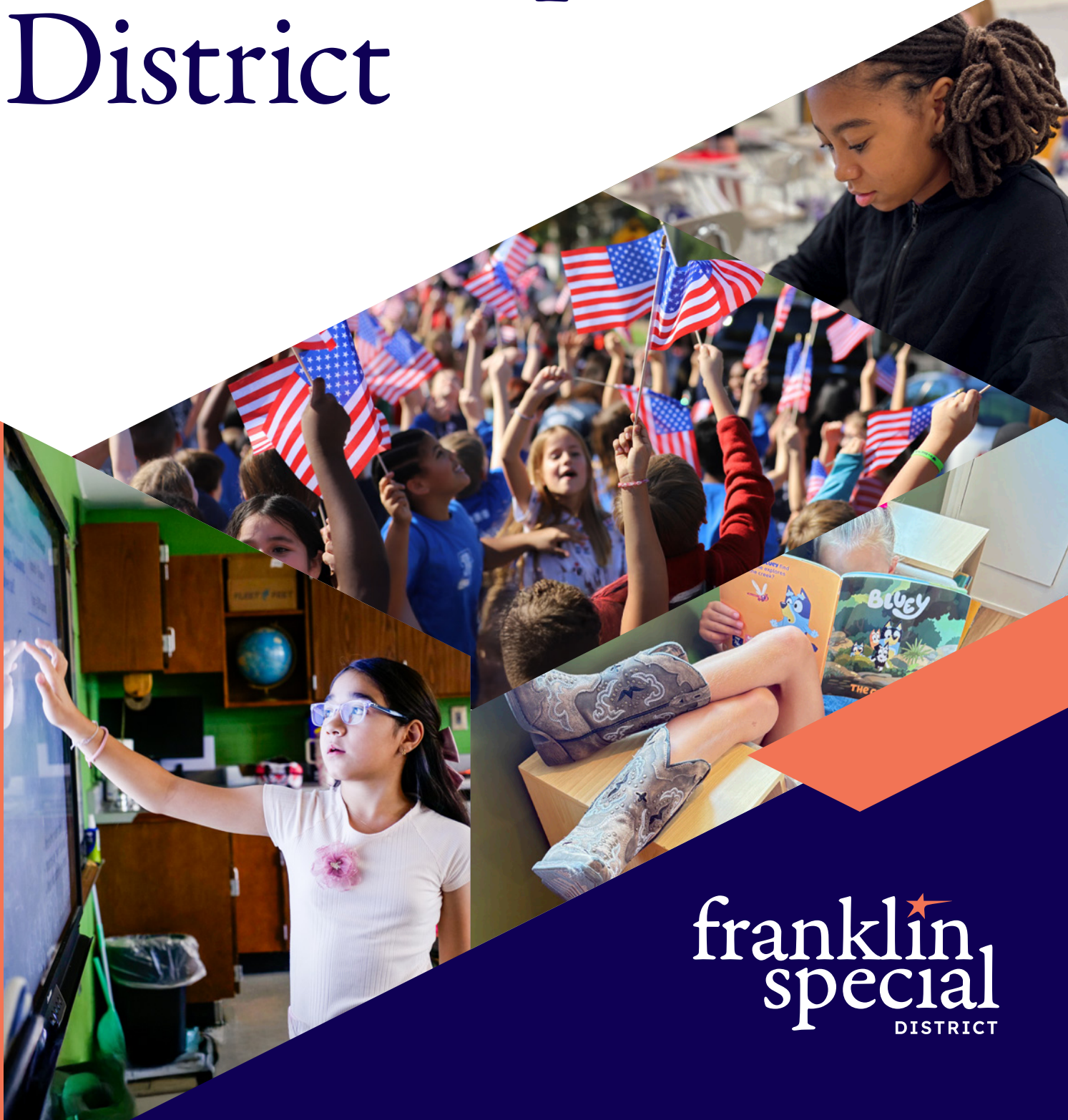
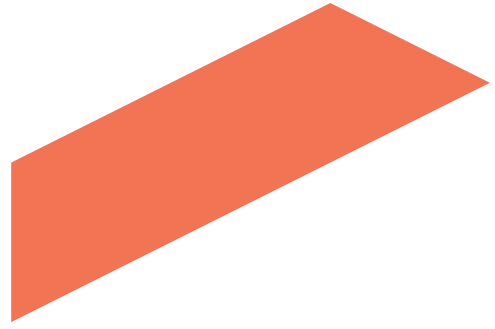


Your Guide to Franklin Special District



franklin
special
DISTRICT



Students First. Excellence Always. No Exceptions.



