



Frankfort-Schuyler 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.

Budget Newsletter

May 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,

I am honored to continue serving as Superintendent of the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District. Each year, I'm inspired by the unwavering dedication of our students, staff, families and community members. Together, we continue to make Frankfort-Schuyler a place of excellence, where collaboration leads to meaningful achievements both in and out of the classroom.

As we enter another budget season, I want to thank our Board of Education for their thoughtful and diligent leadership. Their commitment to fiscal responsibility ensures a budget that balances student needs with consideration for our taxpayers. Each board member has played an active role – reviewing expenditures and revenue projections, engaging in meaningful discussions and advocating for the resources that support our District's continued growth.

This work is supported by the expertise of our Assistant Superintendent, the creativity of our administrators and the commitment of our staff. Together, they've helped develop a plan that sustains and strengthens our programs while maintaining financial stability.

The proposed 2025-2026 budget reflects our ongoing commitment to providing a well-rounded, high-quality education for every student. It supports our strong academic programs, student support services, full-day pre-K, interscholastic athletics, co-curricular activities and our After School and Summer Exploratory Enrichment programs. We've also made strategic use of reserves to ensure long-term sustainability in the face of potential changes to federal and state aid.

We invite you to review the details in this newsletter and visit our website for the full budget presentation. Your informed participation in the vote on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 is vital to our continued success.

We are excited about the future of Frankfort-Schuyler. With our students' enthusiasm, our educators' dedication and your continued support, the possibilities are endless. Thank you for being an essential part of our District's success.

With Frankfort-Schuyler Pride,

Joseph M. Palmer
Superintendent of Schools

BUDGET HEARING | May 6, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m. *High School Library*

BUDGET & ELECTION VOTE | May 20, 2025 from 12:00 – 8:00 p.m. *High School Old Gymnasium*

General Fund Appropriations

I. BOARD OF EDUCATION		2024-25	2025-26
This section includes the expenses of the Board of Education, the salary of the District Clerk, as well as the cost of supplies, materials, postage, and annual vote in the district.		Budget	Budget
1010	Board of Education	\$16,500	\$18,500
1040	District Clerk	\$20,000	\$20,800
1060	District Meetings	\$3,000	\$3,000
Total	Board of Education.....	\$39,500	\$42,300
II. CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION			
Salaries, supplies, and materials for the Superintendent and the Superintendent's secretary.			
1240	Superintendent, Superintendent Secretary, Supplies	\$217,000	\$226,500
Total	Central Administration	\$217,000	\$226,500
III. FINANCE			
Included are salaries, supplies, and materials that relate to the fiscal operations of the school district.			
1310	Business Administration	\$350,638	\$346,750
1320	Auditing	\$29,000	\$31,500
1325	Treasurer	\$4,100	\$4,700
1330	Tax Collector.....	\$11,500	\$12,000
1345	Purchasing.....	\$4,700	\$4,800
1380	Fiscal Agent Fees	\$6,500	\$6,500
Total	Finance.....	\$406,438	\$406,250
IV. STAFF			
1420	Legal	\$55,000	\$55,000
1430	Personnel.....	\$62,000	\$65,250
1460	Records Management	\$4,300	\$4,700
1480	Public Information.....	\$54,500	\$63,500
Total	Staff	\$175,800	\$188,450
V. CENTRAL SERVICES			
Includes all expenses associated with the maintenance of the district's buildings and grounds including custodial and maintenance salaries, utilities, service contracts, cleaning and all other supplies.			
1620	Operations of Plant	\$1,128,425	\$1,396,925
1621	Maintenance	\$662,500	\$460,500
1670	Central Printing & Mailing	\$117,000	\$122,000
Total	Central Services.....	\$1,907,925	\$1,979,425
VI. SPECIAL ITEMS			
Included are insurance premiums, potential property tax refunds, and BOCES administrative charges.			
1910	Unallocated Insurance.....	\$124,950	\$131,250
1920	School Association Dues.....	\$5,000	\$5,000
1964	Refund of Property Taxes.....	\$4,000	\$4,000
1981	BOCES Administrative Charge	\$1,521,000	\$1,522,000
Total	Special Items	\$1,654,950	\$1,662,250
TOTAL GENERAL SUPPORT		\$4,401,613	\$4,505,175
		Instruction	
I. ADMINISTRATION & CURR IMPROVEMENT		2024-2025	2025-2026
Includes salaries, supplies and materials necessary for development/supervision of instructional programs.		Budget	Budget
2010	Curriculum Development and Support.....	\$68,000	\$71,000
2020	Supervision - Regular School.....	\$494,350	\$615,000
2060	Research, Planning, Evaluation	\$3,000	\$3,000
2070	In-Service Training - Instruction	\$22,000	\$27,100
Total	Administration & Curr Improvement.....	\$587,350	\$716,100
II. TEACHING - REGULAR SCHOOL			
This category includes salaries, textbooks, BOCES Services and all supplies for the educational programs.			
2110	Teaching - Regular School.....	\$4,836,900	\$5,243,000
Total	Teaching - Regular School	\$4,836,900	\$5,243,000

General Fund Appropriations

III. SPECIAL APPORTIONMENT PROGRAMS

Cost of Instruction and Services for Students with Disabilities, Tuition for Occupational Education Programs and all expenses for Teaching Special Schools.

