positive impact on the world.

It is truly a privilege to be part of a District where we don't just say we want the best for our students – we show up for them, we support one another, and we work hard to make sure that every student has the tools they need to succeed. With each step we take, we are reinforcing the idea that success is a community effort.

To our teachers, staff, families and students – thank you for your continued support, collaboration and dedication. You are what makes our District so special, and I am grateful for the opportunity to work alongside such a remarkable group of people.

As we move into the second half of the school year, I encourage everyone to stay connected and engaged. Whether it's attending school events, volunteering or simply taking the time to encourage a student, your involvement makes a difference. Together, we are building a learning environment where every child feels valued, supported and empowered to succeed.

Let's keep moving forward with optimism, creativity and a willingness to embrace the new opportunities and challenges that come our way. Let's keep making a positive difference – one small act of kindness at a time.

And remember, when in doubt – a little bit of humor never hurts.

# CYNTHIA BROWNELL

## Presents at NYS Art Teachers Association Conference



Frankfort-Schuyler art teacher Cynthia Brownell showcased her talents at the 76th Annual New York State Art Teachers Association (NYSATA) Conference on Nov. 22 and 23 in Binghamton, while presenting on glass fusing techniques for elementary students.

Brownell and three art teachers from other Herkimer County schools said they aimed to help highlight the commitment to fostering creativity and innovative teaching methods to emphasize the importance of art in education.

“The event attracted numerous attendees from across New York state, creating a vibrant atmosphere for sharing ideas and inspiration,” the Herkimer County art teachers said in a jointly written statement.

“Educators from various districts came together to learn, collaborate and grow within the art education community.”

Brownell received a grant last school year through the Region 3 NYSATA organization. The grant helped fund a glass fusing project for Frankfort-Schuyler fifth graders. Brownell presented the results of the grant and was able to introduce the concept of glass fusing into elementary, middle and high school art curriculum. She talked about the science of glass and the ins and outs of firing glass in a ceramic kiln. She shared a firing schedule with the group as well as a number of resources to get them started. It was a well-attended event, and she also shared lesson plans on glass fusing, examples of the student work and introduced microwave kilns for those on a tighter budget.

“The 76th Annual New York State Art Teachers Association Conference served as an exceptional platform for educators to exchange knowledge and techniques, further enriching the art education landscape in New York,” the Herkimer County art teachers said. “The dedication and creativity exhibited by the presenters, including those from Herkimer County, inspire not only their students but also fellow educators to explore new avenues in art integration within their classrooms. This collaborative spirit ensures that art continues to thrive in schools across the state, nurturing the next generation of creative thinkers.”

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## Amazon Donates to Frankfort-Schuyler CSD

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After the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District built a partnership with Amazon and shared the District’s vision, Amazon generously donated \$1,000 to the District for use on items that helped ensure a great start to the new school year for Frankfort-Schuyler students.

With these funds, the District was able to purchase additional backpacks for the Nutritional Backpack program as well as water bottles, lunch pails, snack packs and school supplies for students. The District is grateful for the opportunity to partner with local businesses, which in turn allows the Frankfort CSD to implement and sustain programs for students at no cost to the District.



# Frankfort-Schuyler Elementary Welcomes New Principal



Since joining the Frankfort-Schuyler family in December, Frankfort-Schuyler Elementary School Principal Mrs. Owens has been busy getting to know the students, families, staff and school community. The teachers have been gracious enough to open their classrooms for visits. Mrs. Owens has come into many of the primary classrooms to read a book, including her favorite book, “The

Giving Tree.” Mrs. Owens shared with students that this book is her favorite because it reminds her just how much people who love us will sacrifice, and that we must remember to be grateful when those around us are willing to give us their time and energy.

Mrs. Owens also spent time with the fourth grade students helping them create their corn husk dolls for the Native American social studies unit, and participated in book buddies with one of the pre-K classrooms. As a school, she led a game of Christmas Jeopardy at the annual Christmas singalong assembly to give students a festive send-off before break.

To get to know teachers and staff better, Mrs. Owens has invited staff to schedule “10 minute meetings” with her, with a focus

on what FSES is doing well and what needs to be prioritized. Overwhelmingly, the staff has reported that the culture and climate of the building and district are in great shape, and that they would like to see renewed focus on student achievement and discipline procedures. Mrs. Owens will be leading a building-level committee to start taking on challenges and concerns with a team approach. As an instructional leader, she is working to continuously add to her knowledge about what will help make our students grow as readers, writers, mathematicians and thinkers, and she’s looking forward to providing professional development opportunities to elementary school staff.

Mrs. Owens has had the pleasure of meeting community members

while attending the fourth and fifth grade winter concert, and during many of the holiday celebrations in the building. She is looking forward to getting to know the community more as the weather allows for more events outside the school day.