The mission of the Franklin Special District is to foster academic, social, emotional, physical, and creative development in each student; to instill a desire to continue learning; to nurture respect for all people; and to promote responsible citizenship.

The FSD is more than just a school district. It's a community of learners that emphasizes academics, belonging and family engagement, and prioritizes the unique journey of each student. From pre-K through eighth grade, the FSD charts a course of discovery, growth and achievement.

As you'll see throughout this guide, FSD teachers are highly qualified to guide our students through the ever-evolving landscape of learning. Our students are not just educated, but inspired to reach their fullest potential as learners and doers.

Whether you're a parent seeking a place where your child will be seen, a teacher aspiring to inspire, or a community member wishing to be part of something transformative, the Franklin Special District welcomes you.

Together, we'll prepare our students for the challenges of today and the triumphs of tomorrow. ★



WHAT IS A SPECIAL DISTRICT?

► Established in 1906 by the City of Franklin, the Franklin Special District (FSD) serves pre-kindergarten through eighth-grade students in eight schools within the beautiful, historic community of Franklin, Tennessee. In addition to zoned students, tuition is available to those outside the district. Recently the School Board allowed tuition to be offered to families in other counties as well.

Across Tennessee's 95 counties and 147 public school districts, FSD consistently ranks in the top 10 percent in all categories of standardized test scores (English/language arts, math, science, and social studies).

PARENT TESTIMONIAL

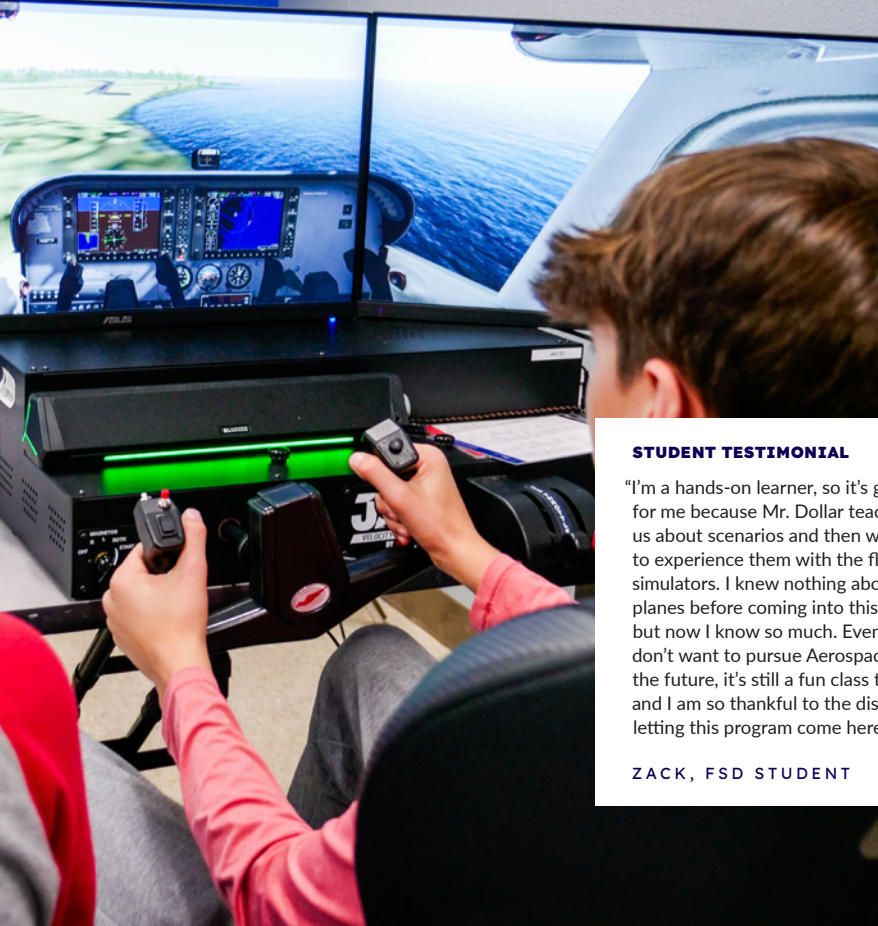
"We had an absolutely amazing experience with this district! From the moment we enrolled, the staff went above and beyond to make us feel welcome and supported. The teachers are truly exceptional—dedicated, caring, and deeply invested in the success and well-being of their students. The curriculum is well-rounded, and the school offers plenty of opportunities for growth and exploration, both academically and personally."