		2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Budget
2250	Programs for Students with Disabilities.....	\$3,452,270	\$3,741,500
2259	English Language Learners	\$174,500	\$162,000
2280	Occupational Education.....	\$661,000	\$729,000
2330	Teaching Special Schools.....	\$61,000	\$64,000
Total	Special Apportionment Programs.....	\$4,348,770	\$4,696,500

IV. INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA

Includes salaries and supplies for media and library services and all costs of the district technology programs.

2610	School Library & Audiovisual	\$170,000	\$173,500
2630	Computer Assisted Instruction	\$426,500	\$408,000
Total	Instructional Media.....	\$596,500	\$581,500

V. PUPIL SERVICES

Includes attendance, guidance, health, psychological services, extracurricular activities, and sports.

2805	Attendance	\$5,800	\$6,300
2810	Guidance	\$277,000	\$274,000
2815	Health Services	\$149,500	\$207,201
2816	Diagnostic Screening	\$5,500	\$6,000
2850	Co-Curricular Activities	\$159,460	\$124,000
2855	Interscholastic Athletics	\$278,000	\$314,100
Total	Pupil Services.....	\$875,260	\$931,601

TOTAL INSTRUCTION

\$11,244,780 \$12,168,701

Pupil Transportation

I. PUPIL TRANSPORTATION

Includes all costs for transportation to public/private schools and transportation for handicapped students.

5510	Transportation.....	\$22,000	\$35,000
5540*	Contract Transportation.....	\$1,705,500	\$1,837,530

TOTAL PUPIL TRANSPORTATION*

\$1,727,500 \$1,872,530

Undistributed

I. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

		2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Budget
9010-20	Retirement	\$997,274	\$992,595
9030	Social Security.....	\$684,024	\$719,292
9040	Workers' Compensation	\$66,460	\$73,000
9045	Life Insurance	\$10,885	\$11,800
9050	Unemployment Insurance	\$33,323	\$38,500
9055	Disability Insurance	\$2,440	\$2,500
9060	Hospital, Medical & Dental Insurance	\$4,057,120	\$4,268,625
Total	Employee Benefits	\$5,851,526	\$6,106,312

II. DEBT SERVICE

9721	Serial Bonds - Principal	\$525,000	\$405,000
9722	Serial Bonds - Interest	\$285,200	\$261,750
9770	Revenue Anticipation Notes - Interest.....		
Total	Debt Service.....	\$810,200	\$666,750

III. INTERFUND TRANSFERS

9901	Transfers to Special Aid Fund.....	\$14,000	\$14,000
9930	Transfers to Capital Fund	\$0	\$0
Total	Interfund Transfers.....	\$14,000	\$14,000

TOTAL UNDISTRIBUTED

\$6,675,726 \$6,787,062

GRAND TOTAL

\$24,049,619 \$25,333,468

Budget News

Budget to Budget

Year	Budget Amount	Inc Over PY\$	Inc %
2012/2013	\$17,369,455.00	(\$199,686.00)	-1.14%
2013/2014	\$17,657,224.00	\$287,769.00	1.66%
2014/2015	\$18,355,071.00	\$697,847.00	3.95%
2015/2016	\$18,727,743.00	\$372,672.00	2.03%
2016/2017	\$19,286,629.00	\$558,886.00	2.98%
2017/2018	\$18,399,325.00	(\$887,304.00)	-4.60%
2018/2019	\$18,975,788.00	\$576,463.00	3.13%
2019/2020	\$19,558,257.00	\$582,469.00	3.07%
2020/2021	\$20,191,687.00	\$633,430.00	3.24%
2021/2022	\$20,768,066.00	\$576,379.00	2.85%
2022/2023	\$21,478,430.00	\$710,364.00	3.42%
2023/2024	\$23,235,634.00	\$1,757,204.00	8.18%
2024/2025	\$24,049,619.00	\$813,985.00	3.50%
2025/2026	\$25,333,486.00	\$1,283,849.00	5.34%
Over 23 Years		\$470,212.50	2.74%
Over 10 years		\$569,454.80	3.11%

Tax Levy to Tax Levy

Year	Tax Levy	\$ Inc	% Inc	Levy Limit
2012/2013	\$6,862,801.00	\$122,050.00	1.81%	3.55%
2013/2014	\$7,102,999.00	\$240,198.00	3.50%	4.85%
2014/2015	\$7,110,902.00	\$7,903.00	0.11%	0.01%
2015/2016	\$7,217,566.00	\$106,664.00	1.50%	2.98%
2016/2017	\$7,325,829.00	\$108,263.00	1.50%	2.13%
2017/2018	\$7,424,728.00	\$98,899.00	1.35%	3.01%
2018/2019	\$7,647,470.00	\$222,742.00	3.00%	4.84%
2019/2020	\$7,781,514.00	\$134,044.00	1.75%	1.75%
2020/2021	\$7,934,543.00	\$153,029.00	1.97%	1.97%
2021/2022	\$8,083,712.00	\$149,169.00	1.88%	1.08%
2022/2023	\$8,225,177.00	\$141,465.00	1.75%	-0.12%
2023/2024	\$8,470,287.00	\$245,110.00	2.98%	6.33%
2024/2025	\$8,892,107.00	\$421,820.00	4.98%	-2.57%
2025/2026	\$9,197,106.00	\$304,999.00	3.43%	-5.72%
Over 15 Years		\$190,033.14	2.65%	1.72%
Over 10 years		\$178,120.50	2.46%	1.27%