Feel free to stop by and introduce yourself to Mrs. Owens as she greets students outside the school each morning; many parents, grandparents and guardians have stopped to chat and say welcome. She is overjoyed and appreciative of the welcoming atmosphere that everyone in the school community has displayed and she already feels right at home!

## Frankfort-Schuyler Clubs Participate in Stuff the Bus



The Frankfort-Schuyler Builders Club and Key Club participated in Stuff the Bus this past holiday season for the first time. Stuff the Bus is an annual toy drive created to help those less fortunate in the Mohawk Valley have a happy holiday season.

A total of 128 toys were collected to bring smiles to children in need. A big thank you to all the students and families who generously donated! It couldn’t have been done without your support.

The District looks forward to growing this event within the school community next holiday season!



# Frankfort-Schuyler Elementary Holds *31st Annual Veterans Day Celebration*



On November 8, the Frankfort-Schuyler Elementary School held its annual Veterans Day celebration. The celebration included student performances of patriotic songs such as “Grand Old Flag,” “America Every Day,” “My Country Tis of Thee” and more.

Guest speakers included New York State Senator Mark Walczek, Community Affairs Liaison Cindy Zych and New York State Assemblyman Robert Smullen.

Each veteran in attendance had the opportunity to introduce themselves, including their rank, branch of service and when they served.





# K-Kids Club Plants Seeds of Service in the Community



On November 4, elementary students in the Frankfort-Schuyler K-Kids Club, sponsored by the Frankfort Kiwanis, rolled up their sleeves and got involved in the community.

Fifth grade students ventured outdoors and participated in winter planting for the Frankfort Community Garden, sowing hundreds of flowers that will be planted in the garden come spring. Third graders created heartfelt Veterans Day cards to be included in gift bags for local veterans.

Through these efforts, the K-Kids Club continues to inspire a spirit of service and community involvement among young students.





# Frankfort-Schuyler PTO Hosts Cookies with Santa



On December 13, the Frankfort-Schuyler PTO proudly hosted its annual Cookies with Santa event.

The event was well-attended, offering families the opportunity to visit and take pictures with Santa; enjoy free cocoa, cookies and popcorn; participate

in a free craft and purchase tickets for basket raffles featuring items generously donated by the community.

The PTO sincerely appreciates the support from both school families and the community.



## Elementary Band, Chorus Host Winter Concert

On December 10, the music was magical at the Elementary Winter Concert! The fifth grade band and the combined fourth and fifth grade chorus, directed by Ms. Bunger and Ms. Gribbin, each performed three songs and filled the air with holiday cheer.

Thank you to everyone who made this concert possible, including the Frankfort-Schuyler Board of Education, the administration team, the hardworking Maintenance Department, the generous FCSC Music Boosters and all the incredible faculty and staff!



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# WKTV Chief Meteorologist Bill Kardas

## Visits Third Grade STEAM Class

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On December 18, Frankfort-Schuyler third graders received a special visit from Chief Meteorologist Bill Kardas from WKTV!

In STEAM class, these budding scientists have been diving deep into the world of natural hazards. They're learning about tornadoes, hurricanes, blizzards, floods and earthquakes – and they're not just learning about them, they're creating incredible projects.

Some of their challenges include building:

- An earthquake-resistant home that can withstand the "tremors" of a shaking table
- A rain-proof roof that can handle a downpour (from a cup of water, of course!)
- A hurricane-proof home that can survive the "winds" of a powerful fan

These hands-on projects are helping students develop critical thinking, problem-solving and creativity. The goal of STEAM is to inspire these young minds, foster a love of learning and empower them to become the next generation of innovators and engineers.

A huge thank you to Bill Kardas for sharing his knowledge and making learning so much fun!

## Local Psychologist Consults with Elementary Teachers on Neurodiversity

This school year, Frankfort-Schuyler Elementary School has been benefiting from the expertise of a local psychologist who has been volunteering her time to work with teachers on the topic of neurodiversity.

Dr. Joanne Joseph is a social and clinical psychologist with diverse interests in the areas of adverse childhood experiences, trauma, resilience and physical health. She teaches in the College of Health Sciences at SUNY Polytechnic

Institute and as a practicing clinician, she regularly consults for healthcare agencies and K-12 schools.

Due to the partnership the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District has developed with Dr. Joseph, the District was able to secure her services once per month at no cost to the District. Each month Dr. Joseph volunteers her time to consult with teachers at the elementary school on the topic of neurodiversity in the classroom.

She also offers strategies for teachers to use in their efforts to meet the needs of all students.