AMY R, FORMER FSD PARENT

ACCOLADES

- FSD consistently outperforms the statewide average success rate by double digits in all categories on state testing.
- Multiple FSD schools are recognized by the Tennessee Department of Education as Reward Schools.
- The district is among the top in the state for low pupil-teacher ratios and pupil-to-support staff ratios in all grades.
- Employees receive a comprehensive benefits package, significant time off, and our salary schedules are ranked in the top 10 of the state in most categories.
- More than 70% of faculty and administration hold advanced degrees.

Innovative Strategies for Purpose-Driven Education



STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

"I'm a hands-on learner, so it's great for me because Mr. Dollar teaches us about scenarios and then we get to experience them with the flight simulators. I knew nothing about planes before coming into this class, but now I know so much. Even if you don't want to pursue Aerospace in the future, it's still a fun class to learn, and I am so thankful to the district for letting this program come here."

ZACK, FSD STUDENT

ACADEMICS

► FSD's dedicated focus on research-based practices and strong commitment to individualized and personalized instructional experiences ensure all students grow and achieve. The District has been nationally recognized for its approach to decision-making on instructional practices and student outcomes, including data-driven professional learning experiences and high quality instructional materials. Our parents, faculty, staff and administrators are committed to supporting the District's vision of *Excellence in Teaching and Learning for All*. FSD parents are highly engaged in the educational process, and the celebration of learning.

FSD's intermediate and middle schools offer Honors English/Language Arts, Math and Science courses, as well as high school credit pathways in Algebra 1, Geometry, French I, Spanish I, Introduction to Aerospace, and Computer Science Foundations.



SPOTLIGHT PROGRAM

Funded by a Tennessee Department of Education Innovative School Models grant, the Introduction to Aerospace classes at Freedom and Poplar Grove Middle Schools are the first in the state and one of only a handful in the country to offer high school credit to eighth graders as part of an aviation college and career technical education (CCTE) pathway. Each classroom is equipped with five Redbird Jay Velocity Flight Simulators and a highly technical, FAA-certified Redbird TD flight simulator. The aerospace courses are taught by a certified educator who is also a licensed pilot. Beyond operating the aircraft, students explore multiple aviation career options, including aerospace engineering, air traffic control, aircraft maintenance, aviation accident and safety investigation, and airport management, among others. We are proud to have crafted a partnership with Williamson County Schools for our aerospace students to have the opportunity to continue their coursework in the high school aviation pathway.



TECHNOLOGY

► All Franklin Special students have 1:1 laptop/tablet access, enabling them to use district-owned devices to explore teacher-approved online content and research opportunities with safety guardrails in place. All devices contain software to ensure that students are only able to visit safe sites, and to monitor keywords that could indicate a health or safety concern.



SPOTLIGHT PROGRAM

Through the Computer Science Foundations course, which is offered as an elective for high school credit, students are introduced to career pathways such as coding, cybersecurity, web design and more, with themes of entrepreneurship, ethics and online safety woven throughout. Students in this course also gain real-world experience by assisting staff with the repair and maintenance of the district's laptops.



TEACHER TESTIMONIAL

"The FSD provides its employees with exceptional support, from the central office to the school administration. They are present throughout the year and create opportunities for teachers to grow and learn. In my school, I truly appreciate the partnerships cultivated between teachers, especially those in other content areas or specialties. I love teaching in this district!"