Estimated 2025-2026 Revenues

Revenue Category	2024-2025 Budget	Proposed 2025-2026 Budget
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000
Real Property Taxes & STAR	\$8,892,107	\$9,197,106
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	\$640,705	\$1,249,924
Interest and Penalties on Taxes	\$15,000	\$15,000
Interest Earnings	\$50,000	\$55,000
Tuitions	\$190,000	\$265,000
Miscellaneous & Grant Funding	\$53,397	\$145,609
Transfers & Reserve Usage	\$602,000	\$627,000
Medicaid Reimbursements	\$60,000	\$60,000
Medicare Part D Reimbursement	\$45,000	\$45,000
State Aid General Support	\$12,401,410	\$12,573,829
Total	\$24,049,619	\$25,333,468

FSCSD Proposed 2025-26 Budget
INCLUDES BOCES CAPITAL PROJECT

Budget Amount: \$25,333,468

Budget Increase: \$1,283,849

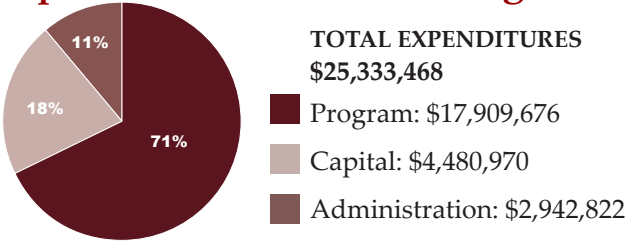
Budget Increase: 5.34%

Tax Levy Increase*: 3.43%

*Allowable under NYS Tax Cap: -5.72%

Requires 60% + 1 voter Majority Approval

Expenditures Three-Part Budget



How would the proposed budget affect taxes?

Actual tax rates are set in August and are based on final assessment figures as provided by the county, and equalization rates for each municipality as provided by the State Office of Real Property Services. The chart shows an estimated increase on an average \$100,000 assessed value home:

Proposed Tax Levy Impact per \$100,00 Assessed Home Value

	Annually	Monthly
Town & Village of Frankfort	\$116.06	\$9.76
Town of Schuyler	\$93.18	\$7.76

Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2024-25 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2025-26 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, not Including Separate Propositions	\$24,049,619	\$25,333,468	\$25,028,469
Increase/Decrease for 2025-26 School Year		\$1,283,849	\$978,850
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		5.34%	4.07%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.95%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$8,892,107	\$9,197,106	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	0	0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	0	0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	0	0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$8,892,107	\$9,197,106	\$8,892,107
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$372,205	\$265,261	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$7,880,776	\$8,118,121	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$8,519,902	\$8,931,845	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	(\$639,126)	(\$813,724)	
Administrative Component	\$2,689,498	\$2,942,822	\$2,860,572
Program Component	\$16,659,864	\$17,909,676	\$17,752,927
Capital Component	\$4,700,257	\$4,480,970	\$4,414,970

*Should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law and the New York State property tax legislation, the 2025-26 contingency budget would require reductions in the amount of \$304,999.

<p>** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)</p>	Description	Amount
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$553/\$578
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The annual budget vote for 2025-26 by the qualified voters of the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District, Herkimer County, New York, will be held at Junior/Senior High school in said district on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., prevailing time in the Junior/Senior High School "Old Gym", at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

¹The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATE

KATHLEEN SARAFIN

Kathleen (Kathy) Sarafin is a New York State certified educator who had the privilege of teaching in the Frankfort-Schuyler High School English Dept. for 36 years, retiring in 2015. She has served on the F-S Board of Education since 2017 and currently is the F-S representative on the Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES Board of Education. Additionally, she is the vice president of the Frankfort Free Library Board of Trustees.

Kathy is the proud mother of two successful Frankfort-Schuyler alumni and the proud grandmother of a current pre-K student who will be in kindergarten in the fall at F-S Elementary School. She feels very strongly that our children deserve the finest and safest education possible, while maintaining fiscal responsibility for our taxpayers, and she looks forward to continuing to work with the rest of the Board of Education to achieve these goals.



49TH ANNUAL FRANKFORT KIWANIS VS. F-S FACULTY BASKETBALL GAME, FUN NIGHT

On March 14, the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District and Frankfort Kiwanis teamed up to host the 49th Annual Frankfort Kiwanis vs. F-S Faculty Basketball Game and Fun Night, a wonderful, longstanding tradition of the Frankfort-Schuyler CSD! The event brought together students, faculty and community members for an evening of spirited competition and camaraderie.

The festivities began with a Hot-Shot Contest, where young athletes from grades 4-6 showcased their skills, followed by the Three-Point Contest featuring co-ed teams from grades 7-12.

The highlight of the night, the Kiwanis vs. faculty game, kicked off to the sound of cheers from the crowd as faculty members took on the Kiwanis team in a friendly yet competitive match. The evening concluded with a Junior vs. Senior Game where students displayed their teamwork and talent, providing an exciting finale to the evening.

This event was more than just a basketball game; it was a celebration of community spirit and a testament to the strong partnership between the Frankfort-Schuyler CSD and the Frankfort Kiwanis. The 49th annual event was a resounding success, reinforcing the bonds that make our community so special.