Dr. Joseph is the recipient of a number of teaching and service awards, including the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Service. The Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District is grateful for her expertise and her willingness to volunteer her services free of charge.



# Senior High School Profile

## Celebrating Student Success

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Frankfort-Schuyler junior Niyah Cadell-Smith is passionate about becoming a nurse one day. Niyah is currently enrolled in the Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES Health Science Careers program to set herself up for the future, as she is interested in potentially becoming a nurse in the military.

Niyah is also a SUNY Polytechnic Institute Liberty Partnership Program (LPP) student. The program is designed to support students' academic and career goals while promoting social-emotional skill building through SUNY Poly and the New York

State Education Department. Through Niyah's self-advocacy for her future endeavors and her passion for becoming a nurse, she attended a virtual meeting through LPP with SUNY Poly Assistant Chair of Undergraduate Nursing Dr. Francia Reed.

Dr. Reed provided Niyah with insight on SUNY Poly's nursing program as well as career advice. Dr. Reed, who recently retired as a lieutenant colonel from the U.S. Air Force/Air National Guard after 22 years of service, discussed some of the career possibilities as a nurse in the military. As Niyah continues

to plan for her future, Dr. Reed has offered to stay connected and support Niyah through her journey to become a nurse.



## Frankfort-Schuyler Represented at SkillsUSA Fall Leadership Conference

From November 3-5, Jillian McKernan, a student from Frankfort-Schuyler and a member of the Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES chapter of SkillsUSA, attended the SkillsUSA Fall Leadership Conference in Albany, where she was awarded her Statesman Pin.

Throughout the conference, students and advisors from the Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES chapter participated in workshops that focused

on teamwork, communication and leadership. Members who demonstrate a strong understanding of the New York State SkillsUSA organization were recognized with Statesman Pins.

Congratulations to all the students and advisors who earned their Statesman Pins — an impressive accomplishment reflecting your dedication and commitment!



# MIDDLE SCHOOL WINTER CONCERT



The Middle School Winter Concert held in the auditorium on December 12 was a delightful showcase of talent and festive spirit. The air buzzed with anticipation as students, parents and community members gathered to celebrate the holiday season through the magic of music.

The concert featured performances from various grade-level choirs and instrumental ensembles, bringing together the students, parents and community in a celebration of holiday music. The festive atmosphere, filled with the sounds of holiday classics and the joyous expressions of the performers, created a truly memorable experience for all in attendance.





# HIGH SCHOOL WINTER CONCERT

On December 18, the Frankfort-Schuyler high school band and chorus hosted their Winter Concert. Directed by Mrs. Heather Tinker and Mrs. Kathy Donaleski, and accompanied by Mrs. Emily Rozonkiewicz, it was a celebratory evening filled with beautiful music and holiday cheer.

The concert featured a variety of performances from the school's talented vocal and instrumental ensembles. The evening concluded with an engaging sing-along, featuring both the choir and instrumental ensembles. The audience was invited to join in singing well-known holiday songs such as "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" and "Deck the Halls." The joyful participation from everyone created a sense of unity and celebration, making it a memorable highlight of the evening.



## Middle School Math-A-Thon for St. Jude's Concludes Successfully

The 2024 Frankfort-Schuyler Middle School Math-A-Thon for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital has concluded successfully with a total of \$1,225 raised!

Over the past 24 years, FSMS students have generously contributed more than \$35,000 to St. Jude's. Thank you to all who donated and to everyone who supported and encouraged the middle school students.

Look for them again for the 2025 Math-A-Thon!



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# Adulting 101

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At the beginning of the 2024-25 school year, Frankfort-Schuyler High School launched a brand new course, Adulting 101!

Adulting 101 is a comprehensive program designed by Mrs. Cucci that empowers senior students with essential life skills, fostering responsibility, engagement and self-sufficiency. The curriculum encompasses a diverse range of topics, including essential home skills such as cleaning, cooking and basic home improvement (wiring, painting, minor repairs). Additionally, the program addresses financial literacy, covering budgeting, financial planning, insurance and responsible spending. Furthermore, it incorporates life management skills, encompassing car maintenance, meal planning, family planning and self-awareness with a focus on social-emotional well-being.

The program leverages valuable community resources with local experts providing hands-on instruction. For instance, students learned car maintenance techniques such as oil changes. The program also included workshops on home electrical safety (wiring a doorbell, replacing outlets and switches) and financial planning.

To enhance understanding of parenting responsibilities, the District invested in Real Care Babies, allowing students to experience the challenges and joys of childcare.

With 30 students enrolled, Adulting 101 equips students with practical knowledge and skills that will serve them well throughout their adult lives, preparing them for the challenges and responsibilities of independent living.





**Frankfort-Schuyler**  
CENTRAL SCHOOL

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