CHLOE K, 6TH GRADE SCIENCE TEACHER

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE

► FSD's Morning and Afternoon Care (MAC) is a school-based program that provides childcare for students before and after school on an affordable sliding-fee scale. MAC is also open on special days when school is not in session, such as snow days, early dismissal days, and school holidays.

As an affordable, safe and convenient option for our working parents, the district offers a weeMAC early childhood program for ages six weeks through pre-kindergarten that operates year-round from the Early Childhood Education Center, located at Freedom Middle School. Programs are guided by early education professionals, and rates are comparable to other childcare facilities in the area.

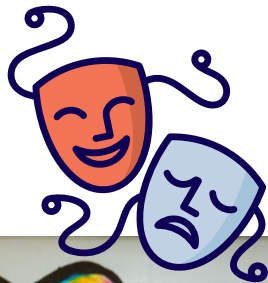




FINE ARTS

► From visual to performing arts, FSD schools offer rich programs and extracurricular opportunities for students to grow and express themselves creatively. Students may participate in band, orchestra, strings, drama, and chorus via major theatrical productions, musical concerts, performance concerts, art exhibitions, and special events.

The FSD Performing Arts Center (PAC) is a spectacular 34,000 square-foot facility where students can showcase their talents. The 458-seat auditorium and multi-purpose stage features cutting-edge theater sound and lighting capabilities. In the lobby area, guests may visit the FSD Legacy Gallery, where multimedia displays and a classroom vignette celebrate the district's long history dating back to 1906.



ATHLETICS

► Physical activity and education are essential to early learning and to students' emotional well-being. PE classes are offered at every level throughout FSD schools, in addition to a number of organized sports clubs and sanctioned competitive teams. Students in grades 6-8 can participate in varsity and junior varsity sports, with teams competing in baseball, basketball, cross country, cheerleading, football, golf, soccer, softball, tennis, track, volleyball, and wrestling. Club sports include lacrosse and swimming.

In 2022, a state-of-the-art baseball and softball complex opened between Freedom Middle School and Poplar Grove Middle School. Built and operated in partnership with the City of Franklin's Parks Department, the complex includes a baseball field, softball field, concessions and restroom facilities, practice areas, batting cages, a running track, and lights for evening games.

ALUMNI TESTIMONIAL

"The experiences that I received within the FSD prepared me for the life I have today. I still have three or four teachers who have stayed in touch with me, and have been more than supportive on my journey. The FSD gives kids the opportunity to succeed for years to come!"

TONY KEMP,
2017 WORLD SERIES CHAMPION,
CURRENT MLB BROADCASTER



A Foundation for Success at Every Level



From pre-K through the eighth grade, Franklin Special District offers comprehensive programs that combine core academics, fine arts, technology, and wellness for all students. Our mission is to foster purpose-driven, passionate learners, to frame challenges as opportunities, and to encourage exploration at every level.

► These are some of the most formative years of our children's lives, and we are committed to unlocking each student's potential, creating innovative thinkers, and developing the character traits necessary to become productive citizens and community leaders. Collaboration with parents and other stakeholders is central to our approach, which inspires excellence and success in life-long growth—academically, socially, and emotionally.

From STEAM School and National Blue Ribbon School designations and other accolades, FSD schools have demonstrated a long-standing commitment to results. That comes from not only data-driven decision

making and innovative teaching techniques, but also a healthy culture. The behaviors, practices, principles and conditions we model for students every day create a warm, welcoming environment for all. We learn and grow together—embracing our unique strengths and needs and celebrating successes in a joyful environment.

This whole-child, personalized learning approach has been proven for nearly a century to cultivate innovative thinkers, empathetic leaders, and resilient problem solvers. We invite you to visit and see for yourself what makes Franklin Special a truly exceptional public school system.





Franklin elementary

PREK - GRADE 4

1501 Figuers Drive, Franklin, TN 37064 • (615) 794-1187
<https://franklinelementary.fssd.org/>

TOUR AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

► **FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY** is a great place for students to grow academically, socially and emotionally. We work collaboratively with parents and community leaders to help every child be his/her personal best. We are a school that embraces diversity in a safe and caring environment, where assessment drives instruction and students are engaged learners who develop the character traits necessary to become productive citizens.