Students Participate in All-County Music Festival

On March 14-15, Frankfort-Schuyler music students participated in the All-County Music Festival at Central Valley Academy. The festival featured the elementary band, junior high choir and senior high band.

Congratulations to all on excellent performances!



Frankfort-Schuyler CSD Hosts First Alum-Knights Event

On January 30, Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District and the Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES School to Careers held the first annual Frankfort-Schuyler Alum-Knights event for 10th, 11th and 12th grade students. The event aimed to raise awareness about post-graduation possibilities and inspire students to never stop learning and growing. As the name suggests, the event highlighted the achievements of alumni, bringing in graduates who could, quite literally, say they had once sat in the very same seats as the students.

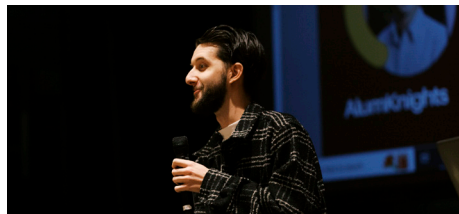
Scott Grates – from the class of 1995, owner of four businesses and a local podcast host – focused his talk on three themes: knowledge, network and opportunity. Grates never disappoints when he gives talks, always incorporating audience participation as a way to connect with students and drive home his message. He led participants in an activity where they learned how to build a strong business team with the goal of leveraging their time so they could continue to grow and do more of what they love.

Josh Graziadei, from the class of 2019, shared an inspiring message about his journey from uncertainty after high school to discovering his passion behind the lens, becoming a professional photographer and videographer. He has been able to build an impressive client base with hip-hop legends and superstar athletes. His story exemplified that it's okay not to have it all figured out, but once you find your passion, go all in and chase it.

Frank Aceto IV, from the class of 2005, shared that he had some ups and downs throughout his time in high school, and upon graduating he realized he still had much to learn. He started as a part-time bank teller, where he found his passion for the banking industry. From there, he worked his way up to become an assistant vice president at Adirondack Bank. He credits his success to his willingness to embrace continuous learning and self-improvement, and he encouraged students to do the same.

Zoey Zogby, from the class of 2015, shared that she knew she wanted to be a lawyer since age 10, diligently preparing through high school and college. When she made it to law school, she hit a roadblock, as the coursework was so rigorous that she worried she wouldn't be successful, sharing bluntly that she thought she would fail. However, she persevered and achieved her dream, passing the bar exam on her first try. Her story encouraged students to never give up, no matter the obstacles.

The event ended with a Q and A session with the students for all four panelists. Grates added a perfect closure to the day by turning to the other panelists and saying he was proud to say he had done business with all of them, telling the students what a supportive network the Knights will always be, and that the Knights will never let you down. It was a day that emphasized everyone's pride to be a part of the Maroon Knights family!



Frankfort FREE Library

The Frankfort Free Library continues to enthusiastically provide free public access to its collections, computers, books, periodicals, newspapers, internet, literacy and craft classes, special events and use of the community room for patrons and friends of all ages from preschool to senior citizens. Numerous local organizations such as Girl Scouts and qualified tutors working with students utilize our space and resources throughout the year.

The library is seeking a 4% increase to the current tax levy to keep pace with increasing operating costs. Voting on the measure will be done in conjunction with the school budget and Board of Education vote on May 20 from noon until 8 p.m. at the high school. The library will be holding a public hearing at the library to review this requested increase and to answer any concerns you might have concerning the work of the library. That public hearing will be held on Wednesday, May 15 from 5-6 p.m. The proposed tax levy for 2025-2026 is \$135,195.88.

We are looking forward to another successful summer with many special events that will include an ice cream social kicking off the July Music Series, which will be held every Tuesday in July and will include a number of local musicians and performers. It will take place on the lawn of the north side of the library.

Check out our monthly calendars and social media for upcoming events and programs for everyone of all ages at frankfortfreelibrary.org. The calendar includes all of the scheduled events as well as other library information such as the days and times the library is open. Please contact the library at 315.894.9611 with any questions.

John H. Schuyler, President

Frankfort-Schuyler CSD

Bids Farewell to Four Beloved Staff Members

As the end of the 2024-25 school year approaches, the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District would like to recognize and thank four longtime District employees for their many years of service to the school community.

This year, we are proud to celebrate the retirement of two outstanding teaching assistants whose dedication and compassion have left a lasting mark on our school community. Susan Cruze has dedicated 38 years and Deborah Laveck has dedicated 20 years of exceptional, heartfelt service to the District. For nearly four decades, Sue and Deb have been pillars of strength, support and kindness within our District. From classroom guidance to one-on-one student support, their steady presence has shaped the lives of countless students and staff. Known for their warm hearts and unmatched patience, Sue and Deb have truly been the soul of our school community.

As they close this incredible chapter, we thank Sue and Deb for many amazing years of dedication, and we wish them all the joy and relaxation that retirement brings.

We also extend our heartfelt congratulations to John Stever, our dedicated Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, as he retires after nine years of outstanding service to the District. Throughout his tenure, John has played a vital role in maintaining the safety, functionality and beauty of our schools and facilities. With a sharp eye for detail, strong leadership and a tireless work ethic, he ensured that our students, staff and community members always had a clean, safe and welcoming environment in which to learn and grow.

Please also join us in celebrating the retirement of June Farrell, our wonderful School Lunch Manager, who has been an essential part of our District's daily life. While June may not have been employed directly by the District, she has always been a valued member of our school family. For more than 34 years, she has worked tirelessly to ensure that our students received not just meals – but warm smiles, kind words and a caring presence each day.

While we are sad to see Sue, Deb, John and June leave, we are excited for them in this new chapter ahead – one filled with rest, adventure and well-deserved relaxation!

Frankfort-Schuyler CSD Celebrates Phelan Lucky Day

In addition to St. Patrick's Day, the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District also celebrated Phelan Lucky Day on March 17.

Phelan Lucky Day was celebrated in support of Frankfort-Schuyler student Mattea Schrader, who has been diagnosed with Phelan-McDermid Syndrome, a rare genetic disorder that's caused by the deletion of or a structural change in chromosome 22. It can compromise many critical functions in a person's body, from learning and communicating to eating and sleeping.

On Phelan Lucky Day, Superintendent Palmer and Mattea's teachers – Mrs. Tangorra, Mrs. Carnright and Mrs. Randazzo – all joined Mattea in rocking their Phelan Lucky shirts.

To learn more about Phelan-McDermid Syndrome and how you can show your support, visit the Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Foundation website at pmsf.org.



FRANKFORT-SCHUYLER MAROON KNIGHTS CAPTURE NYS CHAMPIONSHIP, HISTORIC UNDEFEATED SEASON

The Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District is beaming with pride after the Maroon Knights varsity football team completed a legendary, undefeated 2024 season, capped off with a dominant victory in the New York State 8-Man Football Championship.

This incredible campaign was a storybook season from the very start. On September 14, the school and its supportive community came together to celebrate the grand opening of the District's brand-new turf football field. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was more than just a formal event – it was a celebration of Frankfort-Schuyler's football tradition. All football teams and cheerleaders were honored, and the day concluded with a resounding 58-12 win over West Canada Valley in the first-ever game played on the new turf.

That win was just the beginning. Energized by the state-of-the-art facility and fueled by overwhelming community support, the Maroon Knights stormed through the season, compiling a flawless 13-0 record. Along the way, they claimed multiple titles including the Section III East Division Championship, Section III Championship, NYS West Regional Championship, NYS West/South Regional Finals Championship, and ultimately, the New York State 8-Man Football Championship.

Frankfort-Schuyler's home field served as more than just a battleground; it became a symbol of community pride. After securing the Section III title, the Knights had the honor of hosting the NYS West Regional Game on their new turf, where they dominated Section IV Holley 52-14 in front of an exhilarating hometown crowd.

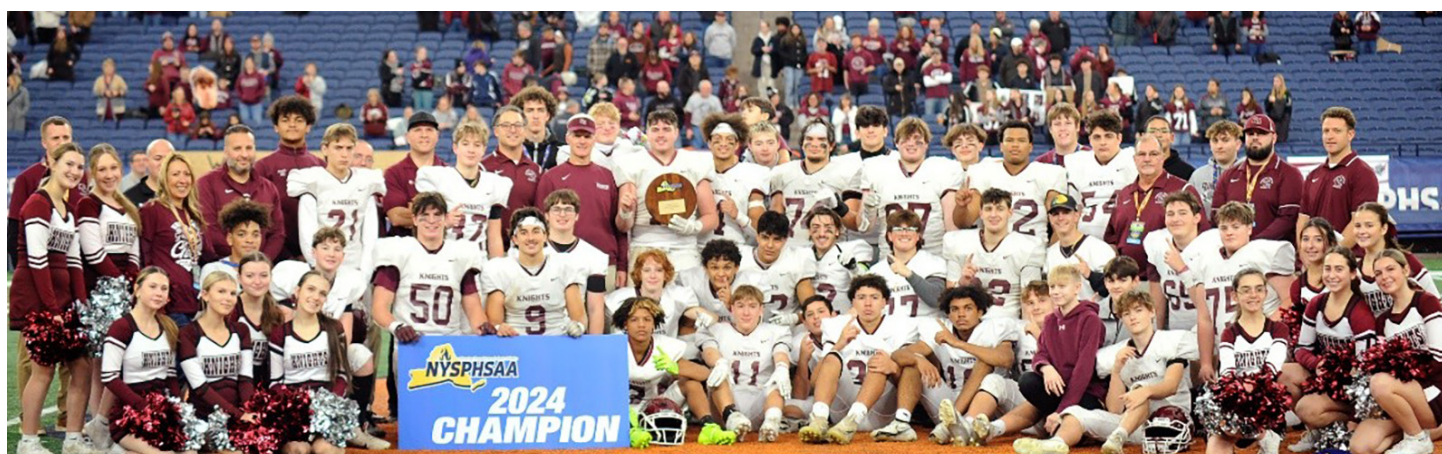
The season was also one for the record books. The Maroon Knights rewrote the school's football history with several team milestones, including:

- Most Wins in a Season: 13
- Most Games in a Season: 13
- Most Points Scored in a Game: 74 (vs. Waterville and Cooperstown)
- Most Points Scored in a Season: 768
- Most Yards Rushing in a Season: 4,388
- Most Yards Passing in a Season: 1,673
- Most Total Yards in a Season: 6,061
- Least Points Allowed in a Game: 0 (shutouts vs. Sauquoit and Clinton)
- Most QB Sacks in a Season: 35

Such achievements weren't just statistical. The team's relentless drive, discipline and camaraderie were evident every time they stepped onto the field. Their efforts earned several players All-State, All-CNY and All-League Honors, recognizing the elite individual talent that helped power this championship run.