Johnson elementary

PREK - GRADE 4

815 Glass Lane, Franklin, TN 37064 • (615) 794-4837
<https://johnsonelementary.fssd.org/>

TOUR AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

► **JOHNSON ELEMENTARY** is a family-oriented school with a rich history of demonstrated academic achievement within a nurturing school environment. We are proud to have been the first elementary school in Williamson County to receive Tennessee STEAM School designation for our programs of science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. We believe that a healthy culture fosters the behaviors, practices, principles, and conditions that provide the most supportive environment for all learners.



Liberty elementary

PREK - GRADE 4

600 Liberty Pike, Franklin, TN 37064 • (615) 790-0892
<https://libertyelementary.fssd.org/>

TOUR AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

► **LIBERTY ELEMENTARY** is nationally recognized for its exceptional academic performance. Dedicated to educating the whole child, we empower every student to discover their passions and purpose. Liberty's warm and welcoming environment provides a space where children can learn, explore, and have fun. As a National Blue Ribbon School, Liberty is celebrated among the nation's best for high academic achievement and a nurturing, inclusive school culture.



Moore elementary

PREK - GRADE 4

1061 Lewisburg Pike, Franklin, TN 37064 • (615) 790-4700
<https://mooreelementary.fssd.org/>

TOUR AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

► At **MOORE ELEMENTARY**, we strive to instill a purpose-driven passion for learning that encourages every student to become a contributing member of our community. Our parent volunteers work alongside a dedicated staff to provide a high-quality educational experience. Our teachers are encouraged to be creative, proficient in advanced technology, and innovative in their instructional strategies as part of our focus on continual improvement in a well-rounded environment.



Poplar Grove elementary

PREK - GRADE 4

1030 Excellence Way, Franklin, TN 37069 • (615) 790-4720
<https://poplargroveelementary.fssd.org/>

TOUR AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

► At **POPLAR GROVE ELEMENTARY**, we are deeply committed to collaboration, data-driven decision-making, and a relentless focus on student learning. We embrace the unique strengths and needs of every student, welcome family involvement, and foster a culture of continuous growth. Having the entire grade span of pre-K-8 on the Poplar Grove campus offers a unique advantage for aligned schedules for siblings.



Poplar Grove middle

GRADES 5 - 8

1030 Excellence Way, Franklin, TN 37069 • (615) 790-4721
<https://poplargrovemiddle.fssd.org/>

TOUR AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

► Academic success at **POPLAR GROVE MIDDLE** is rooted in strong relationships, mutual respect, and a deep understanding of each student as a whole person. Alongside a strong academic foundation, we emphasize kindness, encouragement, care, and compassion. We are creating a learning environment where students feel known, valued, and supported. Our highly qualified faculty work to unlock each student's potential, leveraging their strengths and interests to drive personalized learning.



Freedom intermediate

GRADES 5 & 6

840 Glass Lane, Franklin, TN 37064 • (615) 790-4718
<https://freedomintermediate.fssd.org/>

TOUR AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

► At **FREEDOM INTERMEDIATE**, students learn to embrace responsibility, faculty and staff ensure growth, and kindness is embedded throughout all we do. Students flourish in an environment that celebrates academic rigor, frames challenges as opportunities, and encourages exploration in a variety of related arts. The student-centered focus of faculty and staff leads to high expectations, strong supports, and an exceptional campus where students thrive socially, emotionally, and academically.



Freedom middle

GRADES 7 & 8

1000 Excellence Way, Franklin, TN 37064 • (615) 794-0987
<https://freedommiddle.fssd.org/>

TOUR AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

► At **FREEDOM MIDDLE**, we believe that academic excellence is achieved collaboratively by using data-informed instructional practices, setting high expectations, embracing ingenuity, and ensuring safety for all. Our comprehensive educational program embodies the whole-child philosophy, combining core academics, fine arts, technology, and wellness, with the support and relationship-building opportunities that guide some of the most formative years of students' lives.





CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

► From Green Teams to arts and music clubs, FSD schools offer a number of clubs and organizations to engage students' interests. For instance, the Fourth Grade Clay Club at Moore Elementary, the Tiger Troubadours at Johnson Elementary, the WPGS News Crew at Poplar Grove, and Destination Imagination programs at select schools are inspiring and equipping students to become the next generation of innovators and leaders.

SAFETY & WELL-BEING

► The FSD places school security as one of its highest priorities. Research shows that safe learning environments produce positive educational outcomes. Even more importantly, they allow students to feel comfortable sharing safety-related concerns or issues with trusted adults in the building. The District has strong partnerships with first responders and mental health resources are available on-site to students.

In addition to a dedicated Williamson County Sheriff's Office school resource officer and certified therapy dog in each of our schools every day, FSD has an enhanced visitor management system in every school that includes both physical and technological safeguards. Ongoing training of staff and collaboration with local first responders help ensure our schools remain safe, joyful places to learn.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

► Franklin Special District hosts several camps, institutes and programs designed to meet students' academic and enrichment needs. Opportunities range from the **Story Bus**—a mobile library that children may visit on its summer route—as well as the Young Scholars Institute and MAC.

Summer MAC is offered for nine themed weeks. Parents have the flexibility to pay by the day, and field trips and other unforgettable experiences are offered all summer long. Lunch and snacks are included in the registration.

The **Young Scholars Institute** offers two separate summer weeks of challenging, exploratory classes that are designed for independent and highly motivated learners. Subjects include culinary, arts and crafts, music and drama, STEAM, humanities and problem-solving workshops, and sports and fitness.

Finally, the **Gentry's Educational Foundation** summer camps offer children in Franklin the opportunity to enrich their lives through unique educational programs and mentoring, thanks to grants and community support.

PARENT TESTIMONIAL

"I am so thankful for WeeMAC and everything they have done for both of my boys. From hands-on learning experiences, sensory play, fine motor work, and focusing on academics in a way that interests them, WeeMAC truly has it all. They do an amazing job of building a solid foundation for even the youngest learners. The staff loves and takes care of all of their students as if they were their own. We are so thankful for our years here, and blessed to call WeeMAC our family."

SHEA G, FSD PARENT





PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

► Each of our eight schools has its own Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO), which enables parents to participate in the educational process and school community in a direct and fun way. Principals and staff work closely with the PTOs in a supportive relationship to promote mutual understanding between home and school, and all parents are invited to join and participate in the activities and meetings of the PTO.

The FSD Parent Leadership Council was formed as a way for the FSD's eight PTOs to come together to share ideas and address issues. Council members meet regularly with district leadership to share knowledge so that leading practices can be exchanged and programs can be coordinated among the schools. By working together as an entire district, we make each individual school stronger.



Be Part of Special Things

► The Franklin Special District welcomes students outside our district—including those who live outside Williamson County—on a tuition basis as program capacity is available. The tuition rates are listed below and provide an exceptional value for a high-quality education. In fact, the FSD per pupil expenditure is #1 in Tennessee at \$19,268, compared to the state average of \$11,800. (2023 TN Report Card). FSD is also #1 in the state in teacher-student ratio for traditional public schools.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY RESIDENTS (Outside of the Franklin Special District)

STARTING AT
\$2,000 PER STUDENT*
ANNUALLY

This fee takes into account the tax dollars that you pay as a county resident, but not the FSD property tax.

FAMILIES WITH MULTIPLE STUDENTS
50% DISCOUNT

Sending more than one student to an FSD school?
Enjoy tuition savings for all student after the first.

NON-WILLIAMSON COUNTY RESIDENTS

STARTING AT
\$4,000 PER STUDENT*
ANNUALLY

This fee reflects uncollected tax dollars that are earmarked for education in our county and district.

*Tuition rates subject to change. For more information and to apply, please visit fssd.org/about-us/tuition.



FRANKLIN SPECIAL DISTRICT
205 EDDY LANE
FRANKLIN, TN 37064
(615) 794-6624



franklinspecial.org

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DISTRICT



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@fssdschools



@fssdyoutube



Franklin
Special District