The Frankfort-Schuyler Maroon Knights have forever etched their names into local and state history, not just as champions, but as a team that exemplified excellence, unity and pride. With the backing of an energized community and a top-tier facility to call home, the future is bright for Frankfort-Schuyler football.

Congratulations to the Maroon Knights – 2024 New York State Champions.



ENGINEERING DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT STUDENTS BUILD CASTLE-THEMED DIGITAL BOARD FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The halls of Frankfort-Schuyler Elementary School now boast a vibrant new digital design board, a testament to the hard work and ingenuity of the Jr./Sr. high school's Engineering Design and Development students. This impressive project, which unfolded over the entire school year thus far, saw students meticulously apply the problem-solving process to create a lasting addition to the elementary school.

From the beginning, these aspiring engineers tackled the project with a blend of youthful energy and focused determination. Their journey began with the crucial step of defining the problem they aimed to solve. Following this, they diligently gathered information on potential solutions before engaging in a comprehensive brainstorming session to generate a wide array of ideas.

The students then critically evaluated their brainstormed concepts, selecting the most promising ones for further development. To gain feedback and refine their designs, they presented these initial ideas to the middle school STEAM classes. This collaborative approach helped them narrow their focus to seven distinct designs, which they then began to prototype.

"The teamwork shown during this project was impressive. Having been together since kindergarten, they were quickly able to assign tasks based on each other's strengths," Mr. Purinton said.

These seven concepts were presented to Superintendent Palmer, leading to an open discussion that ultimately narrowed the field to three compelling themes: "high-five friends," a majestic castle, and their beloved school mascot, Champ.

With these themes selected, the students moved into the prototyping phase, constructing half-scale models of the potential boards. To effectively communicate their visions to the elementary school students, they also created a video showcasing these models for Superintendent Palmer to share in the classrooms. The result of this presentation was a clear preference: the elementary school chose the castle design as their desired digital display.

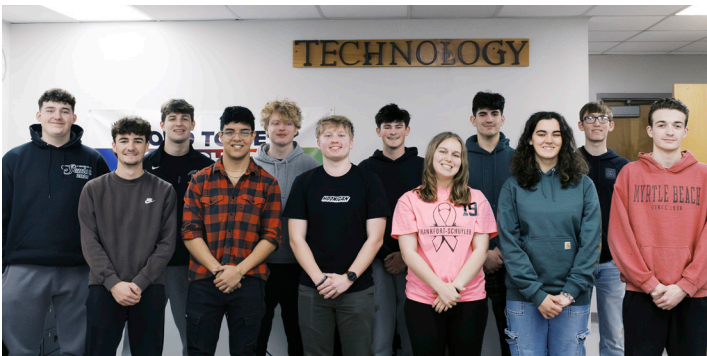
Before the holiday break, the students ensured a smooth transition into the construction phase by completing order forms for all necessary materials. Upon their return, the hands-on work commenced. The initial tasks involved gluing wood together to achieve the required thickness and carefully sketching the outline of their chosen castle. The project took on a more serious tone when they faced the challenge of cutting out the intricate shape, knowing they had limited materials and a strict budget.

Following the cutting phase, the students dedicated numerous hours to sanding the wood to a smooth finish, preparing it for the subsequent layers of primer and paint. Then came the intricate details that would bring the castle to life. To create the textured appearance of stone, they cleverly mixed spackle and grey paint, applying it to the board and then carefully carving lines into it once dry. This seemingly simple process required precise measuring to ensure perfectly parallel lines.

While the "stonework" was underway, other members of the team focused on crafting the frames for the windows and the balcony, which was later attached to the front of the castle, along with vibrant banners, after the back-lighting system was installed. Powering the entire digital sign is a small microcomputer, programmed to update the display screen every twelve hours, ensuring fresh content for each new school day.

The final stage of the project involved presenting their completed creation to the Board of Education. Recognizing the significance of this presentation, the students dedicated an entire week to rehearsing their delivery, carefully choosing their words to convey the immense effort and dedication invested in the board. In the end, the project was a resounding success. The digital design board now stands as a testament to the Frankfort-Schuyler students' problem-solving skills, creativity and collaborative spirit. They truly did "figure it out," embodying Mr. Purinton's favorite and fitting quote.

"We have heard back from so many people regarding the new board; everyone seems to love it," Mr. Purinton said. "We received a thank you from the Board of Education, all of administrators, members of the community, and even alumni."



FRANKFORT-SCHUYLER CSD CHAMPIONS *Neurodiversity Awareness During March*

For the first time, the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District celebrated Neurodiversity Awareness Month during March. The month-long celebration was an opportunity for the school community to learn more about what it means to be neurodiverse and to promote understanding and acceptance of neurodiverse individuals.

Neurodiversity is a term used to describe differences in the way that people's brains work. The idea is that there is no correct way for the brain to work; instead, there's a wide range in the ways that people perceive and respond to the world around them, and these differences should be embraced.

Individuals living with neurodevelopmental conditions such as ADHD, dyslexia, autism, sensory processing disorder and more all fall under the "umbrella" of neurodiversity. As part of its awareness efforts, the Frankfort-Schuyler CSD participated in the Neurodiversity Umbrella Project, an uplifting, visual representation of all different minds.

Colorful umbrellas were strung together inside and outside of the elementary and Jr./Sr. high school buildings. The displays were designed to represent the one in five individuals who have a neurodevelopmental condition, with the goal of changing the perception people have about neurodiverse people and celebrating the many strengths that come from thinking differently.

"Celebrating Neurodiversity Awareness Month reminds us that every student's mind works in unique and valuable ways," said Superintendent of Schools Joseph Palmer.

In Holly Kingstrom's class at the Jr./Sr. high school, she noticed that her students had reactions ranging from surprise to curiosity as they listened to facts about neurodivergency and neurodivergent celebrities during the morning announcements. She felt it was important to dispel some misconceptions about neurodevelopmental conditions, especially since some of her students, their peers and school staff are neurodiverse, whether or not they identify with it or make that information public.

On March 19, students in Kingstrom's class played educational games to learn more about what neurodivergency means, the definitions of different neurodevelopmental conditions, and various facts and statistics about the conditions. Students also completed a brief informational profile on a neurodevelopmental condition of their choice and created a paper umbrella poster to be displayed in the hallway. Some students chose conditions they identify with having, while others chose conditions they simply wanted to learn more about.

"Projects like this are so valuable because they have the power to shift the individual as well as shared mindset from one of having or being a disorder or disability, to being able to recognize and celebrate the positives of neurodiversity," Kingstrom said. "It's helped me, and I hope it helps my students feel and show up more confidently in all their different spheres also."

Celebrating Neurodiversity Awareness Month isn't the only effort the District has made to better understand and support neurodiverse students. This school year, Frankfort-Schuyler Elementary School has been benefiting from the expertise of local psychologist Dr. Joanne Joseph, who has been volunteering her time to work with teachers on the topic of neurodiversity at no cost to the district.

Dr. Joseph is a social and clinical psychologist with diverse interests in the areas of adverse childhood experiences, trauma, resilience and physical health. She teaches at SUNY Polytechnic Institute and regularly consults for healthcare agencies and K-12 schools. At Frankfort-Schuyler Elementary, Dr. Joseph volunteers her time to consult with elementary teachers on the topic of neurodiversity in the classroom and offers strategies for teachers to use in their efforts to meet the needs of all students.

"Our District is committed to fostering an inclusive environment where all learners feel seen, supported and empowered to reach their full potential," Superintendent Palmer said. "By embracing neurodiversity, we create a stronger, more compassionate school community – one that recognizes differences not as obstacles, but as strengths."



STUDENTS TO VOTE ON NEW DESSERT OPTION

Frankfort-Schuyler students will once again have the chance to participate in their own vote when District residents head to the polls on May 20.

During voting hours from 12-8 p.m., while the community votes on the proposed school budget and Board of Education election, elementary and Jr./Sr. high school students will be voting on a fun topic of their own – a new dessert option for the next school year!

The sweet contenders are:

**Peach
Cobbler**

**Strawberry
Shortcake**

**Watermelon
Granita**

Parents and guardians, don't forget to bring your students along when you head to the polls to cast your vote. We look forward to seeing what our students choose!



CLASS OF 2025 VALEDICTORIAN, SALUTATORIAN, TOP 10 PERCENT

The Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District is proud to recognize the class of 2025 valedictorian, salutatorian and students in the top 10 percent of the graduating class.

Congratulations to Anthony Gaetano, the class of 2025 valedictorian, and Olivia Urtz, the salutatorian.

The students in the top 10 percent of their class, listed in alphabetical order, include McKenna Coffey, Zoe Dodge, Claire Enea, Elizabeth LaSale and Melinda Wohler.

Congratulations to each of these students for their academic excellence and outstanding achievements!

DRAMA CLUB PRESENTS *'Rock Of Ages'*

On March 21-22, the Frankfort-Schuyler Drama Club presented "Rock of Ages"! This show, set in L.A. on the Sunset Strip, tells the story of Drew, a city boy from South Detroit, and Sherrie, a small-town girl, both in L.A. to chase their dreams of making it big and falling in love. "Rock of Ages" took us back to the times of big bands with big egos playing big guitar solos!

The cast and crew was made up of approximately 60 students in grades 7-12. The cast, crew, pit band and the audience enjoyed going back in time to the music of the 80s.

Congratulations to all who helped make this show a resounding success!



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION

On March 27, the Frankfort-Schuyler chapter of the National Honor Society held an induction ceremony to welcome its newest members.

Superintendent of Schools Mr. Palmer and Jr./Sr. High School Principal Mr. Stalteri presented new members with membership certificates recognizing their achievements in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service and character. Current members also received certificates recognizing their years of membership.

Congratulations to the new inductees:

Emin Besirevic	Maylee Reid
Corinne Bick	Milana Rocco
Victoria Cavaretta	Michael Rozonkiewicz
Olivia Dodge	Evan Teachout
Brian Martinez Jr.	Yanna Voytovich



NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION

In a special National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony on March 5, twenty-six students were recognized for their excellence in scholarship, leadership, service, character and citizenship.

The Frankfort-Schuyler chapter of NJHS consists of students who excel and strive to succeed in all areas, and strive to be an example for and to help others achieve success. The District is proud of the inductees' dedication and commitment to positively impacting the school and community.

The inductees include:

Hunter Belmont	Hannah Enea	Madison Krauss	Alayna Prentice
Lamia Besirevic	Jenna Enea	Michael Lisandrelli	Allyssa Striegler
Sophia Bull	Tyler Harvey	Vitalina Malias	Mary Morgen Tomasi
Broc DeSerre	Julianna Hazeltine	Clara Nichols	Arabella Tripoli
John Drapalski	Nicholas Helmer	Michael Paragi	Cecilia Zennamo
Chase Dundon	Caleb Hinckley	Savanna Pavia	
Garrett Dundon	Ella Kaleta	Joshua Phillips	

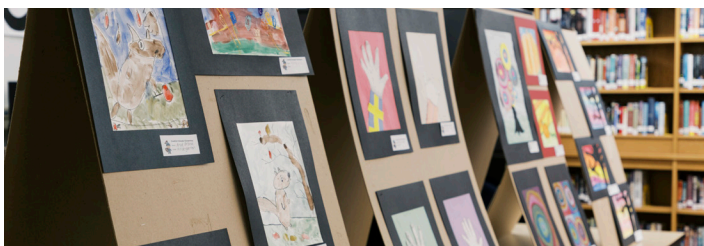
Congratulations to the newest members of the National Junior Honor Society!



Frankfort-Schuyler Annual *Kaleidoscope Concert and Art Show*

On February 12, the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District hosted the annual Kaleidoscope Concert and Art Show. The event showcased K-12 artwork and included a variety of mediums including drawing, colored pencil, watercolor, pen/ink, ceramics and various sculpture and pottery projects.

Musical performances included the elementary school youth choir, the middle school jazz band, the high school jazz band, and high school select and show choirs.



ELEMENTARY STEAM FAIR

On March 25, Frankfort-Schuyler Elementary School held a STEAM Fair for students in grades K-6. The many projects on display highlighted students' creativity and ingenuity, covering topics ranging from volcanoes and tornadoes to static electricity and the muscular system.

Thank you to all of the students, parents, teachers and staff who helped to make this event a success!



HANDS-ON LEARNING & CREATIVITY IN MRS. KLEIN'S CLASS

Mrs. Klein's class at Frankfort-Schuyler Elementary has been hard at work this school year, exploring weather, reading novels and showcasing their creativity!

The class worked on a weather unit that involved students tracking the weather over the course of a week using a thermometer, wind vane and rain gauge. Students then created flood barriers using blocks, clay and sandbags to learn about their impact on houses. For the last experiment, students attached paper roofs to a cardboard house in different ways to test the impact of high winds using a fan.

During the holiday season, students created five unique crafts to give to their families as gifts. The crafts were a fun way for students to practice their fine motor skills and ability to follow directions.

Students have also been honing their reading skills and tapping into their creativity once more. After finishing the novel "Hatchet," they brought the story to life with detailed dioramas.





Frankfort-Schuyler CENTRAL SCHOOL

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CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

Dear Frankfort-Schuyler CSD Community,

We are writing to share an important update regarding our ongoing capital improvement project. As always, we remain committed to transparency and responsible financial stewardship on behalf of our students, families and taxpayers.

When our capital project team initially developed the scope and budget for this project almost three years ago, our estimates reflected the economic conditions at that time. Since then, we have experienced sharp and unexpected increases in construction and material costs due to inflation, tariffs and continued supply chain pressures. These factors have significantly impacted building projects statewide, and ours is no exception.

To ensure the project moves forward without reducing quality or scale, we are preparing to allocate up to an additional \$5.71 million, only if needed. Of that amount, approximately \$3.7 million is eligible for state building aid, meaning it would be reimbursed to the District over time. The remaining \$2 million, which is unaidable, can be responsibly covered using our capital reserve fund.

Importantly, this situation is exactly why we planned ahead. When the original capital project was approved, the District set aside \$6 million into the capital reserve with the specific intention of offsetting any unanticipated costs that might arise between the time of voter approval and actual construction. We are now seeing those cost pressures materialize, and we're grateful that prior planning allows us to respond without needing to return to taxpayers for additional funding.

Currently, our capital reserve holds a balance of \$2 million. Utilizing these funds ensures we are ready and able to meet any shortfalls. Just as important, these funds will only be accessed if absolutely necessary. If actual project costs come in under expectations, they will not be used and will remain in the reserve for future needs. **These are funds already put aside and will not require additional funds from the taxpayer.**

If we were to delay this scope and roll it into a future capital project, we would be required to resubmit plans, reengage architects and repeat the full review process with the State Education Department (SED). That would result in additional costs and delays, ultimately making the work more expensive for the District.

By planning ahead and preparing for this possibility now, we are positioning ourselves to move forward efficiently and cost-effectively, while continuing to deliver on our commitment to safe, modern, high-quality learning environments for our students.

We appreciate your continued support and invite you to reach out with any questions. This topic will also be discussed in more detail at our upcoming Board of Education meetings on April 29, May 6 and June 10. We encourage your attendance and input. A vote will take place on June 17, 2025 from noon to 8 p.m. in the "old gym." This is completely separate from our annual general fund budget.

Your voice matters, and we welcome your input.



**PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO VOTE ON
TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2025, FROM 12:00 - 8:00 P.M.
AT THE HIGH SCHOOL OLD GYMNASIUM.**